

# Chief's Advisory Committee

## February 22, 2022, at 2:30 p.m.

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

**Absent:** Captain Braman, Brooke Bouchey, Roger Esparza, Kanasha Henderson, Ruthell Martinez

**1) Chief's Welcome and Thank You**

**2) Update—Chief Selection Process**—Eighteen applications were submitted prior to Chief's job posting closing on Friday, February 18. The recruiting agency, Bob Murray and Associates, will do preliminary interviews during early March. There will be a "Meet and Greet" held at the Marcus Whitman Hotel so the public can meet the top candidates. Since the City Manager has the hiring and firing authority, on Friday, March 18, the City Manager Shawa will tentatively extend a job offer to the selected candidate. If an internal candidate is selected, then most of the background check has already been completed. If an outside candidate is offered the position, then a full background check would need to be completed prior to the start date. Chief Bieber's last day is Friday, April 29.

**3) Body Worn Camera Update**—After receiving the preliminary grant approval by the Bureau of Justice Assistance Small, Rural, and Tribal (SRT) Body-Worn Camera (BWC) Program, we submitted the requested follow-up paperwork in late January. Now we are waiting for the SRT BWC program to award us a contract for \$90,000 (towards the acquisition of body-worn cameras for the police officers). Once SRT BWC has issued a draft contract for review, we will place this on the City Council's agenda for consideration. While this grant is for substantial dollars, the entire project cost is considerably more than the \$90,000 grant. It is critical that they also fund a full-time records clerk to handle the records disclosure requests.

**4) Legislative Update on Police Reform (SB5919)**—Senate Bill 5919 passed in the Senate and has moved to the house. This bill is concerning the standard for law enforcement authority to detain or pursue persons. Depending on how it gets amended prior to be passed, SB5919 will give a definition for use of force, less lethal, and allowing all calibers of less lethal options. The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chief's (WASPC) has been very active in supporting SB5919. This is a good start to find a balance and correct the unintended consequences of the previously passed law enforcement reform bills. (Note: the current draft of SB5919 gives a "definition of "physical force," "necessary," and "totality of the circumstances," and the standard for law enforcement authority to use physical force and providing the authority for a police officer to engage in a vehicular pursuit when there is reasonable suspicion a person has violated the law and the officer follows appropriate safety standards.")

On a side note, Senate Bill SB5652 passed in the Senate and the House. SB5652 is a retirement enhancement for Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' Retirement System Plan 2 (LEOFF 2). If the Governor signs the bill, then LEOFF 2 payments will increase from 2 percent to 2.5 percent for years of service from 15 up to 25.

- 5) **Answer to Community Questions (as presented by Noah Leavitt)**—Please see the separate document named “*Community Questions from Noah.*”
- 6) **Will this Committee Continue after my Tenure?** Since Chief Bieber personally invited each member to join the committee. The incoming chief may also want to do the same thing; granted it may be difficult to get a committee going when transitioning from one chief to another. It takes a while to get a feel for landscape, then to choose committee members. In selecting the ad hoc committee members, Chief Bieber tried to recruit representatives from a cross-section of this city, plus he wanted participants that would speak up.

Curtis Phillips noted the changing dynamics of ten to twenty years ago to now. The dynamics are changing. The multi-variant of policing is moving forward with a pulse to the local community it serves.

Earl Gooding Jr. pondered if the incoming chief may even want this committee to continue. He would recommend keeping this group, but Earl Gooding Jr. did not know who the next Chief will be and what they would want.

Dick Morgan noted rolling forward with the existing committee would lead to the members measuring the previous chief to the new one.

Noah Leavitt recommended that if the committee is disbanded, then this be conveyed correctly to the public as a clean slate.

Steve Moss noted this ad hoc committee was formed to span Chief Bieber's career. If the decision is made to continue the Chief's Advisory Committee, then he recommended half of the membership be replaced every year to refresh the perspective, and there is a complete turnover of members every two years. And possibly consider the use an application process for committee members.

Chief Bieber found his personally inviting individuals to join the committee worked for him. The next meeting will discuss the potential of disbanding the Chief's Advisory Committee.

- 7) **Additional Thanks**—Chief Bieber thanked the Sherwood Trust for the \$12,000 donation to pay for Dr. Bryant T. Marks giving the implicit bias training for local law enforcement and interested community members. Chief Bieber heard some officer comments after taking the training. While there was not complete agreement with all of the points that Dr. Marks presented, the implicit bias training got people thinking.
- 8) **Next Meeting**—March 29, 2022, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 in-person at the WWPD.

*Note:* Regardless of next month's discussion regarding the future of the Chief's Advisory Board, the April 26 meeting will likely be canceled due to Chief Bieber's retirement.

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