

Police Reform: Community Engagement Working Group
October 1, 2020, 7:00PM
Meeting Minutes

Co-Chairs: Commissioner Chris Shaw & Shannon Isom

Facilitator: Janet Mueller, Dayton Mediation Center

On Thursday, October 1, 2020, at 7:00PM, the Police Reform: Community Engagement Working Group met in regular session, remotely through electronic means, in the Commission Chambers of City Hall.

7:05 – Meeting starts

Brian Johns- discussed slides (in google drive) about cultural immersion training in cities like Nashville, Austin, and NYC

Jordan Lewis- explained to group how to navigate the Google Drive and its various components

7:10- Agenda item 1, Finishing the charter and balancing priorities

- Point of Order was made to approve the charter
- Charter Passed with a majority in favor (visual hand raise)

7:17: Balancing priorities in the group's recommendations

- The group considered which of the three proposed general areas for recommendations it should focus on first: alternative response model, community orientation/ cultural immersion, and youth/juvenile engagement

*a note was made that the police reverse ride alongs would fall under the community orientation/cultural immersion category

*Working Group recommendations are broad strokes, and the specific details will most likely be figured out at the next level by the City Commission

7:21: Jordan Lewis shares poll to gauge the groups priorities for the three broad categories for recommendations

- 55% voted to begin with the Alternative Response Model

- 40% voted to begin with Community Orientation
- 5% voted to begin with Youth/Juvenile engagement

Marcie answered a question about the legal meaning of juvenile; it normally means under 18, but can be treated as adult for certain offenses before 18, and can continue to be treated as a juvenile after 18 for an offense that happened as a juvenile.

* Some group members expressed concern for the safety of mental health experts sent to respond to calls. Suggestion was made to pair a mental health expert with a police officer.

Shannon Isom= Group must make sure that the recommendations are clear as far as who the experts are in a given situation.

Marcie makes two concrete recommendations

- The Police Department should have a Full-time social worker to help determine when a mental health expert would be better suited to respond to a call
- Police should have the ability to elect to send a mental health expert and EMTs in lieu of officers to mental health related calls

Shelly explains that the city has hired a full-time social worker that works for the city.

Mark McGuire = Is group focus on Police Interaction with POC? Or is on police interaction with people in general?

Joel = The purpose of this group was intended to be on police interactions with black people

Discussion continued in this vein

Meeting ended at approximately 8:30