

PBAC meeting minutes May 17, 2023

A meeting of the Police Bureau-wide Advisory Committee was held online on May 17, 2023. Members in attendance included: Nirel Jackson Wardwell, Chair, Karin Branch, Vice Chair, Doug Blauer, Corinne Frechette, Megan Robinson

Members not in attendance included: James Ellis, David Komeijj, Richard Ham-Kucharski, AnaMaria Perez, Maggie Vining

PPB Staff: Deputy Chief Mike Frome, Chief's Office PPB, Ken Lee, Sr. Bus. Operations Manager Business Services, CSD, Nick Macdonald, Performance Analyst CSD, Brody Sargent, Equity Data Analyst, Equity & Inclusion Office PPB, Romla Johnson-Shields, Equity Data Analyst, Equity & Inclusion Office, Tori Rohrbach, Admin. Support, CSD

Approval of minutes

Absence of a quorum prevented the approval of minutes.

Introductions

Nick Macdonald (CSD Performance Analyst who has taken over from Pam Neronha in supporting PBAC).

Prospective members Brian Garner, Courtney Cox, Ira Hill, John Jackson, Lane Hickey, Phil Keim Will Terry

Reports

DC Frome gave an update from PPB:

- Gun violence was 'horrible' last weekend— especially tragic was people being hit accidentally by bullets not intended for them. That said, gun violence to date this year is lower than it was a year ago. We are hoping that trend continues.
- Chief Lovell reinstated the afternoon traffic detail, assigning 14 officers who are focused on speeding and drunk driving.
- The Bureau is partnering with big box retail stores to apprehend people engaged in retail theft. They hope to particularly to apprehend people with existing warrants and / or illegal guns.

- East Precinct has been continuing a pilot program with Knight Cancer Institute funding to recover stolen cars. A full presentation will be given at a later date, but they have developed a statistical model to look at cars and determine how likely they are to be stolen. The model uses factors like broken windows, missing license plates etc. to identify targets for traffic stops. The model has shown initial success, with the rate of stolen cars identified per traffic stops going from around 1 per 40 traffic stops previously to 1 per 3-4 traffic stops with this new tool. It is also 'race neutral' and it is hoped that it will reduce the risk that marginalized communities might be targeted for stops at higher rates. Walking patrols downtown are being used in high drug use hotspots.
- North Precinct in partnership with State Police have begun targeting street racing, arriving early to prevent racers from getting locked into a location. Recently they arrested 5 people, issued about 15 citations and towed several cars.
- Rose Festival is coming up and a lot of resources will be devoted to parades.

Questions:

- Can you speak to the recent rash of overdoses?
 - 8 people died recently - lab results are not back yet from the Medical Examiner, but it is suspected that a recent shipment of drugs - most likely fentanyl - is a lot more uprise than people are used to. This situation can be catastrophic for users and result in increased overdoses.
- Is there an update on ShotSpotter? Is there earmarked funding?
 - There is no earmarked funding or plan on how to pay for it - Council would likely have to approve funding for it.
- Is there an update on the body-worn camera process?
 - Policy is now in place for a 60-day pilot in Central Precinct and at FIT starting in August. If successful it will be rolled out to the whole of PPB. Even if all goes well it could be as late as Spring before we see rollout.

Ken Lee gave a budget update (PowerPoint attached):

- Council approved the budget today - highlights include:
 - 43 officer positions reinstated at PPB. These are not new officers, but the budget changes reflect reinstatement of authorization to hire.
 - \$1m for Stolen Vehicle pilot.
 - \$350k for Multnomah County retail theft initiative to add additional staff in the DA's office.
 - Budget Management Strategies:
 - There are some concerns about the total cost of ownership of the new vehicle fleet.
 - The 'Chiefs purse' (discretionary fund) is funded at \$650k
 - This was a tough council session - there were a lot of competing priorities, but this is probably as good an outcome as could be expected.
 - With two months left in the fiscal year PPB expects to come in at around \$278k over budget. This is around 0.12% deviation from the planned budget, which is impressive on a budget this size.

Recruitment process and other PBAC business:

- PBAC recruitment for new members has closed, and shortlisting and interviews will begin this week.
- The Committee will work on a revised orientation process for new members as they come on board.
- The City will provide city emails to all PBAC members.
- The option to hold meetings in person with hybrid options exists now. A range of venues are possible, including the Portland Building, the Justice Center, or several other city facilities including a building on Mississippi or the North Precinct Building. The City would cater these meetings if they were held in person.
- PBAC has no standing budget. The committee can make requests to the Chiefs Office, which will be prioritized alongside competing needs.
- PBAC would like to hold social events and accept donations of food. City ethics rules currently prohibit this, although the Mayor's office believes they have a potential solution to have supplies donated to the Mayor's Office, who may then distribute them as they see fit.

Acknowledgements of members leaving the committee

- We are grateful for the service of Karin Branch, David Komeiji, Don Levine, AnaMaria Perez, Maggie Vining, and hope that they will stay in touch in the future.
- Exiting members shared remarks on things they had learned during their time - comments included:
 - 0 "The quality of participation was high - everyone wanted to do a good job and people really wanted to be here."
 - 0 "Focus on what you want to achieve and collaborate, collaborate, collaborate!"
 - 0 "Virtual was hard - face to face is better!"
 - 0 "I learned a lot about the police budget."
 - 0 "It's a long game - but our advice and recommendations are being put in place - that feels good. The last three years were challenging beyond measure."
 - 0 "I learned a ton about how the Bureau functions - how everything works. The Chiefs have been very serious about reform - I was skeptical at first but I have been impressed. It has been a great partnership."
 - 0 "Recommend bold ideas - I love guest speakers - don't be afraid to look at the big picture at the budget - it may not be enough."
 - 0 "I joined to represent people working with the unhoused. I felt like we were on our own island. Our recommendations are being heard though - I feel really positive now."