

2023 Springfield Police Advisory Committee Annual Report

Executive Summary:

The following report is respectfully submitted covering the activity of the Springfield Police Advisory Committee (SPAC) for the timeframe of January 2023 through December 2023.

This report highlights the activity reported as Business from the Audience, Business from Springfield Police Department, Policy Reviews, and Business from the Committee.

Items that the committee would like to specifically call attention to that reflect our commitment to fostering greater understanding and transparency around police operations and community connection are as follows:

- We collaborated with SPD by reviewing 8 policies to help the department verify the policies are clear, current, and relevant.
- There was no business from the audience in 2023. Going forward, SPAC will discuss how to ensure the community is aware of the meetings and that there is opportunity to voice any concerns or questions.

Finally, the SPAC would like to highlight the accomplishment of Chief Shearer and his staff for the progress made in multiple hirings as well as the work done towards getting accredited by the Northwest Accreditation Alliance.

Additionally, in 2023, SPAC adopted these goals for the committee:

- Build awareness and outreach between the community as a whole and SPD with the focus on engaging BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other historically minoritized communities:
 - As a committee, we did not fulfill this goal and commit to addressing this further in 2024.
- Review SPD policies as determined by the committee and/or those recommended by SPD:
 - In 2022, SPAC reviewed 13 policies. In 2023, we reviewed 8. We will assess the types and effectiveness of the policy review to ensure we are meeting this goal as intended.

2023 In Review:

Business from the Audience:

- There were no audience comments throughout the 2023 year.

Build awareness and outreach between the community as a whole and SPD with the focus on engaging BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other historically minoritized communities.

Review SPD policies as determined by the committee and/or those recommended by SPD.

Business from SPD:

- The Springfield Police Department grew stronger through hiring new members, promotions, and transitioning members to new positions.
- Professional standards have been met or exceeded as evidenced by accreditation of the department through the Northwest Accreditation Alliance and a successful jail inspection by the Oregon State Sheriff's Association.
- The department developed relationships with community programs such as the Trauma Intervention Program (TIP), which trained responders to aid members of the community during a traumatic event, and the Active Bystander for Law Enforcement (ABLE) program, which trained community members to assist officers.
- The Springfield Police Department remains focused on recruitment and hiring. The recruitment webpage was updated to aid in this vital priority.
- A safe driving initiative has been funded and implemented that will focus on DUI, distracted driving, speed, and seat belt usage. A Distracted Driving billboard has been funded and will be a part of this program.

Policy Review:

- Reviewed eight (8) policies on a wide range of subjects as selected by the SPAC Policy Review Subcommittee.
- One policy (Prohibited Camping) was put on hold after being re-scheduled several times due to recent changes in Oregon law.

Business from the Committee:

- Discussed issues from illegal camping to SPD Complaint Process and how the Deaf Community gets information.
- Mental health issues and police reaction were addressed.
- Effectiveness of SPAC goals/next steps/direction
- Brought community concerns to SPD.

Next Steps & Discussion

- Develop system of tracking items for needed follow up and dissemination to SPAC members.
- Bring awareness to community about the existence of SPAC to encourage public input.
- Address how to further SPAC's stated goals.
- Discuss SPAC's purpose as stated in the bylaws about providing input, evaluation, and feedback on "goals, policies and strategies" and how that relates to annual policy review.

Build awareness and outreach between the community as a whole and SPD with the focus on engaging BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other historically minoritized communities.

Review SPD policies as determined by the committee and/or those recommended by SPD.