

Chief's Advisory Committee

January 25, 2022, at 2:30 p.m.

Meeting Participants: Chief Bieber, Captain Braman, Captain Buttice, Sandy García (via Zoom), Earl Gooding Jr., Noah Leavitt, Dick Morgan, Steve Moss, Roberto Rodriguez, Curtis Phillips (via Zoom)

Absent: Brooke Bouchey, Roger Esparza, Kanasha Henderson, Ruthell Martinez

- 1) Chief's Welcome and Thank You**—Chief Bieber thanked the committee members who attended last night's City Council workshop to provide their perspective on implementing body worn cameras locally. Steve Moss appreciated the attending committee members voicing the broad range of thoughts that has been voiced during the Advisory Committee meetings.
- 2) Update—Chief Selection Process—Joel Bryden (Bob Murray and Associates)**—Joel Bryden of Bob Murray and Associates joined the Advisory Committee meeting via Zoom. He invited committee members to provide their perspective on the community needs, and the skills and characteristics of an ideal candidate. Currently thirteen applications have been submitted. He anticipates receiving closer to thirty applications before the job posting closes. Applications will be accepted through February 18. The job opportunity is posted on the www.bobmurrayassoc.com website. Once the posting closes, Joel Bryden will interview the top candidates during March. Then he will meet with the City Manager and Human Resource Manager to discuss the recommended top candidates. Once the City narrows down the applicant pool, then the City Manager would interview the top three candidates. If Joel Bryden does not find there is an adequate pool of candidates, then he could recommend the application deadline be extended. Most of the applications received to date have been submitted by candidates that live in Washington, Oregon, or California. If an internal candidate is selected, then the background investigation has already been done and an offer could be immediately extended. If an outside candidate is offered the position, then a background check would need to be completed prior to the start date. Chief Bieber will email [the recruitment flyer](#) to the Advisory Board members.
- 3) Body Worn Camera Update**—We were given a preliminary grant approval by the Bureau of Justice Assistance Small, Rural, and Tribal (SRT) Body-Worn Camera (BWC) Program. Tomorrow night the City Council will consider Resolution 2022-10 and decide whether to authorize the acceptance of the BWC grant for \$90,000 towards the acquisition of body-worn cameras for police officers. Steve Moss noted the City Council will hear more comments on BWC during tomorrow night's meeting.
- 4) Legislative Update on Police Reform (AG Opinion)**—Chief Bieber handed out a summary of the proposed House Bills connected to law enforcement and the group reviewed them. It is early into the process to know which, if any, of the proposed bills will pass and go into effect. Many of the House Bills that have been proposed (since the 2022 session began on January 10) are to address unintended consequences connected with the police

reform legislation that was passed last year. On January 20 the Attorney General of Washington issued an opinion on E2SHB 1310 regarding “physical force” and concluded that the issue is very complicated and called on the legislature to further refine and define their use of force parameters that they passed last year in order to clarify when the use of force by police is allowable.

5) Anything for the good of the order

- Noah Leavitt brought an article in today’s Walla Walla Union Bulletin (WWUB) titled “*Walla Walla police extend classes to address rift between public and law enforcement*” to the group’s attention. The article explained why Walla Walla police officials have decided to continue the public Bridging the Gap class for community members. Some committee members noted it was unfortunate the title of the article did not reflect the content of it. The WWUB sensationalized the national rift rather than writing about the local relationship between the Walla Walla Police Department (WWPD) and the community. There is no local rift between the WWPD and the citizens of Walla Walla. The Advisory Committee found the title of the article disappointing.
- Sherwood Trust is paying for local law enforcement personnel (including the College Place Police Department, Walla Walla County Sheriff’s Office, and the Walla Walla Police Department) to attend implicit bias training being presented by Dr. Bryant T. Marks from the National Training Institute on Race and Equity. The training is being offered as one half-day presentation either on February 1 or February 8 as an In-Service Training. A separate community presentation will also be held on February 8 at 1:00pm. This will be a 90-minute presentation given on an online platform. Pre-registration is required. Attendees are encouraged to take an implicit test one to two days before the training. During the training, polling software will allow attendees to anonymously submit their results and discuss the group’s results.

6) Next meeting—February 22, 2022, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 in-person at the WWPD.

The January 25, 2022, meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.
Submitted by Deborah Minter