

Chief's Advisory Committee

November 18, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting Participants: Chief Bieber, Captain Buttice, Roger Esparza, Earl Gooding, Noah Leavitt, Lindsey Luna, Steve Moss, Roberto Rodriguez, Kathy Loney

Absent: Captain Braman, Brooke Bouchey, Kanasha Henderson, Dick Morgan, Curtis Phillips, Nadine Stecklein

- 1) **Chief's Welcome and Thank You**
- 2) **Update on Body and Dash Cams**—Update on the body cams—the estimated cost to implement the body and dash cam project over five years is \$1.2 million. Our general fund budget with the reduced revenue due to COVID-19 will not support that level of extra expenditures. There's interest in our department to do this project. However, if we are going to implement body and dash cams, then we want to do it correctly. Axon is considered the gold standard supplier for this technology (www.axon.com).
- 3) **Update from Differential Call Response Work Group**— Noah Leavitt provided the workgroup update—first noting Steve Moss and Lindsey Luna are also participants on this subcommittee. The group is looking to establish their charge and mission. It would be helpful to know how the area residents feel about their interactions with the police. Steve Moss noted the City has been annually completing Citizen Satisfaction Surveys. Cobalt was hired to complete the most survey. A question was included on the 2020 survey to clarify how local law enforcement is perceived. While survey responses are still coming in, there have been over four hundred returned so far and, it is his understanding, that is an adequate number to be statistically accurate. Hopefully, we will get survey results by the year end. *(NOTE: The first survey was completed in 2012 as part of the Baldrige project. The funds were provided by the Washington State Auditor's office to develop a citizen satisfaction survey with the City of Walla Walla as a pilot. The City has budgeted and paid for the following surveys.)*
- 4) **Budget Process—Where we are currently**—There is a budget hearing tonight during the City Council meeting. We anticipate the City's revenue will continue to be lower than normal due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so next spring we only anticipate filling one of the four officer openings. This would give us 45 hired commissioned officers out of our 48 commissioned officers' slots. If the revenue is more than anticipated, then we can possibly fill more of the openings as time goes on. It takes a year to hire and train a new officer. The overall budget for the City is making some reasonable assumptions for revenue based on the sales tax. Steve Moss noted the City Council went through every line item of the 2021-2022 budget and thoughtfully reviewed it. There was strong support throughout the Council to fill one of the vacant commissioned officer slots as soon as possible. We have five bi-lingual, bi-cultural candidates on the current civil service list. We can hire off of this list through June. We have created a group to help

attract and recruit bilingual, bi-cultural candidates. The five candidates on the list is the result of outreach and mentoring. It would be disappointing if the current revenue situation kept us from hiring off the current Civil Service list. As soon as we can hire, we will resume that process. Lindsay Luna wondered if we were providing bi-cultural training for our staff. Chief Bieber noted Sherwood Trust awarded us with a \$12,000 grant to provide implicit bias training to be provided by Dr. Bryant Marks, a respected expert on this subject. This training will take place next fall so we can do the training in person. Last month commissioned officers completed four hours of ACES training. Because we have mandatory training to maintain officer certification, it looks likely that we will probably schedule other inclusion and equity training in 2022 to complete it in person. The Criminal Justice Training Commission is revamping their training to include implicit bias training.

- 5) **Hate Crime Statistics—links to reports (FBI and WASPC Crimes in Washington)**—Chief Bieber emailed the Hate Crime Statistics to everyone earlier today. This email also contained a link to the FBI 2019 Statistics as compiled from the NIBRS reports. It also included was the WASPC report on crimes in Washington. It has a section on hate crimes in Washington State and how they are reported by the agencies and then to the FBI. <https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/hate-crime-statistics> In Washington State an assault is not necessarily a hate crime—the incident is labeled as an assault, then the officer marks the event as either bias motivated or not bias motivated. In 2020 we so far have three charges that were marked bias motivated. Captain Buttice clarified an element of bias increases the assault level from a misdemeanor to a felony charge.
- 6) **WSPD Response and Follow Up to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault calls**—Guest Speaker Detective Kathy Loney— Chalese Rabidue, our Domestic Violence Victim Advocate, is taking vacation this week. Detective Loney is a major crimes detective and does follow-up on these types of cases. Sex trafficking has been increasing in our community. Reports of the crime of sexual assault are often reported through patrol being dispatched to take a report on a sexual assault. Detective Loney explained the investigative process on sexual assaults varies due to the cases being dynamic and fluid. Sometimes we talk to the victim first, other times we gather the evidence first or it will be lost. The Detectives also take domestic violence reports, felony property crimes, and other types of crimes that are sensitive.
 - a. We try to connect the Domestic Violence Victim Advocate (Chalese Rabidue) with the victim.
 - b. Give information and access to resources, treatment, and/or access to a stable living environment. This is critical if the situation took place in the victim’s home. They may be ostracized from their family or lose their financial resources if they come forward about the crime. If their situation is not safe, then the YWCA is a resource that can be utilized.
 - c. Brooke Martin of the State’s Child Protective Services is co-stationed in the WSPD building and she can assist with child interviews.

We want to speak with anyone that may have witnessed the grooming that was taking place to build trust with a child victim, even if this person did not realize at the time what was taking place. Two people may have differing recall of a “he said, she said” nature.

Sexual assaults are not usually done by strangers. It is usually an acquaintance, trusted family friend, neighbor, boyfriend or spouse. If we need the element of surprise, then we will go to the suspect before they have a chance to hear about the investigation. While we believe the report, we also follow the evidence and see where it takes us. If the victim is willing and the crime is recent, then we request the victim go to the hospital and have them gather evidence for a sexual assault kit. Electronic devices provide a significant portion of our data collection—for example, cell phones can give location history, pictures, video, audio sources. If that device can provide us information, then we will request a search warrant to obtain the suspect’s cell phone, computer, etc. Sometimes the victim will consent to a search of his/her device. We go where the evidence leads us—and we mindful of the victim’s safety along the way.

Sometimes while we investigate one crime, we will become aware of another crime. For example, while investigating a sexual assault, the warrant may give us access to search the suspect’s cell phone and we find child pornography. When an additional crime is suspected, then we need to stop searching and request an additional warrant to gather this additional evidence.

Domestic violence investigation works in a similar investigative way. Most of the cases that Det. Loney handles are violation orders connected to domestic violence. Detective Loney believes our crime statistics are in proportion to the size of our city, based on her conversations with detectives from other cities. The Washington State Penitentiary (WSP) does increase our assault numbers. Due to the environment and ideology, victims at the WSP are highly reluctant to assist in the investigative process.

National statistics indicate approximately one in four females will be sexually assaulted at some time in their life. One in six men will be sexually assaulted. It is miniscule the number of people that report this crime. It is more difficult to prosecute crimes of the sexual nature, especially if there was a delay in the reporting and the physical evidence is diminished or lost. The female victim will often request to speak with a female detective. We have two female detectives and three male detectives in the Detectives division. Detective Goodwater has handled many sexual assault cases. Detective Calton is bilingual and is assigned the cases with Spanish speaking victims. While we do have male victims coming forward, there are many more female victims.

Lindsey Luna inquired how does the WWPDP plans to reach into our community to educate women on how to protect themselves from sexual crimes. Chief Bieber noted we recently held a sex trafficking webinar, and a second sex trafficking webinar (taught

by Dr. John Matheson) is being held on December 1 from 6pm to 8pm. If there is a safety issue, then we do put out a press release, so our public is safe and aware.

The detectives are not finished when the case is sent to the Prosecutors Office and the case is over. Survivors are setup to obtain long-term resources. This level of service has been and continues to be appreciated. The detectives receive letters of thanks from the survivors for helping them feel safe in moving forward. Captain Buttice and Steve Moss commended the Detectives for the work they do.

Chief Bieber will send out the notice of the sex trafficking webinar taking place on December 1 from 6pm to 8pm. Captain Buttice will reach out to Wanda Galland to inquire on the possibility of recording the webinar, and if it will be available in Spanish.

- 7) **Next Meetings**—Today's meeting replaced the one previously scheduled for November 25. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 30—Do we need to reschedule?

Next meeting: December 30 at 1:30 p.m. on Zoom platform only

The meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Submitted by Deborah Minter