



City of Davis
Police Accountability Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 6, 2025
6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Members Present: Mary C. Bliss, Robert Canning, Cecilia Escamilla-Greenwald (arrived 6:45pm), Elizabeth Griswold (Vice Chair) (Arrived 7:10pm), Dillan Horton (Chair), Don Sherman, Angela Willson

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Mike Gennaco, Police Auditor (via Zoom); Gloria Partida, Councilmember; Kelly Stachowicz, Assistant City Manager

2. Approval of Agenda

Canning moved, with a second by Bliss, approval of the agenda. Motion passed with the following vote:

AYES: Bliss, Canning, Horton, Willson

NOES: None

ABSENT: Escamilla-Greenwald, Griswold, Sherman

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Council Liaisons

Stachowicz: working on staff procedure to implement Council direction. Item on 1/7 in the meantime. Mayor/Vice Mayor

Horton: MLK Day event at Veterans Memorial Theater

4. Public Comment

Alan Hirsch: Shared handout. Threat of moral panic like Salem Witch Trial. Davis is susceptible because we protest. Anti-semitism appropriated by Christian Right. Need to be careful.

5. Consent Calendar

A. Commission Minutes December 2, 2024

AW moved, with a second by RC, approval of the consent calendar/minutes.

Motion passed with the following vote:

AYES: Bliss, Canning, Horton, Willson

NOES: None

ABSENT: Escamilla-Greenwald, Griswold, Sherman

6. Police Auditor Update

Independent Police Auditor representative Michael Gennaco noted the new complaint log for cases the Auditor is looking into. Three cases are in the process

of being written up and should be completed soon. Worked with Police Chief to receive cases on a rolling bases, rather than waiting until end of calendar year. Stephen Connolly reiterated that the communications with the Police Department leaders are good.

Commission asked about how DPD interfaces with the federal government when there are allegations of hate crimes. Gennaco: sometimes charges filed locally or federally or both. Federal jurisdiction is more limited than local jurisdictions regarding hate crimes.

Public Comment:

Alan Hirsch – concerned that we are collecting unvetted examples of hate crimes that could be sent to FBI and then could harm that person.

7. Regular Items

a. Surveillance Technology – Fixed Public Safety Cameras and Automated License Plate Readers –

Chief Todd Henry explained that City would like to apply for a grant to receive additional license plate reader cameras and fixed cameras at certain sites on edge of city. This will provide information on people who might be exiting city after committing crime.

Policy includes protections to ensure privacy.

Questions:

- Is there a process to report illegally parked cars? (Can always report to policeweb or call non-emergency number)*
- Would grant cover all listed intersections or would City prioritize? (Storage is the biggest cost, because City must retain video for one year.)*
- Would cameras record entering or exiting? (Both)*
- How many times accessed for criminal investigation and how many times useful? Would be interested to know number of times used for different purposes and what those purposes were.*
- Would be helpful to have example of how it could be used for transportation data*
- 9 intersections and 24 cameras – how distributed? (24 cameras would give total coverage for intersections)*
- How much training do employees receive for this technology? (Have included quite a bit in the policy.)*
- For annual report, would be interesting to list the types of offenses that the cameras were used for.*
- Is there focus on parks? (This is more complicated and is not currently planned. If City were going to do, would need to look for grant funding.)*
- What is City looking to expand? (Fixed cameras)*

- *When would City share data (City would work with other jurisdiction, review any request submitted and determine whether to share data, usually will be related to an ongoing criminal investigation. Other jurisdictions have LPR and would likely have similar data. Would share information within state but not outside of state or with feds.)*
- *Does LPR data go into other data systems (No. Separate, unless part of a larger criminal investigation.)*

Public Comment:

Alan Hirsch: exit off of I-80 doesn't have camera. How are bikes treated. What is accuracy of plate readers? (Don't pick up bikes but cameras do provide video. If plate not obscured, accuracy is high. Obscuring plates is illegal.)

Discussion:

- *Concern about going too far with use of data. Thinks there should be check and balances so it's not misused.*
- *If grants not received, then would not purchase technology.*
- *Davis may have safeguards with data but other communities may not. State law prohibits sharing with certain entities.*
- *Concern about using data for immigration issues.*
- *Suggestion of audit to ensure information is not misused. (Policy includes audits every 12 months. Surveillance technology ordinance also requires City report how technology has been used.)*
- *Concerns primarily limited to non-criminal concerns about how technology might be used.*

Bliss moved, with a second for discussion by Griswold, to support the Police Department going to Council to apply for a grant. Commission discussion included that the group recommended guardrails, such as annual audits, and policies and procedures about sharing data. Commission also expressed concerns about how other departments would use data. Ultimately, the commission passed the motion by the following vote:

AYES: Bliss, Canning, Horton, Escamilla-Greenwald, Willson

NOES: Griswold

ABSENT: Sherman

b. Discussion of potential audit topics to recommend to the Independent Police Auditor –

Gennaco: three possibilities for audit

- 1. Field training officer program*
- 2. Upcoming general in-service training (may focus on some specific topics like implicit bias, civil rights, de-escalation, defensive tactics)*
- 3. How Police Department reviews and manages vehicle pursuits (uses lights and sirens and goes above posted speed)*

Commission discussed the possibilities and merits with each option and also with combinations of options.

Public Comment:

Hirsch: Expressed concern about weaponization of FBI, anti-semitism, and the handling of police files.

Gennaco explained that general in-service training might be quicker to schedule and review, although looking at the Field Officer program (Option 1) could be helpful. Commission was most interested in a review of general in-service training (Option 2). Police auditors said they would try to blend options 1 and 2 into an audit.

c. Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2025 –

Escamilla-Greenwald moved, with a second by Canning to have Horton as Chair and Willson as Vice Chair. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Bliss, Canning, Griswold, Escamilla-Greenwald, Willson

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Horton

8. Subcommittee Updates

a. Annual Outreach Event (Feb 12, 2025) Subcommittee (Canning, Griswold, Sherman)

Stachowicz briefed commission on the progress to date. NAMI-Yolo on board.

Dana Bailey on board. Escamilla-Greenwald will contact Empower Yolo.

CommuniCare would be good. Will look at dispatchers and how they decide what to do. Subcommittee will work on agenda and final preparations.

Need resource sheet with contact info.

Public Comment:

Alan Hirsch: should clarify event and video it.

Canning moved, with a second by Escamilla-Greenwald, to extend meeting until 8:55pm. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Annual Police Auditor Review Subcommittee (Horton, Sherman, Escamilla-Greenwald)

Will bring back report at future meeting.

9. Long Range Calendar: Upcoming Meeting Dates and/or Potential Agenda Items

Canning: Would like department rep to come talk about Internal Affairs at the police department.

Willson: Would like to tour facility and ride-alongs. Staff needs to look into this and get back to commissioners.

Public Comment:

Alan Hirsch: Tour of Police Department should be public meeting.

10. Adjournment

Canning moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed with the following vote:

AYES: Bliss, Canning, Escamilla-Greenwald, Griswold, Horton, Sherman, Willson

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm.