



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Columbia Police Chief's Vehicle Stop Committee

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

5:30 PM

Regular

CPD Regional Training

Center - 5001 Meyer

Industrial Drive

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Toni Dukes-Larkins called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was established.

Present: 8 - Robert Aulgur, Toni Dukes Larkins, Pamela Hardin, Don Love, Matthew Nichols, Jerome Sally, Chad McLaurin and John Worden

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion passed unanimously.

Approve agenda as submitted.

Yes: 8 - Aulgur, Dukes Larkins, Hardin, Love, Nichols, Sally, McLaurin and Worden

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Minutes - Sept. 8, 2020

Motion passed unanimously.

Approve the Committee's August 11, 2020 minutes as submitted.

Yes: 8 - Aulgur, Dukes Larkins, Hardin, Love, Nichols, Sally, McLaurin and Worden

IV. COMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTMENT - CHIEF GEOFF JONES

Police Chief Geoff Jones re-appointed Jerome Sally and appointed new member John Worden to the Committee. Worden directs the University of Missouri's Law Enforcement Training Institute.

V. MU RESEARCH TEAM - COMMITTEE MEMBER DIALOGUE

MU Research Team - Committee Member Dialog

Chief Jones introduced Eileen Avery, Ph.D., one of three faculty members serving on a research team authorized by University of Missouri President Mun Choi to assist the Vehicle Stop Committee. Dr. Avery is an associate professor of sociology who has published research in the areas of crime, community, racial injustice and health disparities. She mentioned that members who could not participate this evening include Chris Fulcher, Ph.D., an associate research professor with a specialty in mapping, and Kelli Canada, Ph.D., an associate professor and researcher in the field of social work. Graduate research assistant Mark Benton will work with the University team.

Committee members and team members discussed their working relationship.

- Will team members attend Committee meetings? How will the two groups communicate?
- The team could provide updates. They are considering doing a secondary analysis of the data that's on the CPD website and also analyzing some restricted data. A stage 1 analysis will look at where and how traffic stops are occurring. Stage 2 might include interviews and ride-alongs with officers, if relevant and depending on health considerations associated with the coronavirus.
- How will the Committee and team work together?
- The team has not discussed this yet but is happy to bring the Committee into the fold, talk as a group and learn where Committee members think the problems are.
- How long will the research team be working?
- The work could take months. Some secondary analysis of the last two or three years of data could be complete in December. The team will go over reports that agencies have prepared for CPD and other departments.
- How would the team assess an officer's change of assignment? How would you handle retirements?
- The research unit might be "officer years" or "officer neighborhood years." When there is personnel movement, the team would have to make a judgment call and fix the data manually. They will look at outliers, comparing a specific officer's patterns to patterns shown by a group of officers. This might reveal a need to do more interviews. As an example, 100 officers x three years = 300 officer years.
- What is your initial list of variables?
- Time of day; day of week; season; neighborhood context/demographics of those who live and drive there; income; road intersections; arterial roadways; perhaps others provided through CPD.

Chad said outliers would be an excellent tool. If tied to policy issues, they can be an incentive to have statistics for performance. Chief Jones noted his different context for this variable. He can deal with CPD employees on individual issues and is not on a hunt. He expects the research team to look broadly at the root causes of behavior. CPD has set some things in motion to look at accountability issues from a supervisor's perspective, mitigate harm and modify behavior

Committee members discussed information that could be helpful for the research team, including encouraging the research team to mentally put themselves in cops' shoes as they review data. Bob motion and Don second to provide access to all Committee

minutes to the research team. Motion passed unanimously.

At Dr. Avery's request, Committee members introduced themselves.

VI. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS - REVISED, PENDING AND NEW

Love - Implementing bias-free policing - 9-29-20

Committee members resumed their September discussion of check offs used to collect data during traffic stops. Members had considered if there are valid reasons for an officer to ask questions not related to a stop. Issues include the following.

- The ability to ask questions not directly related to a stop can be helpful to officers. For example, politely asking, "How is your evening?" can begin to establish rapport or provide insights into an investigation.
- In a traffic stop where someone might be intimidated by the conversation, saying less might be more.
- A stop should influence, and not significantly impact, a driver's day.
- What is said may be perceived differently by the officer and the driver.
- There is a difference between answering questions and giving a story during a stop.
- If we define the questions, there should be probable cause to ask investigative questions.
- Is a traffic stop "community policing"?
- There is professional language in every other industry.

Motion to not recommend a check off for unrelated questions while also recognizing the importance of these questions in interactions between an officer and a driver

Yes: 2 - Aulgur and Worden

No: 2 - Hardin and McLaurin

Members discussed proposed check offs relating to field sobriety tests. Issues include the following.

- Data could support officers or, if there is enough data, it could show where there are concerns
- This information likely is captured in the Department's DWI reports
- A decision on this check off should be postponed until we see the data.
- Not sure if officers regularly conduct field sobriety tests.
- Some drivers refuse to take the test,

Motion to not recommend a check off for field sobriety tests and, instead, extract the data from other CPD reports.

Yes: 8 - Aulgur, Dukes Larkins, Hardin, Love, Nichols, Sally, McLaurin and Worden

VII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Don said he would present his data analysis to the City's Citizen Police Review Board on Oct. 14, 2020.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE - NOVEMBER 10, 2020

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn.

Yes: 8 - Aulgur, Dukes Larkins, Hardin, Love, Nichols, Sally, McLaurin and Worden

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