

# Chief's Advisory Committee

## October 1, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

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

**Absent:** Brooke Bouchey

### 1) Chief's Welcome and Introductions

2) **Meeting day and time?** Future meetings were scheduled for the last Wednesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. in the WWPDP Fulton Community Room

### 3) Review Mid-Term Opportunities—is there interest in work groups on any of the topics?

a. **Differential Call Response (review list of Calls for Service)**—Steve Moss shared a concept that is occurring elsewhere of a different option from 9-1-1 but rather calling 9-8-8 for mental health issues which would bring a different response than police. 9-8-8 is not available locally at this time, but it is something for us to look into.

b. **Programs in other communities—i.e. Cahoots in Eugene**—Chief Bieber spoke to Chief Skinner from The Eugene Police Department about CAHOOTS. Chief Skinner indicated that CAHOOTS takes about 6-8% of calls off of the Police Department. The harder metric to capture is how many situations CAHOOTS handles that do not escalate to requiring a police response. Eugene PD also utilize Community Service Officers (CSO) who are civilians who handle cold calls that don't require a police officer to respond or to file a report. The Eugene Police Department is a considerably larger agency than the WWPDP, still this approach could potentially be utilized here.

c. **Strengthen relationships with community organizations**—While the WWPDP has strong relationships with our community partners, we are open to ways to enhance the existing relationships.

d. **Additional trainings for 2021/22**—Implicit Bias, Anti-Defamation League, ACE's

### 4) Differential Call Response—

a. **Review Calls for Service list**—Prior to today's meeting Captain Braman, Captain Buttice, and Chief Bieber did a cursory review of the Calls for Service to identify the call types we are not statutorily required to respond to using a uniformed, commissioned police officer. There are approximately ten or more call types that could potentially be handled by another agency. This list will be provided to the Advisory Committee members by tomorrow. The call type is set by the Dispatcher when the call is received at WESCOM (Dispatch). The responding officer may need to change the call type as information comes available.

- b. **What do we want our Officers going to?** The “citizen contact” listed on the Calls for Service is when an officer initiated the contact while out on patrol. It could be anything from seeing a vehicle parked on the side of the road or locating someone with an active warrant. To date this year there have been 220 arrests from officers initiating a citizen contact. The WWPD has two Code Enforcement officers that work during regular Monday through Friday business hours. After regular business hours an officer may respond to a code enforcement issue if its safety related.
- c. **What can others go to? Who?** If law enforcement does not respond to calls that they previous did respond to, then which agency will go to them? Each agency has different risks and consideration—such as liability, staffing levels, capability, confidentiality issues, funding conditions, and statutory requirements. For example, by statute all child protective service transfers must be performed by a law officer. The primary responding agency may utilize the police to make a safety assessment before engaging. If law enforcement ceases in making those assessments, it could affect the willingness of other agencies to respond under certain situations.

Differential Call Response identifies those calls that law enforcement should respond to and which calls should be handled by another agency. Once that assessment is complete, it will become a matter of if the other agency(s) have the willingness and/or the capacity/recourses to respond.

Community Policing focuses on building community relations. This philosophy allows officers to continuously operate in the same area to create a stronger bond with the citizens living and working in that area. This allows public safety officers to engage with residents and prevent crime form happening instead of responding to incidents after they occur. A maximum of 750 calls per officers per year is recommended to allow time to build community relations. The WWPD has considerably more calls per officer than that figure.

**ACTION:** A Differential Call Response Workgroup is being formed. Volunteers included Noah Leavitt, Curtis Phillips, Captain Braman, and a Patrol Sergeant. Anyone interested in participating should email Noah Leavitt. This subcommittee is open to recruiting of outside participants, such as individuals connected to the social service, health department, and crisis service fields.

Next meeting: October 28 at 1:30 p.m. (tentatively planned for the Fulton Community Room at WWPD)

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.  
Submitted by Deborah Minter