

Discussion – Current Community Outreach & Channels for Feedback

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Wednesday, September 2, 2020 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.)

Attendees: Laurel Grasmick – Black – Chair, Tonia Cottrell, Ronda Groshong, Police Chief City of Beaverton, Neil Stellingwerf, Lieutenant - Community Services Division, Paolo Esteban, Staff Liaison, Franzia Rose, City of Beaverton, Spencer Ehrman, Jarrod Shaw, Cameron Green, Annala Swafford, Mercy Henderson, Councilor Mark Fagin, Beaverton City Council, Michael German, Stephanie Somanchi, Anjabeen Ashraf, Cameron Green, Kossikan Yawo

AGENDA –

6:35 - Call Meeting to Order – Laurel Grasmick - Black

6:36 Minutes Approval Verified quorum, minutes approved by consensus as corrected.

6:37 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](#)
- Chat feature during Zoom meeting disabled during this meeting due to issues with the technology, questions and comments can be submitted via city website link
- Comment by Amy: questioning the practice of including the police in this dialogue, Mark Fagin is receiving funds from the police is he conflicted. Mercy's comments about the young people of color moving out of Beaverton because of the police,
- Comment by Ron Marson: Unable to hear Ron.
- Comment by Rina: echoing Amy's sentiments. Wants defunding the police and funding social service. Concerned by Mark Fagin's participation because he did not vote for Black Lives Matter resolution by the city.
- Comment by Kathryn French: Excited and listening.
- Comment by Ron Marson: cannot hear Ron.

6:51 Liaison Updates – Brief highlights. Full updates sent ahead of time.

- Council Update – Councilor Mark Fagin – on the transition team
- Beaverton Police – Lieutenant Neil Stellingwerf – St. McDonald is the school resource officer: 96% of referrals to police generated by the school, 4 % by the officer. Dori asked out outreach to the Latinix community in the neighborhood
- Mayors Youth Advisory – Annala Swafford – New members in the Mayor's advisory board and determining agenda for the year, focus on social justice. School is starting, remotely at least until November
- City Update – Paolo Esteban – Welcoming week, HRAC recruitment

7:15 – Sessions Topic – Current Community Outreach & Channels for Feedback

- Prior month recap – Laurel, recap and contextualization.
 - o Dori – Context of our work.
- Guest Speaker – Michael German, Brennan Center for Justice – Transparency, civilian oversight. Concerns about Beaverton participation in joint terrorism task force. How to maintain state transparency when working with federal agency rules. Benign names to avoid stigma of investigations. Bias creeping into intelligence reports. Escalated force model by police makes it worse. Use of force: indiscriminate use of less lethal methods with catastrophic injuries. Police not following their use of force policies.

- Questions:
 - o Cameron: Article in chat pretty good. Substantial white supremacy groups in the PNW. Police in full riot gear, backs to armed protester, allowing white supremacist actions without repercussion. The response to protests about police bias and police abuse has been police bias and police abuse.
 - o Anjabeen: outreach to marginalized communities, models that avoid exploitation and wolf in sheep's clothing. New models created in the 60s and effective. But largely forgotten and unused today. Against violence includes police violence.

- Reflections & Changes made – Chief Ronda Groshong – City has hired a consultant who is BIOIC. Has and will speak with all the city groups and bring a summary to the city council. Council will work with her to draft changes. No community members on the panel for hiring just officers.

- Community Outreach – What are you doing to engage youth regarding SRO's? - Laurel Grasmick - Black
 - o Cameron: question to chief: Portland has encrypted all their communications to avoid public scrutiny. Asking the chief to commit to not doing that. Chief says that emails are public record. Texts using I-message, which are public record. Radios, new system, will encrypt in January for the first several minutes of the call for safety purposes.
 - o Tonia: Re police HQ move into the neighborhood. Folks afraid of ICE. Literature in all the pertinent languages. Local restaurant support for being used for community dialogue Neighbors feel pulled over and threatened more than necessary
 - o Kossikan – Does the PD have enough resources? Yes. Looking to add pertinent training. County wide push to add mental health resources. Beaverton will not be responding to Portland riots. Prepared for a riot in Beaverton? Interagency plan for dealing with riots. Protests welcome.
 - o Anjabeen: How we perceive mental health and race in another person, disparities...further training?
 - o Spencer: screen personnel for white supremacist groups?

- SROs: Lt Stellingweft: SROs in 33 schools, walk the halls, focus on high schools and middle schools, lunch with the students, student academy to learn about law enforcement in general, not a career field. Has been in Beaverton schools since 1970s, DARE in 1990s, after columbine less dare more safety. Adapted to the needs of the community, open to feedback. Relationship focus not investigative.
 - o Dori: trend away from SROs in surrounding districts. Comments about why he would want SROs in the school, SROs misunderstood. Training parents in technology pitfalls. Dori feedback, students not having good experiences with SROs.
 - o Jarrod – numbers on how many students are dealing with mental health issues?
 - o Annala – has not met the SRO, Has a SRO stopped a school shooting or arrested someone for a crime in the school? What about the privacy issues with police dealing with parents and tech. PD comments about threat assessment
 - o Cameron: how does the presence of an armed and armored individual improve a violent situations?

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- Clarify Next Steps – Laurel Grasmick-Black
 - o What does safety look like?

- Next topic: Use of Force Policy, existing models/ proposals policy reform (ex 8 cant wait, others?)

Paolo: support for shop with a cop, also, all the SROs are white

8:45 - Adjourn

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

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