

BPD-HRAC Inquiry Sessions

Background

Following the killing of George Floyd and the renewed demands of the racial justice movement in communities across the country, a strong and unified voice has emerged to challenge the current system of policing. Communities want to understand and impact policies regarding the use of force, discipline and tracking in response to excessive force, funding for police, accountability among officers and within the justice system, and community oversight, in order to address the disproportionate and devastating impacts on Black communities.

Leadership of the Beaverton Police Department (BPD) has expressed a desire to engage with the community in this moment in a deep reflection on systemic racism in policing and specifically BPD operations. BPD wants to listen, clarify, and solicit input on how to respond to the demands of the movement to improve the department's operations, community relations, and transparency.

The Human Rights Advisory Commission (HRAC) is one of a few long-standing community groups that have shown sustained engagement on issues of police accountability. HRAC is a strong, committed, proactive community board with relevant expertise and interest in reviewing department policies and helping to shape a way forward that acknowledges and addresses the impacts of systemic racism on Black communities in Beaverton.

Purpose

To create a dedicated space for listening and dialogue between community members and BPD leadership regarding operations, policy, response to current community demands for police reform, and the consideration of other long-term structures for community oversight.

Goals

- **Cultivate relationships between BPD and HRAC**
 - *Deliverable: Chief (and BPD command staff?) attend this series of HRAC meetings and engage in deep dialogue with HRAC members.*
- **Support increased access to BPD data and information**
 - *Deliverable: HRAC recommendations on website improvements*
- **Provide recommendations on policy changes and community oversight**
 - *Deliverable: HRAC and BPD review and discuss policies regarding use of force together. HRAC submits written recommendations on policy changes they'd like to see at the conclusion of these proposed sessions.*
- **Map out a path toward tangible policy changes in response to community demands**
 - *Deliverable: A concrete plan for at least 1 policy-level change exists at the end of these proposed sessions.*

Scope

A series of six dialogue sessions held during regular HRAC monthly meetings between July – December 2020. Sessions will last around 1 ½ hours each month and may be accompanied by readings and review of other materials between meetings. Sessions will be designed to dive deeper on specific topics and culminate in written recommendations from the board to BPD.

Session topics:

July 1: Overview of purpose / goals for sessions, relationship building, setting group agreements, recognition of past BPD and community-led efforts in this area
(Materials provided for review before Aug session: stop data in Bias-based policing report / CJC report, <what else?>)

August 5: Data transparency and communications
(Materials provided for review before Sept session: overview of regular outreach, dialogue activities, ways for community to give input)

September 2: Current community outreach and channels for feedback and dialogue; advising on community listening sessions if desired
(Materials provided for review before Oct session: BPD use of force policy, training information)

October 7: Use of force policy, existing models / proposals for policy reform (e.g. 8 Can't Wait, <others?>, etc.)
(Materials provided for review before Nov session: models for community oversight)

November 8: Community oversight
(Materials provided for review before Dec session: draft potential HRAC recommendations that have emerged from previous sessions)

December 2: Finalize board recommendations & discuss next steps