



MINUTES: Police Community Relations & Review Commission

Date: November 16, 2023

Location: Oxford Courthouse, 118 W. High St.

Time of Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Larry Nadler, Fritzi Wellman, Edna Southard, LaTricia Hillman and Egon Kraan

Members absent: Daniel Umbstead and Aimin Wang

Staff present: Chief John Jones

Approval of Agenda

Motion: LaTricia Hillman

2nd: Edna Southard

Vote: 5-0-0

Approval of Minutes of August 17, 2023 PCRRC Meeting

Motion: LaTricia Hillman

2nd: Fritzi Wellman

Vote: 5-0-0

Old Business:

1. Data Collection Discussion

Members discussed and decided to leave the Annual Data Report as is.

New Business:

1. Rules for Public Participation at PCRRC meetings – Proposed 5-minute limit

Chief Jones provided a sample agenda, which is similar to the City Council meeting format.

Members discussed and decided to adopt the new agenda format, which moves public comments to the beginning of the meeting.

Motion: Edna Southard

2nd: LaTricia Hillman

Vote: 5-0-0

2. Citizen-initiated Suggestion for Reporting/Sharing of Citizen Feedback With PCRRC



Larry Nadler reported that a citizen expressed to him concern about something they witnessed. He said he researched ways they could report their concern and noted two ways were submitting an online feedback form and filing a formal complaint. The citizen provided online feedback, and also ultimately emailed both commission members and the chief of police, but a question that was raised was if the person had not emailed the commission members, when should they be apprised of the feedback. Typically, the feedback is shared in the Annual Data Report, but should it be shared sooner. It was also reported that the online feedback form link on PCRRRC page of the website needs to be fixed.

LaTricia Hillman advised she would like positive feedback reported more frequently than just in the Annual Data Report, in response to the officers reporting that they feel like the commission only deals with negative feedback.

Edna Southard advised she wants it as easy as possible for the citizen to provide feedback.

3. Update from Chief Jones – Including No Knock Warrants and Knock & Talk Presentation

Chief Jones reported that “Knock & Announce” is the standard in warrant service and the manner in which the law is written. He said under the common law knock & announce rule, a police officer executing a search warrant generally should not immediately force their way into a residence. Instead, the officer must first knock, identify themselves and their intent, and wait a reasonable amount of time for the occupants to let them into the residence.

Chief Jones advised “No-Knock” warrants are the exception. Chief Jones provided a little history on why No-Knock warrants were used. He said over the years the thought process has changed and their use is restricted to very limited circumstances – usually hostage rescue.

Chief Jones stated that “Knock & Talks” are not associated with search warrants. He said they typically involve an officer knocking on the door and trying to talk to someone to gain information.

Egon Kraan advised that a goal of the commission is to improve the relationship between the police and the community. He reminded officers to be conscious of the community’s perception and weigh the pros and cons of using the Knock & Talk tactic before using it.

Larry Nadler wanted to know in a situation where someone does not answer the door and refuses to talk, what would police do next. Chief Jones replied that it depended on the totality of circumstances.

Larry Nadler followed up with a question about the passage of Issue 2 (legalization of marijuana) and what that means for our community, to which Chief Jones stated there is still a lot to sort out. Members agreed that at some point in the future, it would be beneficial to share the ins and outs of the new law.

Chief Jones would like to look at meeting date options for 2024. Scheduling will be put on the February agenda.



Chief Jones reported that the police division is currently trying to hire two police officers. He advised that candidates participated in the physical agility test, and they are putting together an eligibility test.

Chief Jones stated that the division will be busy with burglary prevention during Thanksgiving break

4. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Adjournment

Motion: LaTricia Hillman

2nd: Edna Southard

Vote: 5-0-0