

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, August 5, 2020

Committee Members Present:

Atlas-Ingebretson, Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Johnson, Lee, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Chair Zelle

Committee Members Absent:

Lilligren, Lindstrom, Muse, Zeran

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Zelle called the regular meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:04 p.m. on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 on the following roll call vote:

Aye: 10 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Johnson, Vento, Wulff, Chair Zelle

Nay: 0

Absent: 4 Lilligren, Lindstrom, Muse, Zeran

Not Recorded: 3 Atlas-Ingebretson, Lee, Sterner

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Zelle noted that a roll call vote is not needed for approval of the agenda. Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Vento to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2020 regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried** on the following roll call:

Aye: 11 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Johnson, Lee, Vento, Wulff, Chair Zelle

Nay: 0

Absent: 4 Lilligren, Lindstrom, Muse, Zeran

Not Recorded: 2 Atlas-Ingebretson, Sterner

INFORMATION

1. Report on the Metro Transit Police Department: Current Actions and Future Plans (Chief Eddie Frizell, Metro Transit Police Department)

Chief Eddie Frizell presented an update on the state of Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD). The MTPD practices 21st Century Policing. The six

pillars of 21st Century Policing are: 1) build trust and legitimacy; 2) community policing crime reduction; 3) policy and oversight; 4) training and education; 5) technology and social media; and 6) officer wellness and safety.

The Metro Transit Police Department are all sworn officers, serving eight counties, 85+ communities, and covering 907 square miles. The MTPD is staffed by 128 full-time officers, including the specialty units of Investigations, Homeless Action Team, K9, IAU, administration and command staff. The MTPD also has 45 part-time officers assigned to Bus Rapid Transit, Light Rail Transit and special events. The MTPD has dedicated officers for the Transit Safety and Security Committee as well as dedicated investigators for operator assaults.

The Homeless Action Team (HAT) is a unique partnership with the Metropolitan Council Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA). HAT has so far placed 105 people in permanent housing. They are working to fill the space for 94 more people.

In addition to federal and state law and court precedence, MTPD's policy manual is based on best practices and model policies. MTPD employs one full-time employee dedicated to policy research and development. The MTPD uses Lexipol for their Transit Police Policy Manual. Lexipol is a policy manual service that offers policy updates based on changes in law, changes in court precedent, and new research in best practices. Lexipol is adaptable to the MTPD's unique transit agency needs. It notifies officers of policy changes, requires acknowledgement and tracks policy acknowledgement. The 691-page police policy manual is posted on the MTPD's public-facing website.

Council Members had questions about use of the carotid control hold and use of the hold with regard to officer intervention if there is more than one officer present. CM Atlas-Ingebretson asked if there is an obligation of an officer to intervene if they see something incorrect. Chief Frizell stated that all officers are required to intervene if they see excessive use of force.

CM Lee asked for the distinction a between formal complaint and informal complaint. According to Chief Frizell, an informal complaint is something such as "I don't want to report a formal complaint, but I want you to know X." It is a concern, but not a policy or procedure violation. For example: incorrect mask usage or an officer not wearing gloves. A formal complaint is something that is very articulable, such as an officer not giving his or her badge number. A formal complaint is investigated and reported back to the person who filed the complaint.

Council Members had other questions and comments about procedural justice, conflict management and de-escalation trainings, as well as taking generational and racial differences into account in trainings. CM Chamblis asked for an explanation of community policing which was provided by Chief Frizell. Council Members also had a discussion about training of officers, as well as part-time or contract officers. Council Members also had comments about the reporting structure of MTPD to the Council as well as legislative policy proposals with regard to the MTPD. Council Member Atlas-Ingebretson requested a way to track requests that come in for Council Members and information flow to and from Council Members.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Bridget Toskey
Recording Secretary