

Northampton Policing Review Commission
Alternatives to Policing Subcommittee

MEETING MINUTES

January 20, 2021

7:30-9pm

Remote Meeting

Join the Remote Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/92206661156?pwd=VEhhampkTTIEd3hwSDJ1RDZlUklkZz09>

Meeting ID: 922 0666 1156 Passcode: 475282

Or by telephone, call: +1 929 436 2866

1. Call to Order by meeting chair
 - a. Announcement of Zoom Recording
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Approval of Meeting Minutes
2. Public Comment (30 minutes)
3. Discussion on interim report and discussion from City Council meeting (15 minutes)
4. Selection of speakers for subsequent meetings
5. Potential topics:
 - a. Mental Health Response
 - b. Domestic Violence/sexual abuse
 - c. Community based policing
 - d. Restorative Justice
 - e. Substance abuse
 - f. Employment
6. Adjourn

Minutes:

1. Call to Order by meeting chair

Javier Luengo-Garrido calls the meeting to order. Alex Jarrett, Carol Owens, Booker Bush, and Javier Luengo-Garrido are present. Booker Bush moves to accept the meeting minutes. Seconded by Alex Jarrett. Alex Jarrett, Carol Owens, Booker Bush, and Javier Luengo-Garrido all vote yes and the minutes are approved.

2. Public Comment (30 minutes)

Robert speaks about the success of peer responses and how to measure it. And reminds the commission about Rachel Bromberg. He also mentions how police can be used as weapons in abusive relationships and gives an example of a friend.

Ya-Ping speaks about values and mentions the importance of criteria for any organizations. She quotes Rachel Bromberg about what criteria is meaningful.

Jose supports peer-led responses and there should be a horizontal hierarchy. And to have something in place about domestic violence.

Lemy speaks to how there are decades of groups operating outside of the police and it will take thoughtful and meaningful steps to create department with accountability structures.

Rye says its important to achieve consensus and needs to make a statement to prompt real change.

Jess begins speaking about their experiences with starting HRH413 since their clients were reporting abuses. There are not adequate services in the area.

Javier notes it would be important to hear about Jess later in the meeting as a representative of their organization.

3. Discussion on interim report and discussion from City Council meeting (15 minutes)

Booker Bush asks whether anyone has watched the city council meeting and their thoughts. Javier says he hasn't watched yet, but trusts in the presentation. Carol says she's happy with the reports and that they've stayed close to the best practices. Alex says he thinks the report was well received and thinks its important to bring in the Chief to speak and clarify things, and there may be buy-in for at least some measures. Booker says he was underwhelmed by responses, and there was a difference between what we presented and where the city council wants to go. Alex says councilors might have a conservative reaction because they do not want to step out on a limb. The council doesn't have the power to create something, but needs to approve a new administrative code created by the mayor.

Carol Owens asks Alex Jarrett about the culture that would see moving away from punitive response on a philosophical level and towards restorative justice? Alex says a number of things that move toward focus on supporting people like the resiliency hub. And that the sticking point will likely be the budgetary issues.

Javier Luengo-Garrido says the changes in Springfield wouldn't have been possible without the city council looking like the population there. He says it's best to have people in power who understand and have experience being oppressed. And how it's important to make sure accountability is a key part of the city.

4. Selection of speakers for subsequent meetings

Booker Bush asks Jessica if they would like to be invited back as a speaker and Jess says they would. They have 3 years of experience and would like to share their reports and how disproportionate responses are.

5. Potential topics:

Javier Luengo-Garrido says its important to avoid self-congratulatory behavior and that even peer responses need to have feedback channels and accountability. Booker asks who should be brought into speak about DV. Alex Jarrett says Alisa had been really useful. They mention Safe Passage and might seek out other organizations that provide alternative responses. Carol suggests Nelquid and the Center for Women and Community which is more contact and support, and that Nelquid began as something very peer led.

Booker Bush asks for speakers for other subjects. Alex says restorative justice should be brought in since the current offering is problematic. Javier seconds this.

Booker Bush moves to speaking with Jody Kasper. Carol would like to interview the chief beyond submitting questions and to see what reactions she has. Javier thinks it needs to be separate subcommittee questions, and that the focus should still be on how affected communities will feel about it. Carol wants to see where the resistance will be because it helps think about strategy.

The commissioners discuss their next meetings.

6. Adjourn

Carol Owens moved to adjourn. Javier Luengo-Garrido seconds. Roll is called. All commissioners vote yes to adjourn.