

POLICE BUREAUWIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

Meeting Summary

Wednesday, June 22, 2023

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

PBAC Members:

Corinne Frechette

Nirel Wardwell Jackson

Rich Ham-Kucharski

Meg Robinson

Brian Garner

Kala Franklin

John Jackson

Alexander Kaplan

Will Terry

Patrick Patterson

PPB Staff:

AC Jeff Bell

Tori Rohrbach

Nick MacDonald

Romla Shields

Guest(s):

Sgt. Aaron Schmautz, (PPA President)

AGENDA

6:00	Welcome and Introductions
6:15	Guest Speaker (Aaron Schmautz)
6:45	Program Q+A
7:00	Budget Updates
7:15	Onboarding PowerPoint
7:40	Mission statement starter/ Housekeeping items

Guest Speaker / Q&A:

[To Aaron Schmautz] Could you give us a little bit of an overview on what the Union does, what it provides for its membership and what your role is?

Union membership in every kind of work group is different. At the core of it, the labor movement is all about wages, benefits, pensions and navigating kind of workplace conditions and those things. Obviously, we're a union, we provide those things. Policing obviously is a very important role in our community and the reality is, is that police unions don't have the lawful right to strike and don't have the lawful right to do some of the other things that might be chilling to public safety, which I think is important.

I view our role in our community, is to be a conduit both for our officers to the community and for the community to the officers. [...]

Really our role is to effectively navigate questions about conduct and questions about what our officers are engaging in. You know there's a lot of policies and procedures and effectively we just we exist to ensure that due process exists and that officers when they are accused of something that they have the ability to navigate the system in a fair way.

There's also a business side of what we do. We're a pretty big organization and so I have a secretary, treasurer and some staff and we navigate a lot of different things to provide for our members and for the community. We're very kind of philanthropically involved in our community and most importantly, when officers are looking for ways to navigate politics or different community groups or other things, I'm on full release. I have the ability to go and meet with people and just hear what our community needs and make sure that that information gets to our officers and the way they can receive it.

What is the [PPB] budget and also how does that compare to say the Sheriff's Office or other policing organizations?

Challenging question to answer definitively-

FBI standard = ~2.2-2.4 officers per 1,000 residents (Portland has never met that level of staffing, but overall: officer: citizen ratio has not kept with population growth)

Budget is currently not the main barrier to raising overall FTE.

Other factors:

- DPST wait times
- Retention
- Retirements
- Historical political decisions

What metrics do you use to determine staffing outside of the FBI recommended standard?

Ex. response times, 911 calls that don't get answered, etc...

Usage rate (% of shift patrol officers are on a call)

- Balance is important
- Very low rate would suggest officers have too much down time/wasteful spending
- High rate increases likelihood of staff burnout/ reduces self-initiated engagement

911 response times

- Long response times reduce public trust (even on low-priority calls)
- Long backlog of calls may shorten/reduce quality of interaction – especially re: low priority calls

Is there enough political will to get Portland to the FBI recommended level of police staffing (~1400)?

Political will seems to be sufficient but it isn't the most significant barrier.

Many factors contribute.

Ex.

- DPST Wait times
- Training Division capacity (not productive to sacrifice quality of training to accelerate hiring)
- Retirements counter net recruits
- Many specialty units within PPB (process is complex/ officers are not interchangeable)
- Growth must be strategic / bureau priorities change over time based on community needs/crime trends.

Is there an opportunity to utilize PS3s for tasks like victim advocacy/ tasks that don't require a sworn officer?

Complex answer. Most cities utilize some kind of program similar to PDX PS3 program.

PS3s are useful, but utility is situational. Sworn officers have statutory authority to follow-up on crime reports.

Concerns around community perception if victim expected sworn-officer response.

Does 805 figure refer to total PPB staff or just officers?

Only sworn officers

Non-sworn staff include positions in records dept., crime analysts, IT, etc.

Total PPB staff est. 1100-1200

Who does PPA represent, specifically?

Portland Police Association represents the line workers, sworn officers, sergeants, detectives, criminalists, PS3s. And we also represent our dispatchers. They have a separate contract, but we are their representation.

PPB Leadership have a separate union contract.

Has PPB leadership looked into cities that have faced challenges similar to Portland's, and solved them effectively? Is there a model that has been effective somewhere else that Portland should seek to emulate?

Full scope of Portland's current situation seems to be unprecedented; other agencies around the country are facing similar problems; no easy answers.
Similarly-sized cities don't always have the same problems. Seattle has a similarly-sized agency and is close-by but still faces different recruiting challenges.
PPB can try to replicate effective models found for specific variables (many issues are not unique to Portland).

Issues unique to Portland/PPB:

- Reputation
- Lack of consensus on what the city's public safety model should look like

Could you expand on "defining our public safety model"?

Portland is diverse; has districts with variable cultures / unique public safety challenges
Many different opinions/ perspectives on what Constitutional policing looks like
PPB must be nimble enough to be responsive to diverse communities in a culturally-specific way; needs to integrate different models into one efficient/functional system

How will the Mayor's prohibition of open-air drug-use be enforced? / What is the difference between the current state laws and the order Mayor Wheeler announced? / Will the order change staffing for Narcotics/Organized Crime Unit?

Measure 110 had the effect of shifting cultural norms. General public attitude re: drug use has become more permissive.
Mayor's order is a technical change; "Violation" to Misdemeanor
Heightens government interest and gives leverage to police enforcing the law
No direct budget/staffing changes included. Building capacity of NOC team is a priority noted by PPB leadership.

Budget Update

No significant change from last meeting.
FY 22-23 officially over; Adopted budget goes into effect
PPB projected to land within 1% of allocation

Onboarding Presentation/ Housekeeping

Explanation/Review of PBAC function
Calendar review
Public meeting/public records law

City-assigned emails to be assigned to each member for PBAC related communications
Current charter
By-laws; need for clarification/ possible amendments
Request for desired guests/ meeting topics

Discussion/ Vote on in-person gathering

Discussion/Vote re: Hybrid meetings and scheduling

Mission Statement/ Closing

Discussion re: need for update of PBAC Mission Statement to reflect current membership/
community needs.
Members shared insights/goals for upcoming year

DIRECT ASKS:

Current authority/Org structure chart for PPB / CSD

Action Items (Next Steps):

Update PBAC website/event calendar
Member Bios
Portland Building reservation/ hybrid meeting requirements
Send official invitation for gathering
Update/request feedback from members not in attendance re: schedule change, hybrid meetings
