

## **POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS & REVIEW COMMISSION COMMUNITY MEETING**

### **ITEM 1.**

#### **Call to order.**

The Oxford Police Community Relations & Review Commission meeting of August 20, 2020 was held virtually and called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. by Pat Meade. Members present were: Amber Franklin, Larry Nadler, Egon Kraan, Deirdre DeLong and Hannah Stohry. Aimin Wang arrived late to the meeting at about 50 minutes into the meeting.

John Jones, Chief of Police was in attendance for the City.

### **ITEM 2.**

#### **Approval of Agenda.**

Larry Nadler moved to approve the agenda; Egon Kraan seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

### **ITEM 3.**

#### **Approval of Minutes of the June 11, 2020 Meeting.**

Deirdre DeLong moved to approve the minutes; Egon Kraan seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

### **ITEM 4.**

#### **Approval of the 2020 Yearly Report**

Larry Nadler moved to approve the 2020 Yearly Report; Amber Franklin seconded.

Discussion

Amber Franklin suggested in the Commission Conclusions section of the report where it lists the commission's goals for the upcoming year, the words "field contacts" be used for all stops other than traffic stops. Another goal she would like to add is to have the reason for the traffic stop by race be included in the data.

Hannah Stohry stated although these may not be goals, she said she would continue to ask for the race, sex, and age of the officers listed in the Use of Force Report. She will also continue to try to personally attend the diversity training sessions officers go to when the opportunity presents itself.

Hannah Stohry moved to approve the 2020 Yearly Report as amended; Larry Nadler seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

The yearly report will be presented at the city council meeting on September 1, 2020.

## **ITEM 5.**

### **Public Participation**

Ms. Marsh voiced her concern about the requirement that a complaint against an officer must be notarized, saying that the requirement can be a road block. She believes a more accessible option should be available.

Ms. Amy Shaiman thanked commission members and Chief Jones for the work they do. She wanted to know what options for gender were available to an officer to select when tracking the data. She wanted to know if officers ask the person what gender the person goes by. On an unrelated note, Ms. Shaiman wanted to know if the commission set a timeline for their goals for next year in order to hold themselves accountable. She also wanted to know where the group lies, whether it was advisory, obligatory, etc.

Brandon Humphrey expressed his excitement that the Black Lives Matter (BLM) letter to city council is on tonight's agenda and is available to answer any questions.

Shana Rosenberg stated she was happy the BLM proposals made it to the commission. She stated that police reform will help not only racial justice, it will also help everyone in the community. Ms. Rosenberg said she hopes to hear a robust discussion about the BLM proposals.

Chantel Raghu thanked the commission for reviewing the Black Lives Matter letter presented to city council. She said that ultimately we are looking at the same goal, which is safety for everyone.

Shana Rosenberg forgot to mention when she previously spoke that it would be great if the commission proposes to city council that a committee be formed to research the BLM proposals.

Jason Bracken confirmed that no public participation will occur after public participation part of the meeting.

After the public had the chance to participate, Pat Meade began to address their questions and concerns. He started off by saying Ms. Marsh's concern will be addressed during discussion of Item #7 on the agenda.

Regarding Ms. Shaiman's question regarding gender options on tracking data forms and documents of that sort, Egon Kraan noted that he is of Mexican origin but that he does not look Mexican and does not expect to be treated any different than white. He said that if the goal is to research biased policing, the officer should not have to ask what gender the person goes by, the

officer should list what gender he/she perceives the person to be. Chief Jones stated that officers use driver's license data and based on our software, it lists male and female options for sex. He said the officers typically do not ask the person what gender he/she identifies with.

Regarding Ms. Shaiman's question regarding the commission's accountability to themselves, Pat Meade said the commission's goals are listed in their yearly reports, which are typically presented to city council in September of each year. The commission then tries to accomplish their listed goals by the following August. Pat Meade stated the commission was set up to be advisory in nature.

Hannah Stohry had a follow up question to Ms. Shaiman's question about gender options. She asked the chief if he thought the way law enforcement does the reporting will change to include more options. Chief Jones said while it seems like we are not responding to requests of the local commission but instead to the Ohio Collaborative, when you have a state agency asking for the data, it puts pressure on the software companies to upgrade their systems. Unfortunately Oxford, Ohio cannot change the way those things are recorded.

## **ITEM 6.**

### **Know Your Rights Pamphlet**

#### Discussion

Chief Jones shared the pamphlet from his computer screen and reviewed its history.

Amber Franklin said that contact information for the PCRRC is needed. In the "When stopped you may be asked the following questions" section, the sentence "These are simple questions with simple answers" should be reworded or removed. She also noted there was nothing in the pamphlet about a person's right to record the officers doing their official duty in public. She recommended that police officers give their business card as part of their routine so that a person who has been stopped does not have to ask for it.

Hannah Stohry's recommendations were as follows:

- The QR code still needs to be added to the pamphlet.
- In the "Contact us" section, there needs to be a link to where someone can file an anonymous complaint.
- In the "If you are stopped in a vehicle" section, and throughout the pamphlet, she said to be consistent with using the affirmative in order to give options instead of being restrictive. For example, change the wording of "Do not make sudden moves" to something like "Make slow movements".
- In the same section, add the words "when asked" to "You must produce a valid driver's license and proof of car/vehicle insurance".

- Define what an appeal is. For people whose first language is not English, they may not know what an appeal is.
- If officers need a search warrant to search the trunk of a vehicle, a statement to that effect should be listed in the pamphlet.
- Add how an officer will identify themselves as a police officer if they are not in uniform.
- If officers are going to get into the habit of providing people who have been stopped with a business card, then add “You can expect an officer to provide you with a business card” to the pamphlet.

Chief Jones reminded the commission that the pamphlet was geared more towards safety, not to give legal advice. Aimin Wang suggested adding a note to that effect. He also recommended the pamphlet be translated into other languages upon completion.

Hannah Stohry recommended changing the file name of the pamphlet to something like “What to Do When Stopped or Questioned by the Police”. In response to Ms. Stohry’s recommendation, Mr. Nadler said the file name of the pamphlet could read “Your Rights And Responsibilities When Stopped Or Questioned By The Police” like Ms. Stohry recommended and then we could add the goal of the pamphlet, something like “Our goals are to promote public safety and ensure respect for all citizens” to the front of the pamphlet.

## **ITEM 7.**

### **Black Lives Matter letter to City Council**

After meeting with representatives of BLM, Debbie Anderson (organized a petition in support of the police), and Chief Jones, Pat Meade said everyone has the same goals.

Chief Jones shared a PowerPoint presentation he prepared that contained his responses to the BLM proposal.

#### **Proposal #1. Require Comprehensive Reporting**

- *Require police officers to establish, record, and report objective justification for all stops, including pedestrian stops. These reports should include the reason for the stop, location of the stop, demographic information (e.g., race, gender, approximate age) of persons stopped, and should specify the use of force (if any). PCRRC should be granted access to this data and should provide anonymous, aggregated information as well as conclusions to the public on a quarterly basis.*

#### **Police response to #1**

- This is a work in progress. We are currently collecting traffic stop and traffic crash demographic data and began that effort in January 2020 to meet the Ohio Collaborative

standards. There are many factors and details to work through in regards to pedestrian stops. We now have the experience of seven months of traffic stop data collection that will help us in developing a pedestrian stop data collection system.

- What calls are we documenting? Jaywalking, alcohol violations, theft, warrant stops, multiple person stops (parties) and other officer-initiated activities; calls for service – solicitors, suspicious persons

#### Human capital

- Officer filling out a form after every contact
  - Clerk entering the data
  - Clerk auditing the data
  - Officers researching body cam footage for missing data
  - Administrators analyzing the data
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- Data is beneficial but disagree with the statement that the benefits of this far outweigh the cost of reporting and that it can be done in under a minute

#### **Discussion**

Egon Kraan recognized it is not that simple to collect the data.

Amber Franklin said that when the Ohio Collaborative released the standard on bias free policing in February 2017, small agencies were given to 2020 to comply with the standard. This recognizes that compiling the data and complying with the standard could not happen overnight. She recommended the website Raheem.org, a grassroots efforts to collect data on encounters with police officers. The website allows for anonymous reporting. With having a transient student population, Amber Franklin recognized the importance of creating a really transparent complaint system and why we need to continually broadcast it.

Egon Kraan suggested that the police department work with the university's systems analysis department to automate the report.

Larry Nadler said that it sounds to him that the underlying issue is the perception of the person who is stopped about the legitimacy of the stop. In his opinion that is what needs to be addressed, not categorizing the types of calls in order to collect the data.

Hannah Stohry said that if an excel spreadsheet is what is used to generate the report, she volunteered to add the race, age, sex of the police officers in the Use of Force Report. She also asked if the list of call types the chief quickly presented in tonight's meeting could be included in yearly data report.

Pat Meade made a motion to ask OPD to develop a plan for collecting data on pedestrian stops and reasons for the stops and report back to commission in six months on their progress. Amber Franklin seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0-0.

### **Proposal #2. Remove Barriers to Reporting Police Misconduct**

- For all stops, require police officers to give civilians their name, badge number, reason for the stop, and a card with instructions for filing a complaint with the Police Community Relations and Review Commission (PCRRC)

#### **Police response to #2**

Oxford PD General Order 26.1, Appendix A, Code of Conduct Rule 9, reads:

*Badge and Identification - While on duty, members shall carry their badge and identification card on their person at all times, except when impractical or dangerous to their safety or to an investigation. **They shall furnish their name and badge and/or ID number to any person requesting that information when they are on duty or while holding themselves out as having an official capacity, except when the withholding of such information is necessary for the performance of police duties or is authorized by proper authority.***

#### **Police response to #2**

- Updating our website and reviewing ways to make providing feedback more accessible to the public as suggested by the PCRRC. While PCRRC members already have email addresses on the website where members of the public can email them directly, we have added the following option and would like your feedback:

<https://www.cityoffoxford.org/webforms/contact-police-community-relations-and-review-board>

<https://www.cityoffoxford.org/departments/police>

Jessica Greene spoke to the Law Director regarding what the rules are regarding the forms. The short answer was that everything we do is part of a public record. She said she would add an auto comment that is sent back to the commenter stating that his/her issue will be discussed at the next PCRRC meeting. The commission members will not be able to reply to the email because it would violate Sunshine Laws.

General comments about Feedback

- Emails directly to the Police Chief
- Emails to [police@cityoffoxford.org](mailto:police@cityoffoxford.org)
- Facebook private messages – majority

- GovQA
- Social media - citizens are quick to take to Facebook and complain about the police on their own pages and public groups like Oxford Talk

Egon Kraan asked Chief Jones how many emails he thinks he gets per month on officer feedback, to which Chief Jones replied it is not just emails he receives. He stated he also receives input on social media as well. He said that officers have been slandered on the internet. He said the whole idea of notarizing complaints is due process for the officer. Pat Meade said notarizing complaints is a police officer contract issue so this part of the conversation can be set aside until contract negotiations occur in three years.

Pat Meade recommended that a link to the department's website where officer feedback can be provided be added to the police business cards.

Amber Franklin said that even with anonymous complaints we should still get a sense of patterns or trends.

Pat Meade agreed with moving forward with adding the links to the feedback form on the website.

Deirdre DeLong reminded everyone that the 6<sup>th</sup> amendment provides for the right to confront our accusers. If someone files an anonymous complaint, we cannot confront our accuser and it hinders the ability to investigate the complaint.

Egon Kraan suggested we add a drop down list of officers' names and a drop down list of a rating of 1-5 to the feedback form.

Larry Nadler said maybe there needs to be a middle ground between the formal complaint process and someone passing along second and third hand information. A middle ground where someone can express a concern more informally. He said this may satisfy the person who wants to remain anonymous. Chief replied by saying he sees that as more of the role of a sergeant. He said oftentimes someone comes in the lobby and just wants to be heard. He said that informal complaints are the majority of issues we address. With body worn cameras, the chief stated it makes it easier because he can watch the video and if needed, he can file the formal complaint.

Pat Meade said the third BLM proposal will be left for a later meeting.

Pat Meade asked the commission members to read the ordinance that establishes the commission. He wants the members to think about what if something bad happens in Oxford and if there is enough teeth in the review part of this commission. See if it needs strengthened before anything happens.

Amber Franklin said she has conducted research on different types of boards that she will share. She also recommended everyone visiting the Officer Down Memorial Page at [www.odmp.org](http://www.odmp.org) and keeping the officers in your thoughts.

Hannah Stohry asked if the commission should have another meeting before November.

**ITEM 8.**

**Business Items**

- A. Comments from commission members
- B. Next Meeting – November 19, 2020
- C. Adjournment – Deirdre DeLong made a motion to adjourn; Larry Nadler seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0. The meeting lasted approximately two hours and twenty-two minutes.