

Northampton Policing Review Commission
Alternatives to Policing Subcommittee Agenda
February 17, 2021
7-8:30pm
Remote Meeting

Join the Remote Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/95784051768?pwd=OTdnYkVPcFlwUVB5TkFBSWZMMVFHUT09>

Meeting ID: 957 8405 1768

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1. Call to Order
 1. Announcement of Zoom Recording
 2. Roll Call
 3. Approval of meeting minutes
2. Public Comment
3. Guest speakers:
 - New England Learning Center for Women In Transition (NELCWIT)
 - Domestic Violence Services
4. Preparation of documents for Final Report
 - Mental Health Services
 - Domestic Violence Services
 - Harm reduction Services
5. Next Meeting Date and agenda (proposed 2/24/21)
6. Adjourn

1.MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garridio at 7:07 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZOOM RECORDING

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido made an announcement that this meeting was being recorded for the public record and would be available on Northampton Open Media, as well as, the City of Northampton website.

Roll Call

Booker Bush, Co-Chair Present

Javier Luengo-Garrido, Co-Chair Present

Alex Jarrett Present

Carol Owen Present

Kris Banks Present

Approval of the Minutes

Moved to approve the minutes from January 29, 2020. Minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Public Comment

Community member Hildegard Freedman said someone died five years ago near building B. She said Bobby Weiseman was living in apartment B and was found dead either in the hall or immediately outside the front door.

Jane Doe mentioned calling during the public comment. She said since reviewing some of the committee's findings in the draft under the domestic violence section, they found the commission work has been excluding victims. She said the commission work is against the police who brings abusers to justice. She said the report focused on the abuser and said that there were no comments from victim witness advocates. She said restorative dialogue doesn't work with predators and child molesters. She said the police do not escalate, they stop the crime. Jane Doe asked for more time.

Commissioner Booker Bush asked whether the committee felt okay about adding an additional two minutes to Jane Doe's time.

The commission agreed to extend Jane Doe's time.

Jane Doe said the police are highly skilled in this area. She said they approach the situation in a certain way. She said there were 25 sets of minutes that are not publically available which is an issue. She said the only available minutes are from the 26th and the 27th. She said the commission has so ready personally identifying information. She said there is nothing about sex offender profiles and the local registration that the department managers know about. She said the commission needs to investigate this.

Josey Rosales said if they would like to speak privately and talk about their experiences to offer more perspective they are open to that.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido said anyone who has been offered any extension has been given in the past for folks to wrap up their thoughts.

Pip Winslow (Ward 3) said Michael Quinlan said there is no record of the NPD firing their weapon at a person which he thought was important. He said she doesn't know of any incident of Northampton police misconduct or abuse and is trying to figure out what the committee is reviewing. He asked whether the committee is reviewing past misconduct from the NPD and if they are, what are the specific incidences that have been documented.

Commissioner Booker Bush said 2% of people in Northampton are black. He said 17% of the force that the NPD used was against black people. He said the committee is not looking at improper actions by police, but has been concerned about the nature of interactions in mental health calls and domestic violence calls, as well as other kinds of calls.

Commissioner Carol Owen said the committee has been looking at the lack of imagination in broader understanding of public safety, that in some instances do not require police.

3. Guest speakers:

New England Learning Center for Women In Transition (NELCWIT)
Domestic Violence Services

The guest speakers were unable to attend this meeting.

4. Preparation of documents for Final Report

Mental Health Services
Domestic Violence Services
Harm reduction Services

The commissioner's review a list of priorities rough draft created by Commissioner Alex Jarrett.

The commissioner's discuss a community services department or a department of community care which would offer community- based safety solutions.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido said he pushes strongly for reporting and transparency to be recommended for this department including community wide meetings.

Commissioner Carol Owen agreed with Javier Luengo-Garrido. She said it is important for reporting and transparency to be able to give input to the function and focus on the new department. She mentioned a video she watched from Ya-Ping featuring Andrea Richie talking about when we're doing defunding work, it's important to think about community engagement as a third piece. She said when thinking about the commission's recommendations, there will be some segment of the community who push back. She said engaging different segments of the community is important in creating safety together. She said the department has to have input

regularly for the community which will keep things fresh, alive, and responsive.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido said community input is a feedback loop, so that you know the communities you're serving. He suggested starting with the mission statement and the structure we would like to see in the department. He also noted making the distinction that people who are offering peer support workers should live in Northampton.

Commissioner Alex Jarret said because of the cost of Northampton, having this distinction could exclude a large group of people.

Commissioner Booker Bush said in Wellesley, no teachers or firemen for instance were able to afford to live there. He said he thinks another kind of police live in surrounding communities and that this is an important issue.

Commissioner Dan Cannity (Called in) said that information was requested and the data showed there were only two full-time officers which live in Northampton. He said the largest city listed as residence was Easthampton. He said he and Commissioner Cynthia plan to talk about the potential of collaborative writing in order to find a unified voice. He said some of these things might be able to be combined with Policing Policies & Services work.

Commissioner Cynthia Suopis (called in) said there seems to be a lot of consensus about this department so it's only fair to probe a bit further some of these questions. She said the policing policies and services committee is in the middle of listing the functions that they've researched and the next step is differentiating what would stay in the NPD versus what would go to another department. She said it will be great to have a commission wide conversation about it.

Commissioner Carol Owen asked if it was fair to say that there has been some degree of attention to the current complaint system and the civilian flaggers. She wondered how much attention has been given to those areas.

Commissioner Cynthia Suopis said her committee has confirmed there is a complaint process issue, and have identified there is a system, but that she has encouraged her committee not to talk about how it can be better, but rather to focus on reporting out. She said there are some people on the committee who think it's a great system. She said in terms of flagging, she said she has thought about it but is hoping the committee will flesh it out more.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido asked Commissioner Alex Jarrett if he still thinks trainings work.

Commissioner Alex Jarrett said it's clear anti bias trainings don't work. He said there will continue to be trainings for the police in the meantime. He said if there are ones that are more effective, it's worth recommending those, but perhaps it's not something the committee wants to engage in. He said it's not something he's researched.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido mentioned ABLE program which came out of EPIC program. He said anti bias training has been thought of as the baseline of police misconduct with racial issues. He said he's talking about how inherently trainings have been in relationship

to racial and social issues. He said those trainings are meant to retrain pervasive behaviors from police officers, and that they are not working.

Commissioner Alex Jarrett said he agrees it's an important discussion but suggested the committee table it and talk more about alternatives.

The commissioner's finish reviewing the list priorities rough draft created by Commissioner Alex Jarrett.

5. Next Meeting Date and agenda (proposed 2/24/21)

The commissioners discuss the next meeting date and agenda. The commissioners decide to meet 7:30-9pm on February 24th.

7. Adjourn

Commissioner Carol Owen moved to adjourn. Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously at 8:35pm.