



BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF MEETING
TUESDAY, April 30th, 2019
Approved

A meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners was held in the Burlington Police Department Community Room on **Tuesday, April 30, 2019**. Chair Asch called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

The following Commissioners were present: Chair Michele Asch, Vice Chair Shireen Hart, Commissioner Randall Harp, Commissioner Peter Bahrenburg, Commissioner Jim Dunn, Commissioner Bob Simpson and youth Commissioner Landen Nipper. Also present: Chief del Pozo, DC Murad, DC Wright, Corporal Kratochvil, Corporal Kris Young, Data Analyst Nancy Stetson and Police Commission Clerk Laura Cheney and Burlington City Attorney Eileen Blackwood.

Additions or Modifications to Agenda

- None

Public Forum

- Christina McLaughlin, a UVM student, joined to express concern about Phin Brown's interaction with the Secret Service.
- Trish Okane, a UVM professor, shared her concern about the message we are sending to our children in regard to the incident involving Phin Brown.
- Stephanie Seguino spoke about race data and issues around gathering data in hopes of raising awareness with the commission. She spoke about a specific incident involving an officer car stop of a person of color. While she recognized the Chief is working hard on this, the data she sees shows a rise in stops of persons of color.
- David Hartnett raised concern about the recent case involving the death of Kilburn. He also noted we do not hear enough of the good work of the PD. We need to come together and find a solution amidst this tragedy.
- Mark Hughes remarked that what is needed is accountability, responsibility, trust and transparency from the PD. He encouraged a review of the Use of Force policy.

Chief's Report

- The Chief shared appreciation for the level of attendance, and noted we benefit from it. Various members from the department are also in attendance, to hear from you, and determine what/how to implement and improve upon.
- The Chief noted that Phin Brown's encounter with the USSS was very complicated and difficult to watch. We do take seriously how officers speak about race, and the challenge of not assigning or undermining the feelings or perception of an individual, and specifically a person of color. We did meet with the regional head of the USSS about the Phin Brown incident to relay our concerns. They will not comment on any ongoing investigation. He acknowledged our concerns, and noted they have to be accountable to the public, as well.
- In regard to race data, we do have a shared understanding with Professor Seguino. We do audits, and our officers account for race in stops, though we do want better compliance. We are working on a more complex report of traffic stops and to be shared broadly.
- We have had an employee at over 1000 arraignments since Sept 2017. We track all data from this, and have shared reports with the judiciary. We plan to release this to the public to bring clarity to second phase of the criminal justice process.
- We will be revisiting our use of force policy and relying on input from the police commission and the public. Our training has outpaced our written policy.
- We will be hosting our annual community BBQ on May 7th, 4-7pm, on S Union, between Main and King St.

- The Chief will be meeting with the constituent who requested push notifications. We will plan to make sure we are on the same page and use FPF as the push method. We will continue to work to determine what information should be shared on social media and news outlets. It is often a matter of discretion. But we do want to let the public know about serious incidents.
 - Commissioner Harp noted that what interests the public doesn't necessarily serve the public safety.

Review of Incoming Correspondence

- We received an acknowledgement of the great work of officers in de-escalating an attempted suicide and the collaboration with another department that resulted in no injury.

Open Meeting Laws

- Chair Asch wanted to make sure all commissioners understood the open meeting law, following outreach from constituents to the full commission via email. Based on her understanding of the open meeting law, commissioners are free to engage individuals on their own time, or call for a meeting, or invite them to the regular meeting to speak during public forum, but should not engage in email correspondence with the full commission.
- The City Attorney concurred- commissioners should not communicate substantively outside of a public meeting.
- Commissioner Harp will follow up with the CA around concern/confusion about the law.
- Chair Asch asks that we follow the recommendation of the CA unless we hear differently.

Commissioners' Updates/Comments

- none

Consent Agenda – Minutes of Previous Commission Meetings: March 26th Minutes

- Approval of minutes - moved by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Hart; minutes approved.

Next Meeting's Agenda Items and Date:

- Next meeting – scheduled for May 29th, reschedule for June 4th
- Role of the Police Commission – review minor changes and approve
- City Social Media Policy - update
- Annual report to City Council - due May 31st.
 - Commissioner Hart will create a draft for review, and circulate before the next meeting. Commissioner Hart will follow up with the City to see if an extension is possible given the rescheduling of the May meeting.

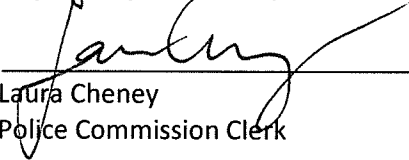
Executive Session

- Necessary to review personnel matters.

Adjournment:

- Commissioner Dunn motioned to move to Executive Session, Commissioner Bahrenburg seconded, regular meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm. Executive Session adjourned at 10:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Laura Cheney
Police Commission Clerk

4/30/2019