

Discussion – Use of Force Policy, Existing models/proposals for policy reform (e.g. 8 Cant Wait, Others?)

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, October 7, 2020 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.)

Zoom Link – <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1600214882?pwd=QUF4dk5IT0M1QmFzV1psVktNZ2QyZz09>

Passcode: 276971

Webinar ID: 160 021 4882

Call in Number: +16692545252

Attendees: Dori King, Chair pro-tem, Joy Stevens, Recorder, Paolo Esteban, Staff Liaison, Tonia Cottrell, Franziska Rose - City of Beaverton, Neil Stellingwerf, Lieutenant - Community Services Officer, Ronda Groshong, Police Chief City of Beaverton, Councilor Mark Fagin, Beaverton City Council, Jarrod Shaw, Kossikan Yawo, Mercy Henderson, Spencer Ehrman, Annala Swafford, Stephanie Somanchi,

AGENDA –

6:32 Call Meeting to Order – Dori King, Chair pro tem

6:3 Minutes Approval Stephanie motion, Kosikan second, motion passed. Minutes approved as corrected

6:34 Public Participation – Paolo Esteban

2 min each or 10 min max for entire agenda item

All additional questions/comments outside of allotted time can be sent to HRAC Website

Public comment:

Karen J: Would like to have an opportunity to speak at the end of the meeting. Directed to send an email directly to Paolo

Kathy French: Has it been considered that when all the sessions are done, making recommendations, invite Michael German back to present more so that HRAC members ave a shared understanding of police procedures, policies, and practices

Ron Marson: Would like to see this technology used for meetings if rank and file police officers with community members who have a fear of police to have a conversation with each other, active listening. With the goal of understanding. Also ;have the mediator speak without committee

Sophia Wang: Interested in human rights, listening, studying in middle school

Terry, phoning in: Happy with Beaverton police, no problem with use of force. Could benefit from children in school having officers explain how the children should behave when addressing officers. Or how to deal with police in different situations. This would reduce fear in kids. Thinks problem is that folks don't know what is expected if they are stopped by police. She suggests citizen training.

6:43 Liaison Updates – Brief highlights. Full updates sent ahead of time.

Council Update – Councilor Mark Fagin – Racial Equity Consultant, Ellen Wyoming DeLoy report to city, staff briefing about the report. Will come together for a work session to determine next steps. Recruitment of interim city manager, first of two steps, for about six months to establish the changes. 25 applicants, interviews upcoming. Closes on 10/15. Goal is to determine who to interview, hiring first week of December. Start January 1. The new council with the mayor after the election will work on process/requirements for full time city manager. That position will have more public input. Interim would be eligible to apply for permanent. Committees invited to open zoom of finalists.

Beaverton Police – Lieutenant Neil Stellingwerf – Sent the written update.

Mayor's Youth Advisory – Annala Swafford – Had first Mayor's Youth Advisory Board meeting. Discussed next year's agenda, formed sub committees. Made changes to bylaws, edited requirements, minor but important.

City Update – Paolo Esteban – virtual fall voters forum 10/14. Link on website. Also on a couple of local access channels, YouTube.

Dori King – On September 15th Ellen Wyoming DeLoy's report was shared with the city council.. She spoke with 29 people with the focus on preparing for future sessions with larger numbers of community members. Ellen Wyoming DeLoy's report was full of suggestions. One of that intersects with our work is her discussion with council and the mayor about the possibility of adopting 8 Can't Wait. The powerpoint for her presentation is on the city counsel website.

7:00 – 8:30– Sessions Topic – Use of Force Policy, Existing models/proposals for policy reform. Framing from Chief Groshong– Comments about 8 can't wait analysis. Comparing language of the various places, campaign zero and 8 can't wait. Sent analysis memo to counselors, challenge to not have a quorum.

New chart comparing BPD, Minneapolis, and Louisville PD because it is local, the department that responded to George Floyd, and the department that responded to Briana Taylor. 5 minutes to look.

Spencer: Feasible used a lot in warning to shoot. What is the legal meaning. Sounds not accountable. Chief: during investigation, interviews, determination clarified. Investigations done by another agency.

Stephanie: Some similarities to 8 can't wait. Lots of overlap. How dissimilar to BPD to 8 can't wait. The two standards are really similar. Officer emotional management skills training? Yes there is specific training. During hiring looking for officers with high EQ. Also, BPD has many officers and enforces duty to intervene.

Dori: What if officers seek external training that involves chokeholds? Chief's Response:Even with outside training, choke holds within the job not approved.

Kossikan: Regarding deescalation, mandate in 8 can't wait. Chief: always want to deescalate. Using force, officers also get hurt. So, training on different scenarios. Sitations become training opportunities. Deescalation is first in situations. Question about requesting back up...Mercy's situation. Now extra officers are dismissed from scenes. Sometimes newer officers will show up out of excitement, and more seasoned officers will dismiss them.

Jarrod: Mental health. Compared to other cities. Looked at Cincinnati. Lowest rates, on scene mental health professionals. Sometimes no time to get more mental health team...Washington County has a mental health team. Clinician and deputy per team. Called MHRT. Push in the city to have it. In the works now.

Joy: With a the way the current use of force policy is written and given its similarities to the use of force policies in Louisville and Minneapolis, whats to stop a "George Floyd or Breonna Taylor" happening here in Beaverton? What is the police unions role in this? Do they have the final say?

Tonia: PTSD of PD. Lots of informal support, wondering about ongoing training in self care? Yes, emphasis on officer wellness. EAP. More money for emotional wellness training. Tonia would like to help with the job description for person they are hiring

Mercy: We all have human intuitions that should be applied. About use of deadly force, is there ever a time when an officer does not fear for their life? Because it is in there that in that situation they can use deadly force. Term used to justify deadly force. 8 can't wait says and statute have it, recent statute in chart adopted due to recent events. What if intuition is to shoot before you ask?

"fear for their life" causes a lot of trouble. We all fear for our lives. It would seem to justify using deadly force all the time. What about the life of the other person? Is it less important? Chief disputes that always fear for their lives, but it is always used to justify use of deadly force.

What are we doing now, that was not done in the past, to make sure George Floyd does not happen again.

Idea about having a zoom meeting with community and officers is a good idea.

Councilor Fagin: Having a community discussion to improve?

Kossikan: What is being done new? 50 years later, nothing has been changed. Why are we still here? For the next meeting, Chief to give us a history of policing not BPD BPD. Would like to see black police officers.

Dori: Our country has a long history of not dealing with racism. Docs in the chat.

Chief Groshong: Good night. Excellent questions, even the hard ones. Appreciate emotional honesty. Enjoys the meetings. Room for change. We have her ear. She will keep coming to our meetings.

Tonia: Most productive of the meetings so far. Thanks Chief!

Dori: next meeting first 5 minutes review recommendations.

Paolo: We will be reaching out to have folks help who want to do more.

What is the value & purpose of the use of force policy? What does the process look like to change the current policy?

Current Use of Force Policy, Chart Activity – Dori King & Laurel Grasmick-Black

How is Beaverton different? Similarities?

How does our policy prevent the extra judicial killing of black people?

What needs to change?

Halfway Check in Recap – Joy Stevens

Prior month recap & recommendations so far – Paolo Esteban

Clarify Next Steps – Laurel Grasmick-Black

Next topic: Community Oversight

8:34 - Adjourn

Handouts/HW

Use of Force Policy Comparison Chart

Community Interviews report to council – video

List of recommendations thus far

September Agenda/Minutes

Liaison updates

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION www.BeavertonOregon.gov/HRAC Paolo Esteban, Equity Specialist, 503-526-2439, Pesteban@BeavertonOregon.gov

ADA Notice: This information is available in large print upon request and assistive listening devices or sign language interpreters are available at any public meeting with five days advance notice.

