



City of Tacoma

Citizen Police Advisory Committee Minutes

Regular Meeting
Monday, December 12, 2016
City of Tacoma Municipal Building North
747 Market St., Room 248

Committee Members Present: Keith James, Ryan Webster, Michelle Franklin-Wilson, Harvey Perez, Louis Cooper, Storm Reyes, Daniel Thomasson
Staff Present: David Nash-Mendez (CMO) and Nadia Chandler Hardy (CMO)

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Keith James called the Business Meeting to order at 6:09 pm. Chair James asked those present to introduce themselves.

Moment of Silence

Chair James called for a moment of silence in honor of Officer Gutierrez of the Tacoma Police Department who was killed in the line of duty on November 30, 2016.

Approval of Agenda

Chair James asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Committee Member Cooper moved to approve the agenda, Committee Member Franklin-Wilson seconded. Motion carried, agenda was adopted.

Chair James recognized Committee Member Thomasson and Assistant to the City Manager, Nadia Chandler-Hardy as having joined the meeting

Assistant to the City Manager Nadia Chandler-Hardy explained to the Committee that she had excused officers from the Tacoma Police Department from the meeting to allow them to concentrate on the Memorial service held on December 9.

Approval of the minutes of October 10, 2016 and November 14, 2016

Chair James called for a motion to approve the October 10, 2016 and November 14, 2016 minutes. Committee Member Reyes moved to accept the minutes. Committee Member Webster seconded the motion. Motion carried, minutes were approved

Briefings/Presentations

A. Community Outreach Fair

Chair James moved the first briefing item.

City Manager's Liaison David Nash-Mendez provided the Committee with an invitation provided to participate in community outreach as a part of the Martin Luther King Jr Day. celebration on

January 16th. The Committee discussed the opportunity, and recommended that the Outreach Committee register soon as the Committee had registered late the year before. Committee Member Webster moved that the Committee participate in the Community Outreach Fair, Committee Member Franklin-Wilson seconded. Motion, motion approved.

Chair James closed discussion on the item and opened the next agenda item.

B. Report on Retreat Facilitation and Committee Membership

City Manager's Liaison David Nash-Mendez reported that he had found a facilitator within the City to lead the Workplan Retreat planned by the Committee and that he would work with her to schedule the Retreat once the new committee members were approved by the City Council.

He also shared the then current timeline for the appointments and reappointments of new committee members, with appointments and reappointments expected by January 31st. He explained that this would change the outreach plan by the Media and Communications Office. In response to questions from the Committee, he added that there were two open positions: a youth position and a position for someone from Council District 3.

The Committee instructed David Nash-Mendez to schedule the retreat for mid-February, potentially the 17th or 18th.

Chair James closed discussion on the item and opened the next agenda item

C. Report on Community Trauma Response Team

Before Nadia Chandler-Hardy provided her update on the Community Trauma Response Team, Committee Member Reyes expressed concerns that the Conversation, the Committee, and the City had been cross-communicating and not understanding each other's aims. She expressed that her understanding after reviewing the correspondence with the Conversation was that they were concerned with a lack of communication between individual officers and the public and were requesting recognition of community members already offering care and counsel in times of trauma. Noting that she was, herself, a chaplain, Committee Member Reyes expressed concerns that the Conversation was uncomfortable working with police department, uncomfortable with a vetting process, and uncomfortable with a standardized training element. She stated that she could support the need for communication but she was uncomfortable supporting a plan that did not include the full city and the elements with which the Conversation took concern. She expressed that the group should recognize the budgetary and timeline elements of the plan, that partnership with a government agency is more complicated than one would anticipate, and that the group should be partnering with an established organization such as the Red Cross.

Assistant to the City Manager Nadia Chandler-Hardy explained that City staff had been working through the same questions as Committee Member Reyes, especially that of what recognition looks like, what support was being asked, and what would the accountability measures be for that support. She recapped the timeline that led to the decision to halt work on the project and explained the decision to resume work on the project based on the checkin provided by The Conversation on October 30. She explained that the City Manager requested that she return to the Committee with a staff recommendation for the CTRT. She then introduced the ad hoc CTRT that had been implemented in the aftermath of the shooting of Officer Gutierrez. She

recommended that the Committee ask the City to resume the outreach work being done including an inventory of the must-haves and nice-to-haves as identified by the community, to work with partnering agencies to develop a program which will include training as an incentive to volunteers, and to establish the trauma response team in 2017. She identified the Office of Equity and Human Rights to finish the outreach work and the Neighborhood and Community Services Department to do the negotiations with potential organizational partners. Finally, she suggested that City Staff return to the Committee with a recommendation for approval.

Committee Members Webster and Reyes voiced their support for the recommendation. Committee Member Franklin-Wilson echoed her support and reiterated the importance of any program covering the entire community. In response to a question from Chair James about the connection between the CTRT and Project Peace, Assistant to the City Manager Nadia Chandler-Hardy reminded the Committee that the connection resulted from the CTRT being mentioned at the culminating event for Project Peace and recorded as part of the community feedback. She added that the volunteers identified by the Conversation would certainly be welcome in the program.

Committee Member Webster moved that the Committee ask the City to proceed with the two recommended items: the outreach work and the partnership with existing organizations. Committee Member Thomasson seconded. Members of the Committee asked for clarification on the volunteer outreach. Assistant to the City Manager Nadia Chandler-Hardy explained that OEHR staff member Manisha Paudel would be creating a list of interested individuals, that NCS staff would be canvassing organizations to provide accountability and activation of the volunteers, and that the City would be proactive in identifying areas of focus should a neighborhood or area be underrepresented. In response to a question from Committee Member Louis Cooper, she explained, that after receiving a recommendation from the Committee, City Staff would provide an update to The Conversation as early as Tuesday the 13th, 2016.

Committee Member Webster amended his motion to include a report-out from the City with their recommendation at the April 11, 2017 meeting of CPAC. Committee Member Franklin-Wilson seconded. Motion carried, motion approved.

Chair James closed discussion on the item and opened the next agenda item.

D. Topics for Next Meeting

City Manager's Liaison David Nash-Mendez distributed to the Committee a complaint letter that had been emailed to the Committee. He explained that he had formally registered the complaint with the Tacoma Police Department and that they would be investigating it. He explained that, though the Committee could not investigate the particular allegation, he was sharing it in case the Committee identified a particular policy issue within the letter that they wanted to examine. In response to a question from Committee Member Reyes, he explained that he had responded to the author of the letter explaining that a complaint had been filed, how to file a complaint in the future, and that he would be sharing it with the CPAC for investigation of any policy issues at their discretion.

Committee Member Webster suggested that the Committee not take any action until the investigation had been resolved and to advise the author of that decision. The Committee identified some potential policies of interest but concurred with the recommendation. Committee Member Reyes explained that her only point of concern was referring to the difficulty of filing a complaint. City Manager Liaison David Nash-Mendez explained that the links on the website

were correctly functioning when he tested them, that it was likely user error, but that finding the correct webpage with the information on how to file a complaint was difficult as the page was not readily accessible for those without an understanding of the internal organization of the Tacoma Police Department. Committee Member Thomasson asked David Nash-Mendez whether the CPAC email was on the Committee's webpage to which David Nash-Mendez responded that he would add it if it were not already present. The Committee expressed frustration with the process of filing a complaint and added that this was a policy issue that they were interested in pursuing. Assistant to the City Manager Nadia Chandler Hardy told the Committee that her staff would look into the process to make it more accessible and user friendly, especially using the TacomaFirst311 system.

Chair James closed discussion on the item and opened the next agenda item.

Public Comment

As there were no members of the public present, Chair James closed discussion on the item. Before proceeding, he expressed his approval of both the Fair and Impartial Training of the Police Department and the Citizens Academy that he had attended. After his comments, he opened the next agenda item.


Topics for Next Meeting

Topics identified for the January 9 meeting of CPAC were: update on body worn cameras, update on strategic plan, update on outreach subcommittee, approval of the 2016 annual report, and a retreat planning update. The 2016 annual report would be submitted to the CVS committee after approval.

The Committee voiced approval for the topics identified.

Adjournment

Chair James called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Committee Member Franklin-Wilson moved the motion, Committee Member Perez seconded. Motion carried. Chair James adjourned the meeting at 6:59 PM.



Keith James, Chair



David Nash-Mendez, Management Fellow, City Manager's Office