

Police Reform: Community Engagement Working Group
September 3, 2020, 7:00PM
Meeting Minutes

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKxe30TQYA8>

Co-Chairs: Commissioner Chris Shaw & Shannon Isom

Facilitator: Janet Mueller, Dayton Mediation Center

Attendees: Andrea Oladi, David Greer, Dormetria Thompson, Robin Williams, Major Brian Johns, Byron Branch, Gwen Buchanan, David Lawrence, Dion Sampson, Lieutenant Colonel Eric Henderson, Erica Fields, Erin Ritter, Helen Jones-Kelley, Amaha Sellasie, Jordan Lewis, Scott Sliver, Serida Lowery, Shawn Kerley, Will Smith, Youseff Elzein, Amy Mitchell

On Thursday, September 3, 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.

Greeting & Announcements

Commissioner Shaw thanked group members for their time and commented on the meeting's planned agenda.

Discussion

7:20- Will Smith intro, recaps the quarterly report of all five WGs

- Mr. Smith explains that homework is proving to help with efficiency and steering discussion
- Group 1, Oversight, has focused on taking a deep dive into the current police complaint process, how to make the process easier, should there be an alternative review process for complaints
- Group 2, Use of Force, has focused on data from the CPC to analyze instances of use of force by police
- Group 2 has voted on two recommendations; 1) the use of body cams, and 2) commission of an annual Use of Force study.
 - Also has focused on the differences between the policies and the procedures regarding UOF in the DPD
- Group 3, Training, has focused on how to get community feedback/involvement regarding police force training
 - Has discussed the difference between what is taught to police and what the police actually learn
 - Group 3 has also looked at training come from different levels of state organizations and how that affects the police

- Group 4, Recruitment and Promoting, have considered how the DPD can increase diversity in the applicant pool (specifically attracting more women and more people of color as applicant)
 - WG4 has considered how to create new recruitment opportunities geared at getting people from the community into the applicant pool (program with Dayton Public Schools, etc..)
- Potential changes in limitations to the applicant pool (such as age requirements)
- Next steps:
 - Dayton Mediation Center setting up quarterly survey for the WGs
 - Implement community listening sessions
 - Remember that the WGs do not exist in a bubble, there is lots of spill over from one group to the next
 - Specifically for WG5, continue to consider what community engagement looks like and to whom?

7:33 End of Will Smith's presentation

7:34- Agenda Item 1, Group Charter

- Shannon Isom discusses the framework of the charter, explains that the mission statement is short and succinct by design
- Stakeholders of the WG were considered and included purposefully
- Suggestion to add "disengaged citizens"
 - Andrea Oladi suggests to include "poverty stricken" or "indigent" communities
 - Perhaps "vulnerable or marginalized"
- Ms. Isom fields question about the purpose of the charter, explains that the charter is for the group specifically, not for the DPD or the community
 - It guides the procedures and direction of the group as it works for the community and DPD
- 7:45- Major Johns brings up concern about ability to provide mental health resources as is included in the WG charter
 - He does not want to promise something that the city is unable to provide
 - Group agrees to underline the mental health resources piece in the charter, consider reworking/reevaluating
- 7:52- Discussion about Stakeholders of the WG
 - Identified a potential gap in representation for community youth
 - Andrea Oladi says children are very important for this initiative, especially in regard to the trust pillar
- 7:58- Discussion about the 3(4) pillars
 - 1) policy making structures, 2) community linkages, 3) daily and routine points of engagement between police and community, and 4) ensuring 1-3 are community informed

- WG members discuss whether social workers should be sent in lieu of police for recognized mental health situations
- What models exist, and which would be effective in Dayton?

8:09- Conversation about recommendations, brainstorming

- Major Johns suggests something akin to the Young Cadet Program
- Marcie Sheman suggests a program where attorneys and police speak to youth about their constitutional rights and how to comport themselves when dealing with police
- Also suggests a potential city wide juvenile Bill of Rights
- Gwen Buchanan suggests that neighborhood/community meetings include officers
 - Having the same officers show up to the same community meetings builds a relationship, gives the community someone they know and trust, encourages the community to reach out to trusted officers
- Dormetria Thompson suggests bringing back the D.A.R.E. program in schools
 - Emphasizes the need to be proactive, not reactive
 - Schools should have their own community assigned officers, builds rapport and trust with the youth
- General points of discussion: Dayton community must be intentional in action, ensuring that the DPD is involved with the youth and the community at large
 - Suggestion for locally based case studies
 - Eric Henderson asks the WG how to strengthen the relationship between police and community
 - Shannon Isom suggests that this be a point of discussion for the next meeting, as well as to go over the survey which was distributed before the September 3rd meeting.

Closing

- Jordan Lewis shares a poll; Would you like to have a listening session?
- 21 votes for yes, 2 votes for maybe

The meeting concluded at approximately 8:40PM.

Overview/Concepts Discussed

- Brainstorm of ideas
- Police Cadet Project
- Social worker response team

- Youth Commission
- Mental Health response and resources
- Reverse Ride Along
- Know your rights presentations by Lawyers with police in schools
- Juvenile bill of rights
- Consistent police representative at neighborhood meetings and contacts with leadership
- Practice connections - like DARE
- Training for SRO's
- Themes and ideas - being intentional with our actions, connecting with everyday people, relationships, trust, reciprocity