

Chief's Advisory Committee

August 25, 2020

11:00 a.m.

Participants: Chief Bieber, Brooke Bouchey (via Zoom), Captain Buttice, Roger Esparza (via Zoom), Earl Gooding, Noah Leavitt, Lindsey Luna (via Zoom), Dick Morgan, Steve Moss, Curtis Phillips, Roberto Rodriguez, Nadine Stecklein

- 1) **Chief's Welcome and Introductions**
- 2) **Meeting day and time?** Discussed changing the meeting day and time due to scheduling conflicts. As soon as Roberto Rodriguez gets his WWCC schedule, Chief Bieber will email out some day and time options.
- 3) **Quick Updates—Changes in “Use of Force” Policy (LVNR and “should’s”) and body cameras—** The draft changes to our “Use of Force” policy went to the Union for review. Once the details are approved by both the City and Union, the new LVNR policy can be implemented. LVNR is being removed as a Less Lethal Option. We are considering it as a Deadly Force Option, as opposed to eliminating it as an option when protecting a citizen and/or the officer's life. If LVNR remains an option on any level, then training would be needed to correctly apply the technique. Some additional policies are being modified to change the wording from “should” to “shall.” Regarding Use of Force, Lindsey Luna countered that the peace officer's top priority is to keep people alive. This focus should be placed at the beginning of pertinent policies, rather than as a comment within it. *Chief Bieber and Lindsey Luna will review the pertinent House Bill language and the WWPD policy on Thursday.*
- 4) **Responses and Reactions to Town Hall #3—**Steve Moss felt the interactions during the latest Town Hall were positive, well-received, and there was good participation. COVID-19 pushed us into the Zoom era for sharing information with our community and getting feedback. There was interest expressed by several people to:
 - a. Establish trust and relationships with the community.
 - b. Making the Chief's Advisory Committee a permanent group.
 - c. Expanding the community policing.
 - d. Emphasized the importance of body cameras.
 - e. Considering differential call situations.
 - f. Evaluating our tattoo policy. This policy will be discussed during the City Council Workshop taking place on Monday, September 28. We are waiting on the City's legal council on the legality as it relates to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeal.

Steve Moss also pondered what questions should be asked on the Community Satisfaction Surveys to make them more helpful. Additionally, what is happening in our community and how do we track the progress?

5) Review Short-Term Opportunities as Presented in Town Hall #3

- a. **LVNR**—This is being moved from a Less Lethal Option to a Deadly Force Option; officers will continue to receive training on applying this technique appropriately.
- b. **Chief's Advisory Committee agendas and notes**—There was support in enhancing the crime prevention programs, such as Coffee with a Cop, National Night Out, and officers participating with City Block Parties and events. There was also support to add a Neighborhood Police Officers when and if the budget allows. During her years working at the Walla Walla Public School District, Brooke Bouche witnessed how trust was built when students had repeated exposure to law enforcement with only the intent to build a relationship. When those individuals later considered reaching out to law enforcement, they first (and sometimes only) considered contacting those specific officers.
(NOTE: The City is divided up into five community policing sections. Each of the four squads have one or more officers assigned to each of those sections during the four-month bid cycle to network and learn and deal with problems in those geographical areas. These are responsibilities in addition to their daily duties of working across the entire community answering calls for service. This program is designed to build relationship and gain trust so that people feel comfortable reporting crimes or talking about issues in the neighborhood. We have had this program in place for many years, but we have not done a good job about advertising that. Ultimately, it is about relationships between the PD and community members and this is a program and tool to gain those relationships. When we are short officers, so it is a delicate balance of finding time to be proactive and creating these relationships in your assigned areas and running call to call answering needs of the community.)
- c. **No further acquisition of surplus military equipment**—An armored vehicle is the safest place for our officers to respond in more dangerous situations, like a potential bomb. The Tactical Rescue Vehicle (TRV) vehicle we acquired five years ago will drive in four feet of water and can rescue people during a flood. While we will not acquire more of these vehicles or show it during any parades, we will not be getting rid of it either. Just as we go through a threat matrix before sending out SWAT personnel, a similar matrix is reviewed before sending out the TRV. This retired military vehicle had never been used when it was surplus by the Federal government. It was originally purchased for around \$750,000, and we acquired it for simply the transport fee—and that cost was covered by a donation. The civilian version of the TRV is called a Bearcat and it costs \$250,000. Besides the purchase price, the primary difference in the vehicles is the Bearcat is smaller than the TRV. This does not justify paying \$250,000 more for a non-military armored vehicle. Using the LEOSA program, we also acquired an Incident Command Vehicle, which was a retired military dental vehicle. It contains two offices, a bathroom, and air conditioning. The Incident Command Vehicle is available to our partner agencies if helpful in critical events.

- d. **Continued research on body and dash cams and budget issue**—Chief Bieber has requested estimates for obtaining body cameras.
 - e. **WASPC Grant with Comprehensive Mental Health**—We partnered with Comprehensive Mental Health on a grant application to implement a referral process to Comprehensive Mental Health for treatment, rather than jail time for individuals who met specific criteria. WASPC recently awarded this grant, so now we are looking at how do we handle rolling out this program. Captain Braman is the WWPD’s contact for this WASPC grant.
 - f. **Community Communications – an application is being tested and using the City Communications Manager**—We are currently beta testing the WWPD app and plan to make it available in a couple of months. We will continue to put information out through the City Communications Manager, Brenden Koch, on the City’s social media platforms and on the City website.
- 6) **Review Mid-Term Opportunities – Is there interest in work groups on any of the topics?** Unfortunately, we ran out of time to discuss these opportunities. This will be the first topic of discussion during the next meeting.
- a. **Differential Call Response (review list of Calls for Service)**
 - b. **Programs in Other Communities – i.e. Cahoots in Eugene**
 - c. **Strengthen Relationships with Community Organizations**
 - d. **Additional trainings for 2021/22—implicit bias, Anti-Defamation League, ACE’s—topic**

Additional comments to add cultural competency training to our peace officer training. The Director of the Diversity Council in the Tri-Cities could be a resource for information on this topic. Lindsey Luna will get the contact information to Captain Buttice.

Chief Bieber will send out WASPC’s Crimes in Washington 2019 to the members for their information. He will also send out the PD’s Call for Service with numbers year to date for review, so we can discuss what differential call response might look like at our next meeting. The Chief will also follow up with Lexipol as far as how their model policies are culturally vetted.

The day and time for the September meeting is pending.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.
Submitted by Deborah Minter