

MINUTES
Citizens Police Review Board
Regular Meeting
April 10, 2024
6:00 p.m.
City Hall – City Council Chambers
701 East Broadway
Columbia, Missouri

Board Members Present: Denise Balazic, Harry Castilow, Stephanie Coleman, Reece Ellis, Douglas Hunt, Steven Jeffrey, Xavier Lee Scruggs, Jamie Thornsberry, and Steph Yoakum

Excused Absence: None

Unexcused Absence: None

Staff Present: Assistant City Manager Matt Unrein, Assistant Chief Paul Dickinson (arrived during public comment) and Rose Wibbenmeyer

Members of the public were present.

Call to Order:

Doug Hunt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Introductions

There were introductions.

Approval of the Agenda

Steven Jeffrey made a motion to approve the agenda. Xavier Scruggs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Reece Ellis made a motion to approve the draft open and closed meeting minutes of the March 13, 2024 regular meeting. Xavier Scruggs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Planning for Work Session on Police Policy 447

The Board discussed planning for the work session.

Proposed Changes to Section 21-52(h)

Doug Hunt told the Board that the City Council accepted their recommendation and now staff will draft the legislation.

Audit of 2023 Complaints

The Board discussed how they wanted to audit the 2023 complaints. The most common complaints are discourtesy complaints, initial investigation complaints, and use of force. Doug Hunt said there were seven search and seizure complaints. Doug Hunt said it might be wise to divide in groups of three to audit a particular category; another option would be for the Board to do three or four together as a board. Stephanie Coleman asked about the spreadsheet. Denise Balazic liked the idea of the whole group doing two or three and liked the idea of teaming up a new person with a veteran. Reece Ellis suggested the Board do one of each of the three complaints. Doug Hunt concurred. Jamie Thornsberry suggested that the Board pick the three and members need to review them before the meeting. Steven Jeffrey concurred. Doug Hunt suggested the first discourtesy complaint, the first use of force complaint, and the first initial investigation complaint. Doug Hunt asked that Rose Wibbenmeyer send out the audit forms again. Doug Hunt said that they will also be looking for policy and training recommendations during the audits.

Xavier Scruggs asked about whether the Board should do internal complaints. Doug Hunt agreed and said that they should do the first three and then sort out what to do. Doug Hunt also said they might also want to look at the ones in which the police have said no misconduct alleged.

New Business

Proposed Changes to the Bylaws

The Board discussed their proposed change to the bylaws. Jamie Thornsberry made a motion to approve the new bylaw. Xavier Scruggs and Denise Balazic seconded the motion to approve the bylaw. The Board unanimously passed the motion.

Brochure

The Board discussed the proposed design. Doug Hunt said that he liked the simplicity of the brochure and how it simply laid out what the Board does. Reece Ellis said that he liked it a lot. Reece Ellis suggested a business card with QR code. Steph Yoakum said the Human Rights Commission found the business card with the QR Code to be popular. The Board reached consensus on the business card and brochure. Stephanie Coleman would like the QR Code to go straight to the complaint webpage. Steven Jeffrey suggested that it would be better to go to the home page for the Board. Jamie Thornsberry, Steph Yoakum and Stephanie Coleman agreed to have the QR Code land on the complaint and appeal webpage. Reece Ellis asked about cards with braille. The Board reached consensus on the proposed design. Jamie Thornsberry would like the

QR Code to have the file the complaint and appeal buttons on the Board's main landing page. The Board appreciated the design prepared by City staff. Jamie Thornsberry would like to explore putting the information into the City Source.

Juneteenth and other productive outreach efforts

The Board discussed Juneteenth and other outreach efforts. Jamie Thornsberry announced that she did the Citizens Leadership Class and suggested the Board consider giving a presentation to that group. Harry Castilow suggested partnering with the Human Rights Commission on some events. Steph Yoakum agreed that it was a good idea. Doug Hunt agreed and said that the listening session could have been an avenue for joint partnerships. Stephanie Coleman said last year they partnered with the Human Rights Commission on the Juneteenth event. Doug Hunt said that he went to the mini-Youth Summit and said that it was really focused on youth and that they would have fit very oddly at that event. Doug Hunt said that he will talk with North Central Neighborhood association.

Items for next months agenda

The Board discussed the following items for next month's agenda.

Old Business:

Audit of 2023 Complaints Status Update

Proposed Changes to Code Section 21-52(h) Status Update

Brochure and Business Cards

Productive Outreach Efforts

New Business:

Items for Next Month's Agenda

Work session on Police Policy 447- Summary and Follow-up

Update on Pending State Legislation

Reports:

Human Rights Commission

Positive Connections, Training, Outreach and Ride Alongs

Reports

Human Rights Commission Report

Steph Yoakum gave a report. They recently had some changes to the City Code. They are going to focus on health and safety issues.

Outreach, Positive Connections, Training and Ridealongs

Steph Yoakum said that she would like to get a ridealong scheduled. Harry Castilow said that he sent an email to request a ride along but has not heard back. Matt Unrein suggested weekend nights as the best time to do a ride along.

General Comments by Public, Members and Staff

Doug Hunt announced the time limits for individuals and groups.

Members of the public commented. Chriss Jones commented on behalf of Hold CoMo Accountable. She read a correspondence from a parent to Dr. Stiepelman, at Columbia Public Schools from Paul Dickinson. Chriss Jones outlined the issues she had with the email. Chriss Jones also expressed concerns about a prior incident involving Paul Dickinson and an unhoused person.

Dr. Mehrdad Fotoohigham commented regarding his complaints.

Motion to Go Into Closed Session

There was no closed session. Reece Ellis made a motion to adjourn. Xavier Scruggs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

