

Springfield Police Advisory Committee Agenda

Thursday, June 3, 2021

Location: Zoom

SPAC Members Present: Joe Pishioneri-Councilor, Brittney de Alicante – Cultural Minority Community, Barry Lind – Faith Community & Committee Chair, Michael Bean – Local Business, Jack Martin – Neighborhood At-Large (2), Teresa Dillon – Neighborhood At-Large (3), Jenna McCulley – School District 19, Eric Adams – Willamalane Parks

1. Welcome and Call to Order at 5:59pm
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Welcome Chief Andrew Shearer. Chief Shearer shared information about himself, his professional experience and his role as interim Chief of Police at Springfield Police Department.
2. Minutes Approval for May 6, 2021 Meeting – Terri Dillon motioned to approve minutes. Johnny Kirschenmann seconded motion. All approved as written.
3. Business From the Audience
 - a. Elizabeth Utterback – Ward 3. Conveyed appreciation for Chair presence at the last meeting, as well as proposed process for policy review. Conveyed concern about recent police shooting. Asked Chief Shearer for more information regarding the department’s public message referring to the individual as a ‘suspect’, as well as if body camera footage will be made available to the public.
 - b. Amy Cothron – Shared concern that a complaint she filed was investigated by an officer that was on scene of the incident being reviewed. Inquired if this approach is considered a conflict of interest and available next steps.
 - c. Xia Wang – Commented on Sunday shooting and the lack of information included in Springfield PD’s public statement regarding the incident. Conveyed interest in learning more about processes and de-escalation.
 - d. Michael Koivula – Welcomed Chief Shearer to the City of Springfield. He is concerned with the monetary settlements and deductibles related to the Springfield Police Department. Believes there is a need for police reform to avoid future settlement and eventually reduce insurance costs.
 - e. Thomas Lawrence – Would like to discuss concern with ‘blue code’ and ‘thin blue line’ that are an issue locally and nationally. Shared information about an article found online that appears to be authored by new Interim Chief Shearer supporting preferential treatment to officers. Expressed he was terrified that an Interim Chief of Police is writing articles with this type of message, especially with recent lawsuit concerns. Questioned how much effort the City put into researching the recent Interim Chief.
4. Committee Response
 - a. Michael Bean –
 - i. Would like more information about the complaint and investigation Amy Cothron mentioned. Chief Shearer confirmed he will look into the complaint and report back to the community member and committee.
 - ii. Had comments regarding the recent shooting. SPD shares very little information and has little transparency for officer-involved shootings and other major incidents. The

community has to rely on local media for information. More transparency would help heal the community.

- iii. He also googled the new Interim Chief Shearer and was well satisfied with the information he found.
 - b. Joe Pishioneri – Suggested SPD share information to clarify when an individual shifts from involved to a suspect within an incident.
 - c. Chief Shearer –
 - i. Regarding Lizzie’s question and the recent officer involved shooting, there is little information that can be shared at this time. The District Attorney’s Office currently oversees what information is available to the public. He is a firm believer in transparency and is committed to working with partners to share information. Lizzie had a valid point regarding the use of the term ‘suspect’. Body-worn cameras were deployed for use by all patrol officers on May 26th, a few days prior to the referenced shooting.
 - ii. Regarding Amy Cothron’s comments regarding the complaint, he is unaware of the particulars of her complaint and the associated investigation because of his newness to the department. However, he will follow up with her and have more information for the committee in the future.
 - iii. Regarding comments on de-escalation, de-escalation has been incorporated into the new Use of Force policy implemented just prior to his arrival at SPD.
 - iv. Regarding Michael’s concern of insurance costs, that is a top priority for him as well. Part of his role is to step in and improve that situation, which will include increased transparency, and a deep dive into culture and policy.
 - v. Regarding Thomas’s comments on the article he found from a Google search, Chief Shearer is aware of the article’s existence. The article has been online for many years, is incorrect and he did not write it. Years ago his name was somehow associated with that webpage and article, however he never wrote that article.
 - d. Brittney de Alicante – Thanked speakers and welcomed Chief Shearer.
 - i. Related to Lizzie Utterback’s comments, will body camera footage from shooting eventually be released?
 - o Chief Shearer advised at the resolution of the investigation, the body camera footage could be shared.
 - ii. Regarding OIR report and the associated IDFIT review suggestions, will the recommendations be incorporated within this incidents’ review.
 - o Chief Shearer advised review of the 32 recommendations on the OIR report is high on his priority list. Regarding a number of them specific to IDFIT recommendations, he just met the District Attorney today and looks forward to working with her to see how the recommendations develop.
 - e. Jenna McCulley – Recommended the District Attorney could join the committee at a future meeting to share more information about the IDFIT process, available information, and associated timelines to better inform the committee and the community.
5. Business from Springfield PD [SPD]
- a. SPD Update: Projects, Hiring

- i. Barry Lind asked if we have to meet in July. Traditionally, July has been a meeting that has been canceled to accommodate committee members' summer schedule. SPAC agreed to cancel July 2021 meeting.
- b. Member Information Share
 - i. Barry Lind inquired about body-cameras and how they are being received. Chief Shearer advised they seem to be received well. Overall a successful rollout.
 - ii. Barry Lind inquired when the committee could meet in person. Jessica advised the committee will follow City direction and there has been no formal announcement to when in person meetings are available. More information on this topic is anticipated in the near future.
 - iii. Terri Dillon shared kudos to a friend in Seattle whose daughter just graduated and joined the Seattle Police Department.
 - iv. Jack Martin asked if SPD was putting on the K9 Competition will be put on this summer. Jessica shared that the competition has been canceled for this summer due to COVID-19 considerations.
 - v. Next meeting August 6th. Meeting adjourned 7:08pm.