

Northampton Policing Review Commission Full Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

6-8pm

Remote Meeting

Join the Remote Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/99900631000?pwd=VFNXMU9CdUZrTWE2Y3cvTVJ4M2IrZz09>

Meeting ID: 999 0063 1000 **Passcode:** 902718

Or by telephone, call: +1 929 436 2866

1. Call to Order
 - Announcement of Zoom Recording
 - Roll Call
 - Approval of Meeting Minutes
2. Public comment (15 minutes)
3. Announcement of upcoming speakers to subcommittees (5 minutes)
4. Presentations by speakers (30 minutes)
5. Discussion topic: Public hearing format (5 minutes)
6. Discussion topic: Consensus check-in (15 minutes)
7. Discussion topic: Final report drafting, joint meetings, and discussion of topics (40 minutes)
 - Subcommittee drafts due 3/5
 - Draft of report submitted to commissioners 3/9
 - Revisions addressed in meeting 3/12
 - Final revisions addressed in meeting 3/16
 - Final report due to council 3/18
8. Reports from subcommittees:
 - Alternatives to Policing (3 minutes)
 - Policies and Services (3 minutes)
 - Outreach (3 minutes)
 - Spending and Contracts (3 minutes)
9. Adjourn

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Dan Cannity at 6:34 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZOOM RECORDING

Noa Coffey-Moore 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.

Commissioner Booker Bush arrived 6:26pm
Commissioner Dan Cannity (co-chair) Present
Commissioner Nick Fleisher Present
Commissioner David Hoose Arrived 6:20pm
Commissioner Alex Jarrett Present
Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido Present
Commissioner Nnamdi Pole Present
Commissioner Michael Quinlan Departed 7:14
Commissioner Josey Rosales Present
Commissioner Cynthia Suopis Present
Commissioner Carol Owen departed 8:07
Commissioner Kris Banks Present
Commissioner Elizabeth Barajas-Roman Not Present

Motion to Approve the Minutes

dan

alex

Minutes are approved

3. Public comment (15 minutes)

Jose Aadastra named officer Andrew Cole for systematic retaliation against a brown and indigenous houseless resident of northampton. He has a history of violence and misconduct. He recommended abolishing the police department.

Sean Donovan (Ward 3) wondered if the commissioners have uncovered the salaries of NPD officers and noted community organizers could do so much with that money. He said he's spending money to support people the city isn't helping. He said he would like to see the city take responsibility and do the work.

4. Presentations by speakers (30 minutes)

Commissioner Cynthia Suopis noted that the Policing Policies and Services subcommittee wants to talk to the head of emergency dispatch but the committee hasn't heard a response.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said he hasn't been able to get someone from Hampshire Hope to come speak to the commission. He asked Jess Tilly to talk about her work.

Jess Tilly said she has worked in harm reduction for 25 years and started grassroots

HRH413 work with marginalized populations who can't and won't access traditional service providers especially because of stigma and discrimination. She said there are six outreach teams which cover Hamden, Berkshire and Hampshire county. She said the work includes HIV and HEP C testing as well as referrals to detox for treatment. She said this work also includes transportation and accompanying people to appointments, as well as getting housing when they can. She said the organization relies on public donations.

Commissioner Nick Fleisher asked if the program has a relationship with the other programs like Tapestry, Cooley Dickinson and wondered how participants choose their program.

Jessica Tilley said she works with Positive Place but has gotten a massive amount of complaints about the program because there is a disconnect with the community they serve. She said she works with Tapestry, however it seems that people come to HRH13 because they have lived experiences. She said a lot of harm reduction agencies say walk the walk and talk the talk but HRH13 actually does it. She said she also has positive things to say about Tapestry and noted the Holyoke site is particularly great.

Commissioner David Hoose said he is embarrassed he doesn't know about this organization. He asked whether Jessica could envision this organization being in a position to be available to 911 calls as an alternative response or in conjunction with a police response.

Commissioner Jessica Tilley said it's her dream to be allowed to be the response for an overdose. She said working beside the police in tandem versus working directly with the police could be successful. She noted there models across the country that have been successful and noted she has done mobile crisis response for many years and it's a big part of the work.

Commissioner Dan Cannity wondered whether this would impact people's willingness to come to the organisation. He wondered what the city would need in terms of resources, and opportunities to connect with the city.

Jessica Tilley said she is in favor of working with the city. She said the organization has stayed low to the ground because it built trust with participants. She said she doesn't think there would be a negative impact because of the trust that has been built. She said her team does this work 24/7. She said with the resources she would like to have a physical space as well as a way to transport food to people.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido asked whether the space Jessica Tilley mentioned could be synonymous with the resilience drop in center. Jessica Tilley said something different necessary because what they do is different. She said the majority of the population she works with is people who are using drugs, are dually diagnosed, and need their own space so they don't have to lie, skew their narrative or be disingenuous.

Commissioner Carol Owen asked to what extent has her program been able to help people make connection to address their medical needs

Jessica Tilley said the organization has built up a sustainable group of local health providers overtime.

5. Discussion topic: Public hearing format (5 minutes)

The commissioners discussed reminding participants to speak about their own experiences

or the commission.

6. Discussion topic: Consensus check-in (15 minutes)

Commissioner Dan Cannity shared his screen and Commissioner Cynthia Suopis shared her and Dan's revisions on the consensus document and asked for thoughts and comments.

Commissioner Nnamdi Pole requested using statements that share there are other segments of the population that might have a different view, even if they are a minority.

The commissioners discuss the language in the consensus document.

7. Discussion topic: Final report drafting, joint meetings, and discussion of topics (40 minutes)

- Subcommittee drafts due 3/5
- Draft of report submitted to commissioners 3/9
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Commissioner Dan Cannity noted subcommittees can start doing joint meetings. He said he and Cynthia are looking for a rough draft by the 5th. He said they will combine the document and create structure. He proposed meeting the 9th and 12th and to do live editing.

The commissioners discuss the format of the document.

Commissioner Booker Bush asked where the department of care recommendation comes in.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said it has been proposed at many subcommittees and the commission can recommend it as a whole. He noted needing further discussion about what the department will look like.

Commissioner Nnamdi Pole noted involving past commissioners who have left. He suggested asking them for a contribution.

Commissioner Cynthia Suopis said there is opportunity in the appendixes to write personal narratives and note that people went through transformation, to include commissioners who have left. She noted the possibility of including the names of individuals, organizations who have been involved.

Commissioner Nick Fleisher said it might be helpful to have a consensus list as they write the report.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said consensus practices will happen through looking at the draft and discussing.

Commissioner Carol Owen suggested getting clear about individual bottom lines. She offered to share her narrative and said it was helpful and clarifying for her.

Commissioner Cynthia Suopis checked in about the meeting the 12th

Commissioner Carol Owen asked to shift the time to a 5-7pm window.

Commissioner Dan Cannity proposed meeting 5-7pm Friday March 12th to address revisions and wordsmithing.

8. Reports from subcommittees:

- Alternatives to Policing (3 minutes)
- Policies and Services (3 minutes)
- Outreach (3 minutes)
- Spending and Contracts (3 minutes)

Commissioner Booker Bush said his committee is working on delegating the draft work. asked to talk about joint committee meeting tomorrow

Commissioner Nick Fleisher said the work the Policies and Policing committee has been doing is integral to the joint subcommittee because the committees need to know what services they're budgeting for. He shared his screen and discussed the Policies and Policing services document.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido said the Outreach committee deployed the outreach form and noted they haven't gotten any testimony. met w sean donovan. He said he hopes to get permission from participants to add testimony.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said he sent the form to city councillors and the Gazette.

Commissioner Alex Jarrett said he knows Noa is working on this with the city but he noted the link is still not available on the main NPRC page and noted there are two pages.

Commissioner Josey Rosales said they are looking at policing contracts.

Commissioner David Hoose motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Nnamdi Pole moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. The motion adjourn is passed unanimously.