Cleveland Community Police Commission (CPC)
Full Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 10, 2016

In attendance: Anthony Body, Kathy Clegg, Mario Clopton, Deirdre Jones, Rhonda Y. Williams

Excused Absence: V.Y. Conner, Dylan Sellers

Call Meeting to Order/Review Agenda

Mr. Clopton called the meeting to order.

For a change of pace and after checking in with all the commissioners present at the time, Dr. Rhonda asked for people in audience to introduce themselves and name organizations, if any, that they represent.

Co-Chairs Report
Mr. Clopton and Dr. Rhonda provided updates:

1. Monitor Monthly Meeting:
   a. Revisions to Monitoring Plan will occur. There are a couple of work products that aren’t complete yet, because the CPC was missing some documents it needed for review.
   b. Monitor and Parties will be focusing on fewer issues moving forward. For the remainder of 2016, the emphases will be on Use of Force and Community Policing and Engagement.
   c. Bias Free policies are in a draft form, but are not yet ready for review. Still hoping to complete by January 2017 deadline.
   d. Co-Chairs asked for documents regarding police staffing survey, hiring and recruitment plan, including information related to diversity and inclusion, updates regarding Internal Affairs investigations, current CDP community engagement information, among other things.

2. CPRB emergency ordinance:
   a. was on the City Council’s schedule today for passage.
   b. initial and annual training included; 115-1, 3, and 4 not included.
   c. Councilperson Zone agreed on the record to work with the CPC to incorporate the issues raised in those sections through policy and legislation.
   d. Mr. Clopton stated the current iteration of the emergency ordinance is not what is needed to fix the process but infrastructure, but that it does advance some changes that would not have otherwise happened without the CPC recommending them. For instance, requiring a young person be on the CPRB, diversity in the appointment authority with Mayoral and City Council appointments
   e. Dr. Rhonda wanted to acknowledge the work of the CPC and Community, but also that there is a lot of work yet to be done

3. CPC Retreat to occur on Saturday and will be facilitated by Peter Whitt.
4. Executive Director Search: The Commission voted to relaunch it.
5. NACOLE (National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement): The CPC is now a member; we received documents. The CPC needs to appoint a voting member and also decide who will be going to the Annual Meeting in September 2016.

Community Engagement Assessment Plan
Mario would like to make a motion to approve the draft; will put to E-Vote in absence of quorum. After that, the first step will be to collect community input.

Review of Monitoring Plan
Sgt. Deirdre Jones arrives (approximately 6:45 p.m.). She prepared a handout/grid to look at CPC deadlines for the remainder of the year. (See addendum to the Minutes.) Discussed the major items before us with March deadlines. Co-Chairs noted that some of these will be changed:

1. Annual Report of CPC
2. CDP to implement a Community and problem oriented policing model
3. CPC will collect concerns related to CDP’s internal affairs investigations, then turn in a report in a single document. Current deadline is 8/26.
5. By 9/9, CPC to review final proposed draft of Bias Free Policing. Co-Chairs noted that they have received word that Bias Free is not ready yet. Use of Force policies will be a priority. So the Monitoring Plan will be recalibrated.

CPC Annual Report
Mr. Clopton discussed. Shared that it needs to be submitted to the court and available to the public. Proceeded to outline proposed sections to include in the Annual Report: Executive Summary; introduction of the purpose of the Commission and its responsibilities, comments regarding community outreach, discussion of recommendations for Bias free, Use of Force I and II, CDP Mission Statement work, OPS/CPRB recommendations to ordinance and operations and training manual, budget update, update from MHRAC, etc. he proposed considering, at least thus far, using graphics people who did CPC business cards and brochure. Suggested it would also be good to try to get public feedback about the work of the Commission, then close it with conclusions, lessons learned, and next steps.

Mr. Anthony Body: Mentioned that we’ve had hardships in our first year, but have still kept to a timely schedule; how can the Commission improve its Community Engagement strategies; education of public (through town halls), focus on who we are and what we do, and ask ourselves how we can further improve.

Mr. Clopton will talk to printing people. Dr. Rhonda added that we have talked to the monitor about an extension for the Annual Report.

Update on Meeting Minutes

Commented [1]: Anthony, does this capture your comment. See question below. Does the “we” refer to the Commission or Commissioners? Thanks.
Commented [2]: these type statements should use the work “Commission” as the noun rather than a collective pronoun
Commented [3]: This is what Anthony said. I will query him on whether he meant the Commission or the Commissioners ...
Dr. Rhonda informed Commissioners that the backlog of meeting minutes have been drafted and are mostly complete for the last 6 or 7 meetings. They will be sent out to Commissioners for final approval and an E-Vote, then the minutes will be available online to the public.

Revision to CPC By-laws

Co-chairs discussed that the CPC needs to revise its By-Laws, look at what is there, what isn’t there. Areas that need further development or revision include:

1. Expectations of Commissioners: Attendance, excused absences
2. Committee structure and appointments process to committees
3. Adjust the quorum so that it is not based on a number, but on a percentage of those consistently attending meetings
4. Internal Commissioner assessment, accountability, and removal process

It was noted that the CPC received a request from Monica of the DOJ to see the CPC’s By-Laws, and said she’d give us feedback.

Request for Agenda Items for Aug 25th meeting at Sterling Rec Center

1. Mr. Clopton suggested that we look at our Use of Force Rees and most current drafts of Use of Force by CDP, once received
2. Special Units: Mr. Body recalled that Sgt Jones had said they use the same general GPOs, but they also have some special orders. The CPC should gain some familiarity with special units, such as vice, gang units, etc. Would also like to take a look at whether Use of Force issues were with Special Units or general police officers.
3. Dr. Rhonda would like an update from representatives attending Community Relations Board, Training Review, and MHRAC meetings.
4. Request made to follow up from the Retreat in Executive Session for last hour of the meeting, if needed, so that we can plan out next steps. This request serves as public notice of the potential and likely need for Executive Session at next meeting.

Public Comment Period

Dr. Rhonda asked for feedback on what community members would like to see included in Annual Report; any items you’d like on agenda going forward; what you’d like Community-Police relations to look like. She then reviewed the Ground Rules for the public comment period.

Anthony provided information: Update – the CPRB emergency ordinance was passed by City Council. (Anthony had to leave the CPC for a family matter.)

Sgt. Jones asked if people know what Problem Oriented Policing is, and then gave an example of a neighborhood that was concerned about prostitution. Police officers came up with a plan. They got prostitutes off the corner, put decoys on the corner, and then arrested as many customers as possible. After it was resolved, the police went back to see what went well, and what didn’t go well.

1. Pierre Napier- Main thing he needs to say, is that when he comes to these meetings he comes as a black tax payer regarding the killing of black men by white police. Dr. Rhonda asked what kinds of specific things could be possible solutions, in Cleveland? He
answered prosecution, prosecution, prosecution. Then, he stated that he felt the Monitoring Team was an insult, to pay $5 million to the team. Feels black people have been given things in increments. Dr. Rhonda asked if hosting a Town Hall on race and how race affects police might be something to proactively address his concerns?

2. Responding to the use of neo-Nazi by Mr. Napier, Mr. Clopton asked that the word neo-Nazi not be used.

3. A community member thanked the CPC for being here, and stated that Commissioners needed to be mindful of the constitutional rights of people, like Mr. Napier, to say things. Dr. Rhonda acknowledged people’s constitutional rights to speak, but reminded the community member that the CPC has ground rules. The community member asked about the number of days involved in making a complaint against the police. Referring to the Rebecca Whitbey case, in which the docket said she had a hearing in 2012 and she was found guilty and that is false, the speaker stated she would like to understand how investigations are being done.

4. A community member expressed that he recently celebrated his 60th birthday as a black man and that he has two sons who chose to live elsewhere because they weren’t comfortable here. He stated there is a flaw in this reform process. We can’t have bias free policing in a biased world. He mentioned that the CPC doesn’t even have all the Commissioners here who represent different parts of the community. He would suggest looking at parts of the community needed for the discussion, such as the prosecutor.

5. A community member expressed that she was not sure what the purview of the CPC is, but she would like the CPC to make recs on larger issues, such as having an independent prosecutor? She recently took part in a conference to end the war on drugs, and thinks the CPC should weigh in on that. Mass incarceration problem, perhaps drug-only offenders should be released, etc.

6. A community member expressed that he continues to believe that the City is not engaging in good faith in the Consent Decree, and not addressing findings. According to the 6-month Monitor Report, the state of OPS/PRB is dire, worse than Monitoring Team was aware. It annoys me that the CPC recs were ignored; disappointed in process.

7. A community member prefaced her comments by giving thanks to the CPC, CDP and community. She suggested it may be prudent to do a statement of focus and purpose at top of each meeting to remind people of why we are here. She stated that bias free policing should mean that people are not targeted based on race, also not women, mentally ill. Reading from a statement she gave during the RNC at an open forum, she asked: What will be the political response of black women to the homicides of black men, children and youth? How will we the black women respond to the numerous social problems that are at the root of these problems? Incarceration, economic Katrinas, job deserts. Black people become slaves to process. We are concerned here with women and children, many rape victims, those shot by police receive no compensation, there is a lack the political will to make changes. Black women need to stand up.
8. A community member asked Sgt. Jones, regarding a question he raised at a previous meeting, if she had done any follow up on the veracity and impact of a policy stated in an article in the Washington Post. He also asked if any specifics could be shared regarding why the ED search would be relaunched. Dr. Rhonda restated that the Commission decided by vote to relaunch the search.

9. A community member commended Donald Trump for bringing the white supremacy out of the closet. It was the speaker’s belief that the police will vote with him in the election, and he feels the system is sinking. He stated that America is moving toward two societies, and that Matthew Barge (the Monitor) is receiving blood money.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m., and Commissioners prepared to go into Executive Session.

Three commissioners were in attendance for that portion of the CPC meeting: Mr. Clopton, Ms. Klegg, and Dr. Rhonda. The executive session ended about 8:30 p.m.