



City of Tacoma

Community's Police Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 12, 2024

Hybrid Meeting

6:00 p.m.

The CPAC is comprised of Chair Allen McKenzie, Vice-Chair Louis Cooper, and Committee Members Stephen Hagberg, Angela Mealing, Ralette Churchill, Esther Evans, Shepherd Southworth, Adrienne Jones, John Bordon, and Tracy Jones

Members Present: Allen McKenzie, Louis Cooper, Stephen Hagberg, Angela Mealing, Ralette Churchill, Esther Evans, Shepherd Southworth, Adrienne Jones, and Tracy Jones

Members Absent: John Bordon

Staff Present: Staff Liaison Ted Richardson, Staff Liaison Chelsea Talbert, Executive Liaison Jacques Colon, Lieutenant Jeffrey Katz

Staff Absent: N/A

Called to order at 6:02 PM

Welcome and Introductions

- CPAC members welcomed Shepherd Southworth

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the agenda for the CPAC meeting held on February 12, 2024

Passed at 6:03

Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the January 8, 2024

Motion passed at 6:03

City Reports

City Manager's Office

- 6:05 – Ted highly recommended CPAC members attend a ride-along which requires a form to be filled out first then sent to Captain Aguirre. Contact Ted to get the form. A member shared about their experiences on a ride-along both with a patrol officer and a CLO and said it was well and was worth the time. Ted also stated there will be follow up items from the retreat shared with members soon.

Tacoma Police Department

- 6:10 – Lt. Katz introduced himself. GJ is retiring on the February 29. Lt. Katz highly recommended doing a ride-along and doing the newly renamed Community Police Academy, formally the Citizen's Academy. TPD is also hiring. Members discussed updating materials to reflect changes and that changes to the citizen/community academy will likely happen in summer. Ride-alongs can be attended by people ages 16+. To be a commissioned officer, a person must be at least 21 years old. Lt. Katz also confirmed he does not have a preference between Lt. Katz and Jeff. For more information, visit <https://reflectandprotect.org/>

Public Comment

- 6:18 – The chair opened the floor for public comment. Sally Perkins shared thanks to CPAC members and shared a hope to learn more about the new position. Sally shared a hope that the new position will be independent of City Leadership and hopes to see a future with true community oversight.
- 6:21 – Barbara Church shared she agrees with Sally Perkins remarks. Barbara asked for more information about the police officer who shot a woman in January. The chair and Lt. Katz shared it is likely with Pierce County's force investigation team which will eventually go to a review board and to the prosecuting attorney to determine if it was lawful. Lt. Katz shared that before an officer returns to duty, after an officer-involved shooting, the officer makes a statement, is appointed counsel and there is a competency component to ensure there are no lingering effects of trauma. It is typically about a month before an officer returns to duty.

Police Reports Review

- 6:27 – CPAC began review of most recent batch of complaints starting in December. Members asked about language access. Lt. Katz shared officers have access to Language Line as well as an app that provides interpretation video consults, phone calls, and ASL interpretation which are available 24/7 and court certified.
- Members restated a desire for the ability to review body-worn camera footage.
- Members also expressed a desire to see a policy that outlines the actions that must be taken in an effort to contact complainants. A member shared their personal experience was that a phone was random and not scheduled and they felt they had to talk because they didn't know when the investigating officer would be available again. It would be helpful to have TPD officers ask if there are a couple times when they can speak to the complainant that works for the complainant.
- Members felt Officer Butts behavior was appropriate and reasonable with two complaints.

- **6:47 – Members voted in the affirmative to commend Officer Butts.**
- Members discussed concerns with the impoundment process when folks try to access their vehicle after it is stolen. Members encouraged the City Manager spell out next steps for the complainant to access their vehicle in a letter as well as an idea that the City could create a fund that community members can access to recover vehicles and cover other expenses related to crime.
- Members discussed the continued trend of officers attempting to call a complainant once and then not trying to contact them further when the attempt fails. Members also asked about how expectations are set when a complaint is initially made including timeline. Lt. Katz shared that because intake can happen many ways, there isn't a voicemail or uniform messaging as sometimes it is a 911 operator. If 911 or the non-emergency police are called, it is referred to a live officer who is expected to follow up during their shift. Generally, it is within a couple days that internal affairs will follow up with the complainant. The person calling the complainant should be outlining the process and offering to answer any questions. The chair shared that anyone can submit a complaint to CPAC via email at cpac@cityoftacoma.org. Members also expressed a desire to learn what is in the agreement between TPD and South Sound 911. Lt. Katz shared that all complaints are logged and immediately shared with an on-duty supervisor at TPD. South Sound 911 only does intake but it is unknown if they provide any additional information to people making complaints. Lt Katz offered to share contact information with CPAC for SS911. The policy subcommittee is going to take a look at the complainant-callback policy.
- Members continued to discuss complaints including a complaint finding that appeared to contradict itself. Members also discussed creating multiple opportunities for complainants to connect with TPD before showing up at their house as people have different experiences and could react in a multitude of ways.
- Lt. Katz shared a majority of officers now have in-car video systems in their car and that the camera would likely automatically turn on when sirens are flipped however it is still getting rolled out.
- Members discussed continued concerns around complainants attempting to contact TPD including the remark that if a call was received "there is no telling where it may have ended up". Members discussed a desire for more information to be available to people who are trying to contact TPD.
- Lt. Katz responded to a question about complaint numbers confirming that IAPro assigns the complaint number. A member asked if a complaint can be discarded, and Lt. Katz shared that it is outside of policy for someone to not route a complaint. There should not be a complaint that does not make it IAPro. There was also discussion about making it easier to identify a complaint so complainants can easily refer to it. A member shared they did not know their complaint number until they received a letter from the City Manager with the findings. Members discussed continued process improvements for the complaint process to help complainants feel heard and that their complaint is taken seriously, for example, immediately giving a case number and having a tracker similar to a pizza tracker that shows exactly where a complaint is in the process. This would also help folks know when to expect a call especially if it is from a blocked call or unknown number.
- A CPAC member shared about a complaint they made prior to joining CPAC including a request they made to have a restorative meeting with the officer highlighting that it would be informal and non-disciplinary. It was shared that this could not be offered because it has not been bargained and is not in the contract for TPD. Members discussed bringing the idea forward to

create opportunities for restorative conversations to express how victims are unnecessarily revictimization. Members also discussed other circumstances at play including accusing a Black woman of having an attitude and seeing the coded and biased language by the officer writing the report.

- Members agreed to continue reviewing complaints and the demographic information at the next meeting In March.

Member Report Backs

Oversight Subcommittee

- 7:59 - No report.

Policy Subcommittee

- 7:59 - Meets the 4th Friday of the Month at Noon. They will be meeting with the nee staff supporting Lexipol review soon.

Outreach Subcommittee

- 8:00 - First meeting is next Tuesday.

Subcommittee Membership:

- Oversight Subcommittee: Ralette Churchwell, Allen McKenzie, Louis Cooper
- Outreach Subcommittee: Esther Evans, Adrienne Jones, Angela Mealing, Tracy Jones
- Policy Subcommittee: Stephen Hagberg, John Borden, Ralette Churchwell, Adrienne Jones

Closing Remarks

- 8:00 PM – Ted shared that on March 5 there will be an update on homelessness at Study Session. The presentation from CPAC to CVS has been pushed to March 14 but may be rescheduled.
- The chair reminded members of the two upcoming meetings with the mayor this week.

Public Comment

- 8:02 – The chair opened the floor to public comment. Venus shared concerns about officers not calling people back and that this has not been addressed by Chief Moore. Venus also shared a desire to see volunteers return to the substations to take complaints. Venus shared additional concerns about developments being approved but officers not being hired at the same rate they are leaving. Venus also expressed concerns about members of CPAC having their own agenda.

Adjournment

Motion: Stephen Hagberg

Second: Adrienne Jones

Motion passed 8:05pm

Allen McKenzie, Chair

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Chelsea Talbert, Staff Liaison