



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Citizens Police Review Board

Wednesday, September 13, 2023
6:00 PM

Regular

City Hall – City Council
Chambers
701 East Broadway
Columbia, Missouri

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Members Present: Brandon Barnes, Rhonda Carlson, Stephanie Coleman, Reece Ellis, Douglas Hunt, Cheryl Miller, Xavier Lee Scruggs, and Jamie Thornsberry

Excused Absence: Steven Jeffrey

Unexcused Absence: None

Staff Present: Sgt. Julie Ray, and Rose Wibbenmeyer

Members of the public were present. Councilperson Betsy Peters was present.

Reece Ellis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

There were introductions.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Xavier Scruggs made a motion to approve the agenda. Rhonda Carlson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 09 Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [August 9 Meeting Minutes](#)

Jamie Thornsberry made a motion to approve the August 9, 2023 meeting minutes. Stephanie Coleman seconded the motion. Brandon Barnes, Rhonda Carlson, Stephanie Coleman, Reece Ellis, Douglas Hunt, Xavier Lee Scruggs, and Jamie Thornsberry voted in favor of the motion. Cheryl Miller abstained. The motion passed.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Hiring Process for New Police Chief

Reece Ellis said the posting closed today. Reece Ellis noted that section 6 of the brochure lists characteristics wanted and Reece felt there were some things missing such as commitment to community policing, to diversity and inclusion, and a track record of building relationships with marginalized communities. While there is some discussion of the unhoused persons in community, Reece Ellis would have liked to see more about marginalized communities.

Jamie Thornsberry asked if the Board was still interested in sending forward a recommendation to the City Council related to the hiring of the new police chief. Reece Ellis agreed and would like to add details about what they would want included. Jamie Thornsberry asked for staff to re-send her email with recommendations.

Rose Wibbenmeyer said that the Be Heard Columbia site lists a community forum and meet and greet with final candidates on October 18, 2023.

Event Planning for the September 14, 2023 Work Session on Police Policies 300 and 447

The Board discussed event planning for the September 14, 2023 meeting.

Review of Police Policies 300, 447, 306, 440

Attachments: [Police Policy 300](#)

[Police Policy 447](#)

[Police Policy 306](#)

[Police Policy 440](#)

Reece Ellis summarized the board's approach to policy review.

The Board discussed the following policy recommendation: To avoid unnecessary conflict, and whenever practicable, officers should offer the individual the opportunity to voluntarily cooperate in the application of restraints before applying them.

Jamie Thornsberry suggested the addition of "in being detained or" in front of the clause "in the application of restraints before applying them."

Doug Hunt agreed to Jamie's Thornsberry's suggested amendment so that the motion, as amended, now reads: "To avoid unnecessary conflict, and whenever practicable, officers should offer the individual the opportunity to voluntarily cooperate in being detained or in the application of restraints before applying them."

Reece Ellis agreed. Stephanie Coleman suggested adding something about officer's safety. There was additional discussion about the term "whenever practicable" providing discretion to address concerns of officer safety.

Cheryl Miller asked about an individual's Miranda rights. There was a discussion related to Miranda warnings and further discussion of the motion.

Jamie Thornsberry seconded the motion, as amended.

The motion passed unanimously.

Audits

Audits are ongoing and there are additional updates since last month's report. Reece Ellis and Rhonda Carlson commented on their audits related to complaints about discourteous and disrespectful treatment. Rhonda Carlson announced that Reece Ellis, Doug Hunt, and Rhonda Carlson completed ten audits previously and then four more, three with no issues and had one under further consideration. Rhonda Carlson said they plan to do three more.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

NACOLE Conference

The Board discussed the NACOLE Conference in Chicago from November 12-16, 2023.

Reece Ellis committed to attending the NACOLE Conference.

The following board members indicated that they could not attend: Rhonda Carlson, Stephanie Coleman, Doug Hunt, Xavier Lee Scruggs, and Jamie Thornsberry.

Brandon Barnes was not sure if he would be able to attend. Steven Jeffery was not in attendance.

Cheryl Miller said that her term is up on November 1, 2023, and she is still considering whether or not to request reappointment to the Board. Cheryl Miller said that she is available to go, if she is reappointed. Cheryl Miller also asked about setting aside funds should the Human Rights Commission appoint someone other than Cheryl Miller and suggested staff ask members of the Human Rights Commission who might be interested in serving if they would like to go. Rose Wibbenmeyer said that the Board would need to wait to see whom the Commission appointed and that the new member's term would not start until November.

The Board reached consensus on the following:

1. City funds may be used for Reece Ellis to attend the NACOLE Conference.
2. City funds may be used for Steven Jeffery and Brandon Barnes to attend the NACOLE Conference, if they are able to do so.
3. City funds may be used to send Cheryl Miller if Cheryl Miller is reappointed by the Human Rights Commission.
4. If Cheryl Miller is not reappointed by the Human Rights Commission, and if the new member appointed by the Human Rights Commission is available and wants to attend the conference, city funds may be used to send the person to the NACOLE Conference.

Items for Next Months Agenda

The Board would like the following items on next month's agenda.

Under Old Business, the agenda should include: audits, and the police chief hiring process.

Reece Ellis told the Board that he would not continue to serve as chair.

The Board discussed the election of chair and vice chair. The Board suggested that the elections should be in November, rather than October. Rose Wibbenmeyer said that the October requirement is in the bylaws and discussed the procedure to change the Board's bylaws.

Reece Ellis announced that the Governor's veto was sustained on the omnibus bill.

The Board discussed keeping the police chief recommendation on next month's agenda. Doug Hunt suggested a letter to the city manager with their recommendations. Jamie Thornsberry asked staff to resend her email with recommendations.

The Board discussed changing the bylaws and would like that topic included as new business next month.

Rhonda Carlson made a motion for a November election for chair and vice chair. Reece Ellis seconded the motion and agreed to continue to serve as chair through November. The motion was unanimously approved.

Xavier Lee Scruggs suggested including the topic of a debrief of the September 14, 2023 work session for tomorrow as new business.

Jamie Thornsberry suggested including a topic of the scheduling of future special meetings.

Under New Business, the agenda should include: Proposed changes to Bylaws, Article I, Section 3(a); Debrief of September 14, 2023 work session; and Scheduling of Future Special Meetings.

VII. REPORTS

Positive Connections and Ridealongs

Rhonda Carlson said Sgt. Clinton Sinclair was selling t-shirts and accepting donations for Special Olympics and he was very nice and engaging the public while in uniform.

Reece Ellis said that he was at Eastside Tavern. There was a scary incident and the doorkeeper took control and kept everyone safe. Columbia police responded quickly.

Human Rights Commission Report

Cheryl Miller gave a report about the work of the Human Rights Commission. Cheryl Miller discussed Pridefest, Source of Income Discrimination, and a presentation by Randy Cole on behalf of Columbia Housing Authority.

Outreach Subcommittee Report

There was no report. Cheryl Miller suggested that they all work on outreach as a board until after the elections.

VIII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Reece Ellis announced the time limits for individuals and groups.

Members of the public commented. Chriss Jones commented on behalf of Hold CoMo Accountable. Chriss Jones spoke about the hiring of the police chief and the need for the new chief to be receptive to community and board input and criticism. Chriss Jones noted that the police chiefs in the past have been adversarial to the board and stated that police chiefs should be open to recommendations of the board.

Susan Renee Carter commented on behalf of Race Matters Friends. She stated that the new police chief should be committed to PERF standards or comparable standard. Susan Renee Carter said that PERF is an organization that is to help people and the police be safer. Susan Renee Carter said that the PERF standards help people not escalate the situation. Susan Renee Carter said that behaviors officers are taught trigger people. Susan Renee Carter said that it would be good if the press knew the name of the Board was the Citizens Police Review Board, not the police review board. It would be good for a member of the board to talk to the press about the role of the board.

Board members commented.

Doug Hunted commented that the board's duties included keeping a list of advocates. The advocates are not just to help for filing appeals, but complaints as well and suggested the board get the word out. Doug Hunt also said that one of the great benefits of doing the audits is that the audits reveal good information about police interactions. One recent observation showed the need for trauma informed mental health professionals to be involved and help officers on calls.

IX. MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

Reece Ellis made a motion to go into closed session to discuss records which are protected from disclosure by law, Sections 610.021(14) and 592.502 RSMO. Cheryl Miller seconded the motion. Brandon Barnes, Rhonda Carlson, Stephanie Coleman, Reece Ellis, Douglas Hunt, Cheryl Miller, Xavier Lee Scruggs, and Jamie Thornsberry voted in favor of the motion. No one voted against the motion. No one abstained. The motion passed. Open session ended at 6:58 p.m. and the Board moved to room 2A for closed session.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

Work Session Thursday September 14, 2023

Next Meeting Wednesday October 11, 2023

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned from closed session at 7:50 p.m.