



# **City of Tacoma**

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

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, September 11, 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, Ralette Churchill, Esther Evans**

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

**Members Absent:** Ralette Churchill

**Staff Present:** Staff Liaison Ted Richardson, Staff Liaison Chelsea Talbert, Lieutenant GJ Roberts, TPD Chief of Staff Curtis Hairston, Staff Liaison Jacques Colon, Captain Gretchen Aguirre, Chief Avery Moore, City Attorney Keith Echterling

**Staff Absent:** N/A

Called to order at 6:02pm

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Approval of the Agenda**

Approval of the agenda for the CPAC meeting on September 11, 2023

Passed at 6:03

**Approval of the Minutes**

Approval of the minutes of the August 11, 2023 CPAC meeting.

Motion passed at 6:03

## **Briefing Items**

### **City Reports**

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

- 6:04 – CPAC Recruitment for 2024 – District 1, 2, 3 seats open as well as youth seat and at-large seat. Applications are open through September 24 and interviews are November 9.
- Jeffery will attend the Mayors Youth Commission to talk about the youth seat

#### **Tacoma Police Department**

- 6:08 – Chief Moore shared that messaging related to the trial will be shared by the City Manager and information can be found on the City Managers website. There will be one message that was created by the City Manager and TPD together who are unified. The website will also have links for different topics of discussion including Use of Force policy and things they have done to change the Tacoma Police Department. TPD's plan has not changed since October for the trial. They shared plan information with the Ministerial Alliance but have confidence with the team in their work to create the plan. From Sunday through the duration of the trial, Chief Moore will not give any interviews nor will anyone from the team. They respect the process and will not compromise the integrity of the trial.
- Allen reiterated that CPAC is made up of independent civilians and it is important for them to not speak on behalf of the City or on behalf of CPAC.
- Update on Community Service Officer program and similarities and differences to Community Liaison Officers – Chief Hairston shared that Community Service Officers (CSO) do five main things: work in the field on non-emergency priorities for calls only (routine, no immediate threats); assist in various incidents like fires, funerals, special events, weather-related incidents; they will not carry weapons but they will be equipped with pepper spray or self-defense items; they will not wear a standard police uniform but high-visibility gear; they are only dispatched through a sergeant and will not have their own phone number or direct line; CSOs do not make arrests and do not do enforcement work other than things like parking violations and traffic enforcement. They will have City of Tacoma badge, not police badge, and will not drive a police car. If you call 311, you may end up talking to a CSO. They will start the academy in January and will be in the streets in April.
- Allen asked and Chief Hairston confirmed that CSOs will not carry Narcan.
- Louis applauded Curtis and TPD for their posture and work with this program.

#### **Presentations and Discussions**

- 6:20 - Extreme Risk Protection Order Presentation by Keith Echterling
- Allen shared that this presentation was requested as follow up from a complaint that included someone experiencing a mental health crisis who agreed to surrender their firearm and the committee asked what would have happened if they did not voluntarily surrender their weapon.
- Captain Gretchen Aguirre shared that Washington is one of the worst states for mental health and the availability for resources and structures to support people are not where they should be and the hope is there will be a variety of options in the future beyond calling 911.

- Keith is an attorney at the City of Tacoma and acts as a legal adviser. He gave a presentation overview of Extreme Risk Protection Orders (See slides)
- Keith will follow up with Stephen about how ERPOs end and firearms are returned.
- Keith shared that law enforcement would need to investigate and follow up if a neighbor was waving a gun because the individual reporting is not an immediate family member.
- Captain Aguirre shared that it can be a delicate balance when a police officer tries to collect a firearm as a result of ERPOs. Keith said sometimes officers will ask during certain circumstances to hold on to a firearm for “safe keeping” which can be a voluntary surrender.

### **Public Comment**

- 6:56 – Allen opened the floor for public comment.
- Venus asked if ERPO applied to Tacoma only or Statewide. Allen answered statewide. Venus shared they are concerned about officer safety. Venus asked what happens if someone is killed and the City gets sued. Captain Aguirre shared that there are alternatives and resources that TPD tries to use and they do their best not to escalate the situation. Captain Aguirre shared that it is very situation dependent and they don’t do many. ERPOs have been a law for several years.
- 7:04 – Allen closed public comment.

### **Police Reports Review**

- 7:04 PM – Allen led the committee through a review of police complaints.
- Allen asked, once there is a sustained finding, what happens next in terms of a disciplinary procedure? Lieutenant GJ said discipline is not often noted in the complaint findings. For the complaint that was sustained about the officer hanging up, this officer was counseled. Usually, discipline is decided by bureau chief. Officers have five days to submit a rebuttal. The union can now grieve any discipline.
- Louis recommended that moving forward, we should have meetings dedicated just to complaints instead of trying to do it after presentations.
- Shayna said the Oversight Subcommittee was going to review prior the meeting but because of the unpredictable nature of when complaints are received, it can be challenging to scheduling meetings to review.
- Stephen shared policy is reviewing public recording.
- Committee members asked if there is a policy around community members recording police officers.
- Captain Aguirre shared there isn’t a policy right now that she can think of. Lieutenant Roberts said nothing prohibits someone from recording police officers and that even though this is a 2-party state, police officers are exempt. If there is an interference with a crime scene, then it becomes an issue that needs to be managed by officers.

### **Oversight Subcommittee**

- 7:26 – Shayna shared Oversight is in limbo and everything is in the hands of the City of Tacoma. They are hoping to take on the discussion around complaints. The subcommittee will work on a template to help guide the discussion and lead to policy recommendations. Louis is hoping that there will be an update from the City about the recommendation and that CPAC will be kept in the loop.

### **Policy Subcommittee**

- 7:29 – Stephen shared the Policy Subcommittee has been focused on public recording and officer wellness. They are taking cues from San Leandro Police Department but would like to do better.

#### **Outreach Subcommittee**

- 7:30 – Jeffrey shared that Stephen and Jeffrey will be attending the citizen's academy and sharing at the Mayor's Youth Commission.

#### *Subcommittee Membership:*

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

#### **Closing Remarks**

- Allen shared that SENCo is doing a Trunk or Treat with Sage Investment Group and the Hosmer Business Association and will have a planning meeting on Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM on zoom.
- Ted shared that tomorrow staff from Neighborhood and Community Services will present on an update to the camping ban at study session at Noon. The following week there will be a joint study session with the City Council and the County Council to discuss a regional strategy to homelessness.
- On November 9, there will interviews for CPAC. The recommendation for who should move forward for interviews is created by the CPAC chair with support from Ted and Chelsea.

#### **Public Comment**

- 7:36 – Allen opened the floor for public comment. Venus said thank you for allowing public comment and allowing questions.

#### **Adjournment**

**Motion:** Louis Cooper

**Second:** Shayna Raphael

Motion passed 7:38pm

*Allen McKenzie*

Allen McKenzie, Chair

*Chelsea Talbert*

Chelsea Talbert, Staff Liaison

