

## Tacoma Community's Police Advisory Committee

### Report: Feedback to CPAC on 1/23/2021 Incident

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**Purpose** This document will show by category what opinions were shared with CPAC by email before and after the Special Meeting of 1/25/2021.

It will also include questions asked to inform a response via FAQ.

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**Emails** CPAC has received 114 emails to the CPAC email address to date on the incident. Both before and after the Special meeting of 1/25/2021.

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**Comments** Of the 114 emails, there were 142 comments made. Most emails contained comments in several categories and were noted as such.

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**Categories and  
Totals -  
Incident**

Support Officer Phan/TPD	41	<b>34%</b>
Enforce/Charge Violations of Law	37	<b>31%</b>
Unfavorable view of TPD	23	<b>19%</b>
Fire officer	7	<b>6%</b>
Safe Alternative Location for cars	3	<b>2%</b>
Increase Police Funding	3	<b>2%</b>
Defund Police	2	<b>2%</b>
Concerns about Union Interference	2	<b>2%</b>
Concern for person run over	1	<b>1%</b>
Want Mental Health for Witnesses	1	<b>1%</b>
Unfavorable View of Mayor	1	<b>1%</b>

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**Categories and  
Totals CPAC**

Favorable view of CPAC	46%
Unfavorable view of CPAC	53%

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### Comments on questions

Questions that follow are from the emails submitted to CPAC before and after the Special Meeting of 1/25/2021. Some may be duplicates. Where appropriate, the 'who' context is placed in parentheses. Of the 114 emails received, many contained multiple questions.

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### Questions

*What is CPAC's plan to take action against not only this incident but the department as a whole?*

*How will you use your voice and status to root out the corruption and violent officers within the Tacoma Police Department?*

*Are the citizens that were injured and hospitalized going to be taken care of using TPD budget and funds?*

*How can we work together to overhaul the entire policing system in our city while building a new system that actually helps citizens and keeps them safe?*

*How is the department going to move forward on proper enforcement of this dangerous sideshows?*

*Is the department looking at new ways to approach such a hostile situation?*

*Are any of the participants going to be charged for violating the law with the burnouts and street racing and/or for attempted assault of the officer?*

*We want to know the plan is for providing a space for these people to do this legally and safely. What can we do to support this group instead of putting this group at harm.*

*How sad is it that the Black and POC people show up and work closely with issues that directly affect them and people they love (issues being historical and pervasive white supremacy and police brutality), and talk about their trauma, just to be met with gaslighting, tone-policing and indifference from white folks in this meeting?*

*This committee does not represent a variety of viewpoints – other than maybe the Chair. I can't believe how many times I heard – "I echo those remarks" - "I agree with what the other members have said." How is that beneficial or objective?*

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### Questions (continued)

*You talk about the violence on the part of the officer that traumatized you all - what about the violence that was being committed against the officer?*

*How do you think he felt being surrounded by an angry crowd that was yelling and threatening to pull him from his vehicle?*

*What about the fear he had for his life – all because he responded to a 911 call made by other community members?*

*None of you in this group has any empathy for him. Would you prefer the police did not respond to the incident?*

*Would you prefer they (police) not come into contact with the group that closed the street?*

*What would you have had the officer do?*

*Are you sure the backup would have arrived and saved him before the crowd broke his window and pulled him out?*

*I heard “policy and procedure” used many times. These are just empty words – why not address the specific situation and voice how you think it could have been prevented?*

*Then the topic of race was brought up. How does this incident have anything to do with race?*

*Where is the accountability of the individuals who created the situation in the first place?*

*Who in their right mind thinks it is ok to surround a police vehicle?*

*Why aren't any of you saying anything about the reckless, irresponsible, dangerous behavior of the individuals who chose to and continue to choose to disobey the law and especially to put our law enforcement in danger ?*

*What kind of a false narrative are you trying to pull over on the citizens of our community ?*

*Since when do criminal acts get condoned while law and order get pushed aside ?*

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### Questions (continued)

*What barriers do labor unions present in the realm of accountability and training?*

*Please explain why each of you feel you are qualified to review TPD policy and procedure in this case.*

*What job or life experience do you have that qualifies you to be able to sit in judgement of someone in high stress, potentially life altering actions that require split second decisions.*

*What preexisting prejudicial negative bias (or favorable attitude) do you bring with you when taking part in this discussion as a result of your prior experience with Police Officers.*

*How would you feel if, in your own profession, you had outside committees making judgements and suggestions on performing your duties at your work. Especially when people on those committees have no experience in your job. Would you welcome their guidance?*

*What exactly would you have done, in a dangerous scenario where his Patrol car was surrounded within a few seconds by a crowd of people trying to break into his car.*

*Educational and training requirements for police. Is this something set by the union?*

*Can the city set stricter requirements?*

*Most police in the US only need a high school diploma. I'd like to see requirements for college degrees that include coursework in social and human services.*

*Do we have de-escalation training? If so, what does that look like?*

*Ban the use of tear gas in Tacoma. Has this been done yet?*

*Prevent the police department from purchasing and using military weapons. Is this something that Tacoma currently does?*

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### Questions (continued)

*We should change who responds to emergency calls. Can we accelerate this study?*

*What is being done to hold police accountable in this city?*

*What is being done to reform policing in our city?*

*Were the people who were hit by the police vehicle on the road illegally?*

*Did the people who were hit by the police vehicle live in Tacoma?*

*Were the people who assaulted the police vehicle arrested?*

*What level of safety do people exempt themselves from by participation in an illegal event?*

*A few months ago, a Tacoma Officer encountered a similar group at the UPS facility in Fife. The crowd did the same as the incident at S. 9th and Pacific. She had a window broken out. She backed up and waited for backup. Why is it she was able to not run anyone over but this officer made the decision too?*

*Are any of the participants going to be charged for violating the law with the burnouts and street racing and/or for attempted assault of the officer?*

*My question is, why are we not getting an update on the condition of the person who was taken to the hospital? What about the other person?*

*If you want the police to do their job why not stop criticizing your officers that you hire for the city and focus on the garbage that's going on in your neighborhood?*

*What would've happened if that cop came out of the car?*

*Would you prosecute the people who wanted to physically hurt your officer or would you just blow it off because they were protecting their guys from getting caught?*

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### Questions (continued)

*What would you do if an angry mob of people surrounded your vehicle, beating on it?*

*Why didn't the officer attempt to use his microphone to disperse the crowd?*

*Why couldn't the officer have waited for backup?*

*What led to one officer responding to a large crowd WITHOUT backup?*

*Why didn't he continue to reverse since it clearly shows less people behind?*

*Why was the department so quick to release a statement stating "what happened" yet many contradictions were found after watching many videos from the evening?*

*The statement released afterwards was made in defense of the officer rather than a neutral one, an investigation had not been completed prior to the statement being released correct?*

*Why is there such a quick response to defend the badge without knowing all the facts?*

*Where is the accountability of the individuals who created the situation in the first place?*

*Everyone who was there to participate in illegal racing knew that this was illegal. How can any of them be "shocked" when the police show up?*

*How about City impounds vehicles involved and arrests and charges, the street racers with Hit and Run?*

*With multiple cases of concerning police violence toward people of color and unarmed people, we must make change now. The calls to defund are loud in our community. Can Tacoma make changes now???*

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### Questions (continued)

*Why aren't any of you saying anything about the reckless, irresponsible, dangerous behavior of the individuals who chose to and continue to choose to disobey the law and especially to put our law enforcement in danger ?*

*What kind of a false narrative are you trying to pull over on the citizens of our community ?*

*Since when do criminal acts get condoned while law and order get pushed aside ?*

*I urge you all to start demanding accountability for those who commit criminal acts and to start making sure that they are arrested immediately instead of allowing them to take over our streets and our city. Who are you here to represent anyway ?*

*I am extremely embarrassed to be a community member right now .....why ? Because of all of you.*

*Did the officer actually state that he feared for his life or was that language that the TPD spokesperson put forth without any communication with the officer?*

*Thank you CPAC for your time and intention to make Tacoma a better place, but as leaders is it not your duty to keep your personal opinions and emotions out of the meetings?*

*What barriers do labor unions present in the realm of accountability and training?*

*For whatever reason, our elected officials seem to cater to this group, and are constantly "apologizing" for actions taken to keep our citizens safe. What is wrong with them?*

*Would you have expected him to simply sit in his car to see what the final outcome would be once they got into his car and pulled him out?*

*Are you horrified that a crowd was threatening an officer?*

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### Questions (continued)

*Would you rather he had to shoot his way out of danger?*

*How do you propose to control the crowds - or do we just let them have free will?*

*I am also deeply disturbed by your comments - this doesn't really seem to be the right place for your feelings. Can you really make an unbiased decision and treat everyone fairly, including the police?*

*Many said that actions needed to be taken - and surely if an officer has violated a policy, they should be disciplined - but how can you say that action must be taken before you work the process?*

*Was this a false flag?"*

*How many Americans will stand up for Law Enforcement"?*

*Just imagine if we handed over our guns to the perpetrators of our laws. What would be the outcome?*

*Officer Misconduct - When will there be accountability?*

*Law enforcement has been able to give their side of the story here tonight about the arrests. When will those who were arrested get the opportunity to speak to the public about what happened to them?*

*Why did the police officer slam on the gas rather than SLOWLY advancing to safety?*

*What's an officer supposed to do?*

*Possible strategy to effect change? (Union Agreement)*

*Is being generally adversarial towards a police officer, automatically considered to be endangering the life and immediate safety of said police officer?*

*What is being done to hold police accountable in this city?*

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## Tacoma Community's Police Advisory Committee

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### Questions (continued)

*What is the city council doing for policing in Tacoma?*

*A mob confronts a policeman in his cruiser with no subsequent arrests?*

*Who would want to be anywhere near a city where that kind of behavior is permitted?*

*Sunday followed with the ever-so-predictable news that the officer involved had been placed on paid leave pending further investigation... Jesus!!! Really!?!?*

*Would the PD be content to do nothing until they learned the findings of the investigation from his employer?*

*Will the officer be fired immediately and tried for vehicular homicide/manslaughter?*

*Will the AG treat the officer/PD preferentially?*

*Will internal corruption shape the narrative and the charges like we saw in Louisville last fall?*

*Will the PD spokesperson be immediately terminated for the disingenuous public statements she provided, or will that be overlooked as standard operating procedure?*

*Will you act to remove any past or current law enforcement officers from the "civilian review board?"*

*More importantly, as we look to our future, will you take strides to demilitarize the TPD?*

*Will you advocate for a new type of peacekeeping organization to replace the paramilitary force that currently exists?*

*Will you ask yourself, and others, if a police chief educated at The Army War College, and a member of the Washington National Guard, is the right person to demilitarize a police department?*

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### Questions (continued)

*Will you use this unfortunate opportunity to make Tacoma an example of what true PD reform can look like, or will you simply do what's been done in the past?*

*When did we get to the point where we favor a mob breaking the law, threatening and vandalizing a police vehicle with the officer in it?*

*I don't believe the incident on Saturday can be justified as police brutality, so then, what could it be?*

*As a school principal, I have to ask myself in incidents like this, is this an example of bad employees not following good policy or good employees following bad policy?*

*If backup is coming, why send him into the crowd right away?*

*What other strategies could be used to deescalate?*

*Was mental health support offered to witness of this tragic event???*

*If our officers are in fear, what chance does a normal non trained person have?*

*What permits these car enthusiasts to endanger others lives and destroy innocent peoples property?*

*What has happened to us? Where are the articulate, mature adults in our society who can provide cohesive intelligent conversations?*

*How in this world were these selected as an advisory committee?*

*They (CPAC) are traumatized? Really?*

*"The officer, fearing for his safety, tried to back up, but was unable to do so because of the crowd," Tacoma police said in a statement Who is responsible for the statement given?*

*No one asked for how long has this illegal street racing taking place?*

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### Questions (continued)

*Who is responsible in the community for organizing these illegal activities?*

*Why aren't the criminals held responsible for their actions?*

*Why is the community thought to only hold responsible the police officers and not those that commit the crime?*

*Why are criminals encouraged to commit crime because "it's the pandemic and there haven't been events in our city for a year" does that mean we can all go destroy property and commit crimes because "there aren't events in the city for a year"?*

*But for the drifting exhibition, would officer response have been necessary? While immediate (CPAC) meetings may not be feasible, may I suggest a chat group or text group or email group?*

*I have not seen enough video to confirm what happened when, but I understand that at some point at least one of his windows was broken out. Was that while he was backing up? Was it in between? Did he just have a flight or fight reaction?*

*Had you been in that car you wouldn't have been in fear of your safety?*

*He was being attacked and was afraid for his safety. What else could he have done with the tools that he had?*

*When was the last time you were in a car with a crowd of people yelling and banging on your windows? What would your response be?*

*Why was the officer there without back-up?*

*Didn't the doors automatically lock or lock a few second after the officer entered and started operating his vehicle? If not, didn't the officer have the ability to manually lock the vehicle doors?*

*Isn't the glass in the vehicle used by the officer shatter-proof and bullet-proof?*

*What immediate threat, if any, caused the officer, within the confines of his locked, bullet-proof vehicle, to fear for his life and use his vehicle to flee the crowd that surrounded it?*

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### Questions (continued)

*Why aren't we holding those individuals accountable for Saturday's events?*

*Why, as a board (CPAC) are you so quickly to put blame on this officer?*

*Why are police officers not able to feel fear themselves when ganged up on by a number of individuals attacking a patrol car and attempting to gain entry where one police officer sat by himself with no one to protect him?*

*Why is it suddenly inconceivable that people who break the law should be held accountable for their actions?*

*How is it acceptable to encourage people to take over our streets with no repercussions?*

*But for the illegal activities of the members of our community that law abiding members of our community asked for help with by calling 911 to request the police address the illegal activities, the officer would not have been at that intersection nor addressing those illegal activities. Which came first the chicken or the egg?*

*The events of last Saturday would still fall to the police under a reorg so let's just get real about the problems with the unruly and illegal behavior of members of our community and bad players from Gig Harbor and Renton street racing "clubs". What is the city's plan to fix that problem?*

*What part of this was race motivated? Do you even know the race of the officer or the injured people?*

*Some of you mentioned you were horrified, and the bystanders and business owners were horrified. Don't you think the officer was horrified too?*

*Police officers put their lives at risk every day to keep the public safe and to help people – they don't go to work so they can bully and beat up on people. Do any of you know how extensive the vetting process is for new hires?*

*They are good upstanding people. Why aren't ANY of you giving this officer the benefit of the doubt?*

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### Questions (continued)

*The only valid questions I heard tonight were – why was the officer there by himself? Why wasn't more back-up called ahead of time*

*Which begs the question – as this street-racing problem has been building for some time why wasn't there an administrative plan for addressing it?*

*Do you know that there are fewer officers on the streets of Tacoma today than there was 25 years ago?*

*What is being done to reform policing in our city?*

*Why weren't these thugs arrested?*

*Do you all want Tacoma to be like Seattle??*

*I ask all you board members to ask yourself what you would have done in the officer's position?*

*If you were driving with your significant other or had your children with you and a mob surrounded your car, what would you do?*

*What made this officer decide to wade into a crowd of people with lights flashing, rather than observe the situation from a distance and coordinate backup so that those individuals engaged in street racing could be identified and apprehended?*

*I would like to know, unequivocally, that there is no procedure, tactic, or training that our officers have received, either written or verbal, to use their vehicles as deadly weapons against non-similarly equipped citizens. If such a training or procedure exists, it should be abolished immediately.*

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## Tacoma Community's Police Advisory Committee

**Conclusion** This document was prepared on 1/28/2021 by the Data and Trends Subcommittee of the Tacoma Community's Police Advisory Committee for use in reviewing public feedback regarding the 9<sup>th</sup> and Pacific event of 1/23/2021.

Questions are in no particular order and to the extent possible have been presented in general senses rather than identified individuals.

The questions are in mostly raw form and in cases of clarification, the author may have put the intended entity in parentheses

The document has no restrictions on use or publication.

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**CPAC** Established in 2005, The Community's Police Advisory Committee (CPAC) is a community volunteer board appointed by the City Council that reviews and makes recommendations to Tacoma Police Department policies and practices to ensure transparency and accountability in the way that the Department operates.

Chair, Stephen Hagberg [CPACDist4AL@outlook.com](mailto:CPACDist4AL@outlook.com)  
Vice Chair, Krystle Edwards

Video Overview: CPAC (2020) <https://youtu.be/dwqMSv6U9VE>

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