

Northampton Policing Review Commission: Full Commission Meeting to Facilitate the Joint Alternatives to Policing and Spending & Contracts Subcommittee meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

6:30-8:30pm

Remote Meeting

Join the Remote Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/94155543867?pwd=cU1EUWhIRWZNdjRTLzRCa0hLWjN6Zz09>

Meeting ID: 941 5554 3867

Passcode: 846920

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. Discussion of recommendations and exploring funding and contractual opportunities and challenges.
 - The purpose of this meeting is to allow the Alternatives to Policing and the Spending and Contracts subcommittees to discuss and understand their recommendations.
4. Discussion for Alternatives
5. Discussion for Spending and Contracts
6. Adjourn

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Josey Rosales at 6:37 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZOOM RECORDING

Commissioner Josey Rosales 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

Josey Rosales Present
Michael Quinlan Present
Daniel Cannity Present
Alex Jarrett Present
Javier Luengo-Garrido Present
Carol Owen Present
Booker Bush Present

Approval of the Minutes: Spending & Contracts Subcommittee from February 24, 2021

Commissioner Michael Quinlan moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Dan Cannity seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes Alternatives to Policing Subcommittee from February 24, 2021

Commissioner Alex Jarrett moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

2. Public comment (15 minutes)

Jane Doe said she is following up on last night's meeting. She said she is concerned because the commission has two weeks left to produce the report and it still doesn't have a sample of resident responses. She said the commission only posted a consent form today on the city's website and it's really late in the game. She said as of yesterday there was no link to the form, and the commission still doesn't have submissions. She said because this Commission started months and months and months ago, and so many of the commissioners have advanced degrees, she said she just really wonders how they didn't design something where they could capture testimony from victims of crime and even people just generally in the community, a lot longer ago. She said they didn't research the experiences of those of us with domestic violence issues and history. She said we as victims need to be heard and taken seriously and our experiences. Anonymous said they have seen the NPD's policing work. They said they have done fantastic jobs.

Pip Winslow said they've been looking forward to the publication of the research documentation and data. with regard to the Northampton police department and their systemic abuse of minorities but they haven't seen it.

Ed Olmstead said they think that the alternatives are available through social services and other nonprofit agencies and should be looked at as far as their compensation packages their employment benefits.

Ya-Ping read a testimonial that was submitted to the Wildflower Alliance in response to their

survey about police experiences.

3. Discussion of recommendations and exploring funding and contractual opportunities and challenges.

The commissioners discussed the CAHOOTS program as a crisis response model.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said the Spending and Contracts subcommittee has been discussing what the commission needs to do to fund the services, and what the structures are that could support a community care department, as well as what a CAHOOTS model might look like for Northampton.

Commissioner Carol Owen said there may be grant initiatives that could help with funding.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido said this session has introduced 6500 pieces of legislation. He said it's unusual for first time legislation to pass.

Commissioner Michael Quinlan said his observation of the mayor has been, that with grant work, he doesn't budget based on grants. He said usually he likes stable financing.

Commissioner Alex Jarrett said a lot of the contracts with the social service agencies are with the state.

Commissioner Carol Owen said the police department isn't doing crisis assessments for suicidality or homicidality. She said the contract is held by CSO as well as Cooley Dickinson crisis teams.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said he thinks about the other contracts the city will need to look at when it comes to city employees and city oversight. He said it's time to think about where the funding might come from in the budget.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido wondered what the percentage of federal and state grants are versus city funding.

Commissioner Michael Quinlan showed a page from the city budget and showcased the formatting. He noted there isn't a breakdown offered for the department.

Commissioner Josey Rosales said they have been looking at what aspects of the police budget could be reallocated. They said they still want people to have access to these resources with a smooth transition of responsibilities.

Commissioner Booker Bush asked whether there was funding he sees coming out of the department

Commissioner Josey Rosales said one example is recent police officers who have retired or who have left. They said those positions could be advocated for immediate hiring freezes for

those positions which would potentially secure funds for peer responders. They said the police vehicles which get replaced rapidly, are another place where funding could be shifted

Commissioner Dan Cannity said the NPD strives for five people per shift per minimum but they don't usually hit that minimum. He said when asked the rationale, the answer was that there isn't a formula for staffing.

The commissioners discussed the pros and cons of grant funding.
The commissioners discussed the process of writing of the report.
The commissioners discussed the next meeting agendas.

6. Adjourn

**Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido motioned to adjourn the meeting.
Commissioner Carol Owen seconded the motion. The motion was passed
unanimously.**