



# **City of Tacoma**

## **Community's Police Advisory Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, May 8, 2023**

Hybrid Meeting

**6:00 p.m.**

**The CPAC is comprised of Chair Allen McKenzie, Vice Chair Shayna Raphael, and Committee Members Stephen Hagberg, Jabari Hampton, Louis Cooper, Jeffrey Sargent, Angela Mealing, Andrew Nguyen, Ralette Churchill, Esther Evans**

**Members Present:** Allen McKenzie, Stephen Hagberg, Angela Mealing, Andrew Nguyen, Jeffrey Sargent, Louis Cooper, Jabari Hampton, Ralette Churchill

**Members Absent:** Shayna Raphael

**Staff Present:** Staff Liaison Chelsea Talbert, Executive Liaison Jacques Colon, Staff Liaison Ted Richardson, TPD Chief of Staff Curtis Hairston

**Staff Absent:** Lieutenant GJ Roberts, Captain Gretchen Aguirre

Called to order at 6:01pm

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

#### **Approval of the Agenda**

Approval of the agenda for the CPAC meeting held on May 8, 2023

Passed at 6:02

#### **Approval of the Minutes**

Approval of the minutes of the April 10, 2023 CPAC meeting.

Motion passed at 6:03

## **City Reports**

### **City Manager's Office**

- 6:04 – Ted shared there is a presentation at study session next week at Noon on Tuesday, May 16 which will focus on the Tacoma violent crime prevention update. The Office of Strategy is recruiting for a new position, Community Safety Plan Coordinator.

### **Tacoma Police Department**

- 6:08 – Chief Hairston shared that there is a food drive at a Cops and Cars event this Saturday from 10 – 1 at Griots Garage.

## **Presentations and Discussions**

### **Office of Internal Investigations**

- 6:09 – Roger, Director of the Office of Independent Investigations shared that office was created in 2021 to conduct independent investigations of police use of deadly force in WA state as well as review prior cases with new evidence.
- Staff Introductions: Jane Nesbitt, Chief of Staff; Tracy Lapps, Director of Investigations; Dana Boales, Director of Equity and Organizational Development; Jessica Berliner, Senior Policy Advisor; Annette Taylor, Legislative Director; Hector Castro, Director of Communications and Community Relations / Outreach.
- Roger shared that the legislature passed a bill in 2021 that created the Office of Independent Investigations based on task force recommendations. They are in the process of hiring investigators (about 50) and want to make sure to hire people who know what they are doing AND support the culture.
- Roger clarified that they can investigate the use of deadly force no matter what the result (death or severe injury). They have discretion to take and not take cases. Once they become operational, they will start with “cold” cases that resulted in death. They were authorized to begin investigating starting in July 2022. They are only authorized to investigate criminal cases. Investigations are submitted to local prosecuting attorney, pursuant to statute. There is a process by which the Attorney General's office could get involved in the prosecution. They have a vetting process in place that is designed to encourage diverse experiences and take into account previous work experience.
- OII Advisory Board - <https://oii.wa.gov/oii-advisory-board>
- Job Posting for investigators - [https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington?department\[0\]=Office%20of%20Independent%20Investigations&sort=PostingDate%7CDescending](https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington?department[0]=Office%20of%20Independent%20Investigations&sort=PostingDate%7CDescending)
- Roger shared that there are about 20 cases that are waiting to be investigated. New investigations take 120 days, which is more of a target. The time it takes to investigate cases will depend on evidence, witnesses, etc. All information will be public on the website. New evidence has to be brought forth according to the statute and can be submitted by anyone, not just the impacted family, and can be anonymous.

### **Community Safety Plan**

- 6:40 – Jacques shared about the Community Safety Plan which will be a coordinated and comprehensive plan. It will cover what the City is doing now, aspirations, and what is working in

other places. Jacques shared there are general areas and populations that must have their voices elevated in this process and the data will tell us more about who the priority populations are for outreach and engagement. Community engagement will be thoughtful and include recent and concurrent efforts outside of the City. Strategies will center the voices most impacted and will be community driven and data driven.

- There is a small amount of money from the general fund set aside for the plan development. Once the plan is out, the Mayor and City Council will make decisions around funding.
- Jabari asked if there are community positions at the table and Jacques shared that everything is on the table. Jacques shared that this will be as upstream as possible while focusing on root causes and recognizing that there are folks who want to see movement now.
- Esther asked if there will be consequences. Jacques shared that the plan will include transforming public safety departments and how crime (both violent crime and property crime) is approached in the City.
- Jacques shared that there is not one vision and that things that make some people feel safe may not make others feel safe. There will be a number of strategies.
- Jeffrey offered to help with outreach and shared some of the frustrations he has seen on 311 and as a community member with lack of response / consequences.
- Ralette shared how important it is to focus on the economic piece and asked about priority populations. Jacques shared that the data shows and partners are mobilizing to support youth and especially youth of color who have been disproportionately impacted by violence and homicides this year. Jacques shared that there are not quick fixes for layers of systemic inequities which creates tensions between the need for immediate action.
- Louis said this is not a new problem and has been around for 200 years and is all across America.

### **Member Report Backs**

- 7:25 – Jeffrey shared that the joint-CBC Discussion with the Police Chief went well and included deep questions. Chief of Staff Hairston shared that TPD will do a tour of the Northwest Detention Center which is a federal facility run by a private contractor. TPD has jurisdiction over crimes that happen there but they do not have overall jurisdiction.
- 7:29 - Ralette went to a Safe Streets meeting and shared about the policy review. It was shared at the meeting that Tacoma Mall security can chase people but there is not coordination between security and TPD. Ralette offered to share back with Safe Streets on behalf of CPAC as needed.

### **Complaints Review**

- 7:30 – Allen tabled this conversation until June.

### **Public Comment**

- 7:31 – Allen opened the floor for public comment.
- 7:31 – Oneida Arnold shared that the Community Safety Plan does not take the place of the TPD and hopes that young people can participate in the plan with paid internships. Oneida shared concerns about the lack of dedicated funding.
- 7:34 - Allen closed public comment.

### **Oversight Subcommittee**

- 7:34 – Louis shared that the subcommittee is meeting on Thursday to finalize priorities and then will meet with Michelle, the city’s labor negotiator.

#### **Policy Subcommittee**

- 7:35 – Stephen shared that they are waiting to see what happens with drug possession laws coming out of legislative session. Stephen has also been doing research on Seattle’s Office of Accountability and they have same rate of sustainment as Tacoma PD. He also shared Angela is doing great work with ENACT. Stephen encouraged folks to check out Safe Streets and attend local meetings.

#### **Outreach Subcommittee**

- 7:38 - Jeffery is close to completing a trifold flyer for CPAC and encouraged folks to attend local events like neighborhood night out on August 1 and the Cops and Cars event this Saturday.

#### **Subcommittee Membership:**

- Oversight Subcommittee: Louis Cooper, Shayna Raphael, Allen McKenzie, Ralette Churchill
- Outreach Subcommittee: Esther Evans, Andrew Nguyen, Jeffrey Sargent, Angela Mealing
- Policy Subcommittee: Jabari Hampton, Stephen Hagberg, Allen McKenzie, Ralette Churchill

#### **Chair Remarks**

- 7:40 – Allen encouraged everyone to attend events mentioned above and to start thinking about how CPAC can be involved during and after the trial for the officers involved in the death of Manny Ellis to help the community heal. Allen encouraged everyone to think about what CPAC’s role should be.
- Louis apologized for his language because he let his feelings get ahead of him. Allen said no apology is necessary and it is an honor to be called a peer by Louis.

#### **Adjournment**

**Motion:** CM Cooper

**Second:** CM Hagberg

Motion passed 7:44 PM

*Allen McKenzie*

Allen McKenzie, Chair

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Chelsea Talbert, Staff Liaison