

Police Equity and Use of Force Advisory Group
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 14, 2021
7:15 – 8:45 pm

In attendance:

Committee members: Richard Kuklewicz (Selectboard Chair), Ariel Elan, Maddox Sprengel, Deborah Frenkel, David Bulley, Faith English

Not in attendance: Richard Hall

Community Member: Jeff Singleton

1. Facilitator opens the meeting, announces the meeting is being recorded; takes roll call.
2. Approve Police Equity and Use of Force Advisory Group Minutes for November 19, 2020 and January 7, 2021 meetings.
 - David makes motion to approve, Maddox seconds. Motion passes unanimously
3. Prepare questions & topics for the committee's second public interview with Lt. Chris Bonnett of the Montague Police Dept.; Chief Chris Williams also to be invited. Finalize our proposed date & time frame for this meeting.
 - Committee reviewed and edited the questions compiled by Ariel
4. Begin outlining key points and structure for our report to the Selectboard.
 - Committee did not have time to discuss this
5. Report on any new information from the Community Engagement advisory group
 - None
6. Discuss any additional thoughts on Agenda items from our January 7 meeting that have not already been covered in tonight's topics.
 - None
7. Plan Agenda for next meeting.
 - Committee did not have time to review and discuss additional questions prepared by committee member to be included in our interview with Lt. Bonnett. Committee agrees to postpone the interview until 1/28/21 so we can continue to thoughtfully prepare our questions during our next meeting on 1/21/21.
8. Topics not anticipated within 48-hour advance-notice posting requirement.
 - None
9. Adjournment
 - David makes motion to adjourn, Maddox seconded. Motion passes unanimously

Action items:

- All committee members to think about/prepare any additional questions for Lt. Bonnett for discussion during our next meeting on 1/21/21
- All committee members to prepare items to be added/recommended on report.

Draft items to include in our report (subject to further discussion):

- Make recommendation that the MPD conducts a full review and revision of policies so that they accurately reflect practices, be done with a civilian entity (some policies have ambiguity/discrepancies with how they act versus what is written such as how MPD makes determination around who is and isn't deserving of medical attention).
- Establish a Civilian Complaints and Use of Force Oversight Commission: this commission would serve as an alternative method for submitting complaints in order to establish oversight/transparency with regard to how complaints are received and addressed and they would also review all incidents of use of force.
- Alternative recommendation regarding use of force policy: require that all incidents of use of force be reported to the FBI National Use-of-Force Collection if the MPD does not already do so.
- Explore alternatives to mental health crises/wellness checks: this might need to be a regional effort, FRCOG would be a valuable partner in beginning this conversation, we could also consider briefing our State Senator, Joanne Comerford and Representative Natalie Blais. We recommend duplicating existing approaches such as the CAHOOTS model implemented in Eugene, OR in which a team of mental health professionals, social workers and/or crisis counselors are sent as first responders to calls involving mental health crises.
- Explore the possibility of using cannabis revenue to fund either of the commissions/programs mentioned above.
- [End Policing of Minor "Broken Windows" Offenses \(pulled from Campaign Zero's website\)](#):* The following activities do not threaten public safety and are often used to police black communities. Decriminalize these activities or de-prioritize their enforcement:
 - Consumption of Alcohol on Streets
 - Marijuana Possession
 - Disorderly Conduct

- Trespassing
- Loitering
- Disturbing the Peace (including Loud Music)
- Spitting
- Jaywalking
- Bicycling on the Sidewalk
- Prostitution

**This seems like a particularly effective approach to reduce unwanted interactions with the police that don't necessarily result in arrest but might contribute to inequitable policing.*

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