



BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
**TUESDAY, August 28, 2018**  
Subject to approval

A meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners was held in the Burlington Police Department Community Room on **Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018**. Chair Michele Asch called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

The following Commissioners were present: Chair Michele Asch, Commissioner Robert Simpson, Commissioner Randall Harp, Commissioner Jim Dunn and Commissioner Peter Bahrenburg. Also present: Chief del Pozo, Lt Mike Warren, Lt Lawson, Corporal Kratochvil, Opioid Policy Manager Jackie Corbally, Data Analyst Nancy Stetson and Police Commission Clerk Laura Cheney.

**Additions or Modifications to Agenda:**

~ None

**Public Forum:**

~ None

**Chief's Report**

~The Chief reported that we are nearing the final selection for the DC Position, as well as several promotions to sergeant. We expect to complete the Lieutenant promotion process in the near future, as well.

**Review of Incoming Correspondence:**

~Chair Asch opened the floor to brainstorm ideas about how to further recognize the good work officers are doing and suggested commissioners reach out to officers following receipt of commendation.

~Commissioner Simpson suggested attending roll call.

~Commissioner Dunn suggested following up with a note of appreciation.

~Chair Asch suggested a trial run: For the coming month, Commissioner Simpson will attend roll call, Chair Asch will send letters; both will report back to the commission, and if productive and positive, rotate through commissioners.

~Clerk Cheney will work with the Chief to report to Chair Asch and Commissioner Simpson to keep them advised on incoming commendation.

**Update on Opioid Epidemic**

~Chief noted that the BPD is taking a public health approach to the opioid crisis. We have an epidemiologist on staff, and have just added an office for CCOA to continue city-wide collaborative work on various initiatives. The number one focus is to reduce fatal overdoses. The city's efforts have been nationally recognized and brought forth opportunities to share these efforts and collaborate with a variety of partners and organizations including NIJ, RxStat, CityLab, Johns Hopkins, and IACP.

~Jackie Corbally reported there is a frightening influx of fentanyl and crystal meth. The department is working on multiple fronts to combat addiction and associated crime, with the primary focus on reducing fatal overdose. City leaders meet monthly with federal, state and local stakeholders together at CommStat to collaborate and push forward initiatives to fight the epidemic and are currently focusing on a renewed look at prevention. SubStat is a collaboration with local agencies to focus on individuals with the highest risk and look at how to get folks to treatment and reduce overdose. FamilyStat focuses on families and children battling addiction through collaboration with DCF. The goal is to keep families together, make treatment accessible and limit trauma.

~Clerk Cheney will send out upcoming dates for both SubStat and CommStat so that Commissioners can attend.

~Chair Asch suggested each commissioner attend Substat and/or Commstat in the next few months.

**Status of the Civilian Oversight Initiative**

~Chair Asch reported that it is her understanding that the Commission has followed the request from the City Council, including improving accessibility for citizens to make complaints. Commissioner currently review these with the Chiefs, and any major complaint through executive session. As the charter is currently written, the Chief has the ultimate decision and the Commission is intended to provide counsel. The current model was established as a trial, with the goal to put in place a process and procedure that is sustainable. If confidence and trust in the/a Chief wanes and/or there appears to be a lack of transparency, the Commission would take their concerns to the Mayor, followed by the city council.

~Chief noted there are other avenues of accountability, notably the press, to further elevate an issue if the public and/or commissioners have concerns about the leadership and actions of the department.

~Commissioner Dunn expressed concern about the challenge of remaining independent while also acting as part of management and providing counsel. It is important that the public has an accurate perception of the role of the commission.

~Chair Asch noted that investing in understanding the department is part of why we can offer appropriate oversight.

~Chief suggested providing data on complaints through the portal as another mode of transparency.

~Commissioner Bahrenburg suggested also posting the role of the Commission and the oversight process.

~Commissioner Harp suggested the Commission be approached before a final decision is made in regard to serious complaints.

~Chair Asch suggested altering the language in #4 to "Any Commissioner shall have access".

~Commissioner Harp questioned whether complaints be given to all Commissioners OR to a subset in order to provide a more independent body in the event of a grievance process.

~Commissioner Harp suggested laying out procedures for escalating in the event whereby the Chief is not accepting the Commissions' recommendations.

~Chair Asch will work with Clerk Cheney to edit the document and meet with the City Attorney in preparation for meeting with the Public Safety Committee to review and request a 6-month trial period.

**Commissioners' Updates/Comments:**

~None

**Officer Commissions**

~Signed by all present members.

**Consent Agenda – Minutes of Previous Commission Meetings:** July 24<sup>th</sup> Minutes

~Commissioner Bahrenburg motioned to accept, Commissioner Simpson seconded, all Commissioners voted in favor, minutes approved.

**Next Meeting's Agenda Items and Date:**

~Next meeting will be Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, plan to shift standard October meeting from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to Oct 30<sup>th</sup>

**Executive Session:**

~None

**Adjournment:**

~ Commissioner Bahrenburg motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Dunn seconded. Adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Laura Cheney  
Police Commission Clerk

8/28/2018