



City of Davis
Police Accountability Commission Meeting
Monday, January 4, 2021
6:30 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Ignacio Alarcon, Mary C. Bliss (Vice Chair), Robert Canning, Cecilia Escamilla-Greenwald, Dillan Horton (Chair), Abram Jones, Elaine Kahan, Judith MacBrine, Don Sherman

Commissioners Absent: None

Council Liaisons Present: Mayor Partida

Others Present: Stachowicz, Pytel, Gennaco, Dyer

1. Call to Order

Horton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Sherman moved with second by Bliss approval of the agenda. Motion passed as follows:

AYES: Alarcon, Bliss, Canning Escamilla-Greenwald, Horton, Jones, Kahan, MacBrine, Sherman

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Liaisons (10 minutes)

- Introduction of new commissioners Alarcon and Canning. All commissioners introduced themselves.*
- AB 1234 Ethics training offered tomorrow night to Council. Commissioners welcome to join in.*

4. Public Comment

- No general public comment*

5. Consent Items (5 minutes)

A. Approval of Minutes – December 7, 2020 Meeting

Escamilla – Greenwald moved and Jones seconded approval of the minutes from December 7, 2020 as presented. Motion passed as follows:

Sherman moved with second by Bliss approval of the agenda. Motion passed as follows:

AYES: Alarcon, Bliss, Canning Escamilla-Greenwald, Horton, Jones, Kahan, MacBrine, Sherman

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

6. Regular Items (60 Minutes)

A. Technical Training/Information –

- *Chief Pytel provided a power point with information on the dispatch process for calls for service, with a particular focus on possible mental health calls and crisis response and responded to questions from commissioners.*
 - *The department is moving towards having a mobile crisis clinician available to respond.*
 - *There has not been a large increase in 5150 calls this year, during the pandemic. There have been increased calls regarding property crime.*
 - *In the Police Academy, officers received 40 hours of training using crisis response simulator to train in de-escalation. Further online trainings are required.*
 - *Dispatch supervisor and manager review calls to ensure the information from call is going into call history. Not all information is dispatched audio, as it is in computer for officer to pull up – non-emergency calls, for instance.*
 - *Crisis response person would be a non-City employee, who is hired by county in crisis counseling with cost sharing with City/County. Davis person has not yet been hired. The position was posted again in December.*
 - *Dual response will always happen when it seems like medical aid might be necessary. In medical calls, medical aid is first to respond. PD will provide assist if necessary.*
 - *Officers are able to provide certain items to people if there is immediate need: food, clothing*
 - *Officers receive training a couple times a year through the simulator and de-escalation training, which is eight hours.*

- *Chief Pytel provided an overview of the process for internal affairs investigations. There are a number of ways that complaints can be filed against members of the department, which are outlined on the website. There are three types: Formal, Informal and Criminal. Steps for the investigation include:*
 - i. *Conduct Investigation.*
 - ii. *Completed Investigations reviewed by Chief or Deputy Chief who issues findings.*
 - iii. *If sustained, determine appropriate discipline and carry it out.*
 - iv. *Notify complainant of disposition*

- *To avoid bias in internal investigations, they are handled by the administrative team, as opposed to line level supervisors.*

Public Comment

- *Alana O'Brien – explain why police are dispatched when these calls come instead of medical aid, etc.? Can centers be open at night to respond to all hour calls? Concern about trainings being moved to online.*
- *Morgan Poindexter – Responding to Don's question regarding number of calls and types of calls.*
 - *In California it is required to have peace officer attend to 5150 calls.*
 - *Turning Point runs navigation centers. A center operating 24/7 will need to be evaluated on budget and demonstrated need. If something happens when center is closed, there are still options for receiving assistance, through mobile crisis in Sacramento or the hospital*
 - *Online trainings are most cost effective and include lots of interaction and requirement for participation.*

Consider having Karen Larsen, Director of Behavioral Health Services in Yolo County come and do a training for the PAC.

B. Independent Police Auditor Review Follow Up – *At the December meeting, the Commission discussed the interaction between the Auditor and the PAC and assigned a subcommittee of Bliss, Horton and Sherman to meet with the Auditor to consider ways to increase engagement between the two entities. The subcommittee proposed two audit opportunities:*

1. *The IPA could engage in an audit looking at the DPD's progress toward the 8 Can't Wait recommendations. On the IPA's advice this could be a three phase audit, the first would examine the DPD manual along with policy/procedure to determine if they were aligned with 8 Can't Wait. The second would examine whether training was sufficient for officers to implement 8 Can't Wait. The third phase would examine records relevant to how the DPD was implementing 8 Can't Wait in its day to day activities.*
2. *The IPA could engage in an audit looking at the DPD's enforcement actions related to unhoused individuals and those experiencing mental health crises. This audit would examine how many enforcement actions were related to those populations and trends on the nature of those enforcement actions.*

Discussion Thoughts:

- *Expand beyond 8 can't wait. Look into administrative leave, hiring and re-hiring protocols, etc.*
- *Use 8 can't wait as starting point for measurable actions*
- *Ask police directly for response for 8 can't wait, rather than police auditor*
- *Auditor could respond to one of the items and then do the other later in the year, should time be available*
- *How often do no-knock warrants occur in Davis?*

- *In area of de-escalation should be its own area and what is training?*
- *Break into three areas, policy, procedure, practice.*
- *See what hiring and re-hiring for those who have been investigated, what is administrative leave for people under investigation, overtime, etc.*
- *Opportunity for transparency to community with this report/audit*

Public Comment:

- *Morgan Poindexter – Use of Force reporting is hard to determine. Suggests clarifying number of incidents, along with type of force.*

Escamilla – Greenwald moves with second by Canning to have IPA to do an audit for DPD’s progress towards 8 Can’t Wait and include information on no knock warrants in Davis. Motion passes as follows:

AYES: Alarcon, Bliss, Canning Escamilla-Greenwald, Horton, Jones, Kahan, MacBrine, Sherman

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

MacBrine moves to extend till 10:00 with second by Sherman. Motion passes as follows:

AYES: Alarcon, Bliss, Canning Escamilla-Greenwald, Horton, Jones, Kahan, MacBrine, Sherman

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

C. Joint Subcommittee Follow Up – *The PAC representatives of the temporary joint subcommittee on public safety provided an update on the December 15 City Council discussion of the subcommittee’s report. Discussion included topics of shifting calls to non-sworn personnel, focusing first on mental health issues, if homelessness should be moved to different organizational structure, that the DPD s working on a strategic plan which includes a community engagement component and that the UCD Center for Health is working on a study on policing that the City will be participating in.*

Timeline:

Staff will return to council with information on low hanging fruit – possibly spring Police Strategic Plan – will be completed by end of June

UCD study – may have information to report back to community in a couple months

Public Comment:

Nathaniel Bourell – Regarding homelessness – how much time is spent on outreach, interaction, etc. Suggests independent review of information received.

7. Police Auditor Update (10 minutes)

Independent Police Auditor Michael Gennaco provided an update on Auditor activities to the PAC, including updates on current projects.

- *On January 5, the DPD will be posting additional information on the officer involved shooting. Encourages the commission to review prior to next meeting.*

Public Comment:

None

- 8. Subcommittee Reports (10 Minutes)** – *The Commission has created several subcommittees to further its goals. Any Subcommittee will have the opportunity to verbally report out actions since the last meeting and/or to request feedback or input from the full Commission.*
- A. **Joint Subcommittee with Social Services and Human Relations – Improvements to Public Health and Safety** (Escamilla-Greenwald, Horton, MacBrine, Sherman) – *See 6C above*
 - B. **Outreach** (Horton, MacBrine, Escamilla-Greenwald, Sherman) – *Look to ways to involve public more than has currently been done.*
 - C. **Davis Police Department Policy/Procedure** (Horton, Kahan, Escamilla-Greenwald) – *No update*
 - D. **Mental Health** (MacBrine, Kahan, Bliss, Escamilla-Greenwald) – *Campus Community Book project with theme of mental health and policing. Tuesday, February 15th 4- 5 p.m. Recommendation to Council for declaring this a year of mental wellness. This can tie in.*
 - E. **Police Accountability Commission and UC Davis Board** (Jones, MacBrine) *First public meeting of UCD police accountability board will be in February.*

Public Comment:

None

- 9. Election of Officers for 2021 (10 minutes)** - *The PAC elected a chair and vice-chair for 2021. Sherman moves with second by Escamilla-Greenwald to re-elect Horton and Bliss. Motion passed as follows:*
- AYES: Alarcon, Bliss, Canning Escamilla-Greenwald, Horton, Jones, Kahan, MacBrine, Sherman*
- NOES: None*
- ABSTAIN: None*
- ABSENT: None*

Public Comment:

Morgan Poindexter – supports nomination of chair and vice chair

10. Future Agenda Item Requests/Long Range Calendar

- *Karen Larsen, from County, come for training on mental health*
- *Work plan and committees*
- *Homeless Coordinator*
- *Report back on if DPD has implemented what IPA has proposed*
- *Next steps to follow up on last year’s community meeting*

- *Information on how many recommendations of commission or IPA have been implemented*
- *Patterns on use of time, excessive patrols*
- *Neighborhood Watch communities and how they are trained so they aren't bringing in implicit bias*

Public Comment:

Morgan Poindexter – Thank you for Q&A

11. Adjourn

MacBrine moves with second by Escamilla Greenwald to adjourn at 9:59. Motion passed as follows:

AYES: Alarcon, Bliss, Canning Escamilla-Greenwald, Horton, Jones, Kahan, MacBrine, Sherman

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None