Cleveland Community Police Commission (CPC)
Jerry Sue Thornton Center
Tri-C Campus
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 22, 2017
6p to 8:30p

Attendees: Commissioners: Lieutenant Paul Baeppler; Dr. Kathy Clegg; Dr. V. Yvonne Conner; Gordon Friedman (Tardy); LaToya Logan

Staff: Peter Whitt, Enlightenment Consultant Group; Jason Goodrick, ChiChi Thompson, Rosie Jovic

Absences: Commissioners Anthony Body; Mario Clopton-Zymler (Excused); Dean Lee Fisher; Lynn Hampton; Amanda King;
Detective Steve Loomis; Dylan Sellers

Dr. Conner called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Introduction of Administrative Assistant, Rosemary Jovic by Executive Director, Jason Goodrick

Introduction of Policy Analyst Candidate Bethany Studenic, LSW, MSSA by Executive Director, Jason Goodrick

Studenic presented an overview of her past work experiences and accomplishments for 10 minutes. The floor was then opened for Commissioner and community questions.

A community member asked about progress of the staff right now. Studenic expressed positive emotions for the new staff and that there is a palpable energy. She is excited and can sense a new direction. There is an opportunity for positive change.

One of the attendees wanted to know what would Studenic do if one of her recommendations could not get funding. Studenic has experience with programming from start to finish, but believes there are funders in the city as well as the county. Leveraging the right connections is necessary. Also, there are ways to collect data that are inexpensive. Getting buy-in and identifying cost effective tools are viable.

A member in the community described the Consent Decree as being mostly qualitative data and wondered if Studenic has experience with this kind of data. Studenic stated she has experience with qualitative data and touched on the notion that all data is not merely yes or no, it is going to be more concepts. Being able to code it properly and finding a theme will help make it quantitative.

A question from the audience was asked about Studenic’s experience with organizations that are overtly resistant to gaining data institutionally. She said she absolutely has experience and has worked with people who are resistant. Showing how data is effective is significant and actually putting the data in front of people helps immensely. Mostly, it comes down to a funding issue because the ROI is sometimes not apparent to outside stakeholders.

Studenic was asked by a community member if she has experience with law enforcement databases. While she does not have that exact experience, Studenic has worked with healthcare databases, alongside many other types of databases. She also explains that she has vast experience with all people. Moreover, she practices empathy and wants to lend her skills.

One of the community members voiced that the Policy Analyst should not have experience with Police Database, and could thus make determinations without personal bias.
An attendee commented that they were surprised at the vast size of the budget, but understood the Commissioners could not do all the work alone. Jason explained that the budget also reflects upcoming issues. Before a full time staff, the Commissioners had to do all of the research themselves. Now we are working on more staffing analysis and training to be bias free. As we reach deadlines, we will set work for staff to help the Commissioners come up with the best interests of the Consent Decree.

No Commissioners had questions about the GPO. (End 6:30).

**Social Media Feedback/Public Comments;** ChiChi Thompson, Community Engagement Coordinator
ChiChi discussed that applications are still available online until September 8th for a 13th Commissioner. Additionally, on the website there is a new page for community suggestions under feedback. Finally, an electronic request to the Chief of Police has been sent in regards to the 65 new police cars. As soon as we receive a response, we will update the site.

**Disciplinary GPO Comments-** Lieutenant Paul Baeppler
Lieutenant Baeppler discussed the GPO and community members voiced their comments and questions.

A community member asked if Commissioners are making GPO information up on their own. A Co-Chair Commissioner explained that in a previous meeting, we broke out in small groups as a community and made recommendations that were sent to the Chief and other stakeholders. This document came from our Community.

Another member of the community was concerned with the wording of “conduct unbecoming”. Commissioners explained that the wording has since been removed.

Meeting attendees asked about the stages of the GPO in regards to drafts. Once it is no longer a draft, stated the Commissioners, we will share it with the community.

When community members look at the semiannual reports, there are multiple drafts that receive feedback and they have yet to see draft language. A Commissioner explained the GPO is still a working draft so it is not available on the website.

A member of the public asked what was incorporated and what was not in the draft. An attendee also explained that one page of highlights does not help refresh their memories. Commissioners explained that they are trying to create a culture of transparency, fairness, and consistency while maintaining high standards. This is only one page from a few.

Jason interjected that as soon as we get the information, we will send it out and have the community make remarks. We will breakdown feedback for further recommendations if need be. Right now, this GPO will be added.

A member of the public added that they would like someone from the CPD to attend these meetings to help with some explanations as well as to own these agreements. One of the Commissioners expressed their agreement.

**Charles See from the Monitoring Team** again reiterated that the Monitoring Team does not want to rush to judgement because of a deadline. They do not want to miss something that is important. The Monitoring Team has not always updated the new deadline in real time, but once they feel that the stakeholders and the parties will agree upon it, then they will provide updates.

**Public Comment Period**
Peter Whitt read the ground rules for the Public Comment Period and said that community members can submit additional comments to info@clepc.org.

The floor was then opened for Community Comments.

A member of the audience handed out information in regards to the CPPA website. The history of the CPPA in the “About Me” section was highlighted. The audience member would like to see an alternate history provided. A Commissioner said that they do not have power to change this, but advised the attendee to become a citizen advocate and reach out personally.

In a previous meeting, a community member requested a meeting with Judge Oliver, and wanted to know the timeline for this meeting. Also, the member of the community commented that they would like the opportunity to voice their opinion and add wording about collective bargaining in regards to the police department. A Commissioner added that they are working towards a town hall in September for training.

An attendee expressed that they believe the Consent Decree does not have enough consequences and more is needed to think outside of the box. An example would be to hold politicians accountable who do not follow through with the Consent Decree. A Co-Chair said that this will be noted for the next Consent Decree meeting.

An audience member expressed that until a policy could be put in place to change collective bargaining to not rehire, the cycle will repeat itself.

One of the attendees believes The City is unsupportive of the police department and is dragging its feet on the Consent Decree. Moreover, they said the equipment plan is not adequate. A Co-chair explained that they have made a request for equipment information and will follow up accordingly.

A member of the audience expressed that they want to know what the officers are supposed to do with all of these changes. They also voiced that to be a good officer means ensuring the laws are upheld. It is not about color, age, or status. They believe if this is violated, there should be consequences. Finally, everyone deserves to be treated fairly.

Commissioners
A community member is concerned with the unapproved minutes from June and July meetings and questioned the commitment of the Commissioners of the meeting. Another member of the audience echoed the concern with lack of attendance. A Co-chair responded that Commissioners are committed to the City and have many ties to the community, which made them viable Commissioners. It does not diminish their commitment if they are not at the meeting due to many commitments.

Another member of the audience asked if the Commissioners receive payment for their time. A Co-chair explained that they are all volunteers who receive no payment or stipend. This is all on their free time.

A member of the community noted that Dr. Clegg makes time to come to all of their meetings. She also wants more advocacy and discussion in regards to the homeless population. One Commissioner said that there is a specific avenue that discusses mental health and homelessness. Another said they will add mental health and homelessness to the next agenda to discuss.

Meetings
An attendee articulated that meetings are roundabout and progression is slow.

Peter Whitt said that we are all here with different experiences and this is a space to appreciate all viewpoints.

An attendee said previously, there was a discussion about visiting training officers in Southern Ohio, and has not heard about more training for CPD. One of the Co-Chairs said that they are unable to schedule ride-alongs and training viewing on behalf of the community, but community member may. Another Commissioner explained that
citizens can ask the police department if they would like to sit in on a training, or even go on a ride along so long as you agree to a background check.

Peter Whitt reiterated applications are available for the 13th Commissioner position, and community comments are welcomed on the sheets provided. (Ended 7:54).

**Community Engagement Assessment**
Dr. Conner then provided an overview of the Community Engagement Assessment. This document has been shared with the Commissioners and ChiChi will help record comments. The document was unable to be approved during the meeting because we did not have quorum. The assessment will be release this to stakeholders on August 28, 2017.

**Dr. Conner then wanted to acknowledge all organizations in attendance;**
- Carl Stokes Brigade
- Black on Black Crime
- League of Women Voters
- Showing Up for Racial Justice
- Department of Justice
- Cleveland Police Public Safety Recruitment Team
  - We will be having major recruitment events around the community and we want to me more visible and accessible. We want officers from the community.
- Mental Health Advisory Committee.

A Community Member expressed that Commissioners should be paid and there should be less excused absences. Commissioners should have full voting power. They asked for greater public diversity from other members in the community.

**Approval of Minutes**
June 2017 and July 2017 Full Commission Meetings were unable to be approved due to no quorum.

**Motion to Adjourn Meeting at 8:14 PM.**