

City of Portland

Portland Committee on Community-Engaged Policing (PCCEP)

PCCEP Full Committee Meeting

Meeting Notes

October 18, 2023, 6:00-8:30 PM

Ongoing Members in Attendance: Celeste Carey (Co-Chair), Pastor Robin Wisner (Co-Chair), Byron Vaughn, Tia Palafox, Leslie Martinez, and Ashley Schofield

Guests:

Stephanie Howard, Director of Community Safety (Mayor's Office)
Sarah Ames, Deputy City Attorney
Mary Claire Buckley, Inspector General for PPB
Franz Schoening, Captain PPB Training Division
Jonas Geissler, DOJ
Sameer Kanal, Manager of the ABC Unit of Community Safety Division
Dr. Tom Christoff, COCL

New Members:

Odelia Zuckerman (New Youth Member)
Kerry Driver
Kip Silverman
Mollay Ramos

Timestamps for the corresponding video are noted in bold, underlined text.

NOTE: A sampling of the questions and comments for each agenda item is presented below. Questions and comments are presented in summarized form, not as literal quotes.

- Call to Order **0:7:38**
- Introductions **0:7:49**
- Community Agreements **0:14:31**
- Meeting Overview **0:15:28**
- Updates **0:17:10**
 - New Member Orientation Part 1 completed (10/14/23)
 - New Member training will be ongoing, with another session to be scheduled for the late November/early December time frame, with the Amici possibly participating.

- COCL Community Engagement Debrief **0:18:12**
 - [Slide] What is the COCL & what do they do?
 - [Slide] Background on COCL/Community Engagement Discussion
 - [PCCEP Co-Chair Celeste Carey gives background on the function of the COCL and about discussion the co-chairs have had with Dr. Christoff about making the COCL quarterly report presentations more meaningful and relevant to the PCCEP and the community.]

0:18:31

- **Dr. Tom Christoff, COCL:** We've been doing this for 8-9 years. The reports can be dense. We typically don't give the history in each quarter. But we lose the sense of PCCEP understanding the process and the reforms that have been made. We've defaulted to a presentation of what needs to be done. But there's been a lot of change - Dr Rosenbaum retiring + new PCCEP members + new remedies in the Settlement Agreement. It feels like there's a chance to take a step back. The PCCEP presentations and engagement can be better. It's good to also hear from new people. We want to know what is most informative to you and how we can we best support that. **0:24:47.**
 - **Celeste Carey, PCCEP Co-Chair:** This report guides us in creating recommendations. Hopefully these presentations will be more meaningful going forward. **0:28:04**
 - [Pastor Wisner, PCCEP Co-Chair, & PCCEP Staff explain that nothing was decided in the meeting with Dr. Christoff and that this was the start of a continuing conversation about how to make the COCL report town halls more understandable and more relevant.] **0:29:27**
 - **PCCEP Staff:** Dr. Christoff thinks it would be helpful to try to convey trends over time. For example, how the use of force changed over time. Just comparing quarter to quarter doesn't do that well. We can make it more compelling for the public. **0:31:16**
 - [PCCEP Co-Chair Celeste Carey asks if the community and other members have questions.] **0:33:01**
 - [PCCEP Member Kip Silverman asks what source the data comes from, what metrics exist, what trends are tracked, and what the key performance indicators are so the members have concrete information to share with the community. Dr. Christoff answers.] **0:33:27**
 - **Dan Handelman, Portland Copwatch:** The City has paid out over \$2 million in court settlements resulting from injuries to the public caused by police during the 2020 protests. Settlement Agreement Paragraph 170 E-5 says the COCL reports are supposed to present information on the number, nature, and settlement amount of civil suits against PPB officers regardless of whether the city is dependent in litigation. That data has never been presented as part of the COCL reporting and I'm hoping that PCCEP will push for that and that the new compliance team will actually include those. **0:39:00**
 - [Dr. Christoff replies to Dan that this is the kind of feedback he was hoping to get and he noted it.]
 - [In response to Community Member #1 question about what Dr. Christoff thinks are the main focus areas in the COCL report that people are most interested in, Dr. Christoff replies that there's always a concern about use of force and a concern about police accountability, as well as about disrespectful policing, even if it does not involve the use of force or lead to a complaint.] **0:41:07**
 - **Dr. Tom Christoff, COCL:** Remember that the settlement agreement is a floor, not a ceiling. Seventy five percent of that floor has been met. While the community may not feel like there's been a lot of change in terms of the policies, in terms of the training, in terms of the auditing process, there actually has been. But I think that we're still hearing from people that it doesn't feel like it. And so, if there's a way that we can better address that and show the progress, I'd like to work on that. **0:41:55**
- PCCEP Bylaws Review **0:52:12**
 - [PCCEP Co-Chair Celeste Carey provides background on the revision of the PCCEP

Bylaws. Seven of 13 sections were adopted in July. Now, the remaining six need to be voted on.]

- [Slide] Remaining Sections & Proposed Changes (VI, VII, VIII)
- [Slide] Remaining Sections & Proposed Changes (IX, X, XI)
- [PCCEP Member Leslie Martinez reads and explains the changes made to the following sections: VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI.] **0:53:58**
- [PCCEP Co-Chair Celeste Carey clarifies that this is an internal matter of PCCEP governance. While space is being made for public comment, comments will not have any impact on the changes that have been proposed or the vote by PCCEP members.] **0:57:07**
- Public Comment on the Proposed Bylaws Changes **0:58:20**
- PCCEP members vote on proposed Bylaws changes. All members vote Yes. **1:12:27**

- Break **1:14:25**

- Contact Survey Recommendation Final Draft **1:24:18**
 - [Slide] What is a contact survey?
 - [PCCEP Co-Chair Celeste Carey explains what a contact survey is. Also emphasizes that, while PPB officers would help connect the public to this survey, the survey program would be administered outside of PPB so the community feels freer to comment on their experiences in coming into contact with PPB officers.] **1:25:24**
 - PCCEP Staff: There have been a number of public discussions about this recommendation and the public's suggestions received so far have been incorporated into the recommendation. **1:28:20**
 - [PCCEP Member Byron Vaughn reads the recommendation.] **1:30:44**
 - PCCEP Co-Chair Celeste Carey: This is to address a very real concern of Portlanders that their concerns, their fears of real harms, don't have a way to be expressed and to be recorded and utilized to change our processes. This is what we do in PCCEP. We take what we hear from the community. We take what we see as disparities based on the COCL report and then we make a recommendation based on that to change and improve the relationship with the police and the city and those of us who live here. **1:37:55**
 - Comment from PCCEP Members on the Recommendation **1:39:40**
 - Odelia Zuckerman, PCCEP member: How will results of the surveys be made available to the public? What does a response look like to a survey that reports a problem? **1:41:27**
 - Celest Carey, PCCEP Co-Chair: The body that creates the survey and oversees the process will probably create a quarterly or twice-annual report, similar to what the COCL does. **1:42:20**
 - PCCEP Staff: Good suggestion. The committee hasn't discussed this before but that seems in line with the recommendation.
 - Kip Silverman, PCCEP Member: There's a part of this where PPB has to agree that officers will self-identify on request - otherwise there's no way to identify specific officers. I believe the policy is officers are supposed to self-identify. We need to see if PPB policy change is needed. Also, we need to make sure the ability to fill out survey is made available in multiple ways for non-English speakers and people with disabilities - languages, multiple formats. **1:46:38**

- [PCCEP Member Kerry Driver asked if the link or form for the survey be pre-populated with the identification of the police officer, which would prevent the situation that Kip mentioned of the officer refusing to identify themselves? **1:57:25**
 - PCCEP Staff, responding to Kerry, said yes, currently understanding is that officer information would be included when the recipient of the survey form was given access to it. In addition, PCCEP Staff said this is one of a host of technical issues that would have to be figured out by the people creating that system, and this recommendation is not the place to figure out those details.
 - [PCCEP Member Odelia Zuckerman asked whether PCCEP could guarantee that someone filing a survey for a bad incident would receive follow-up?] **2:03:17**
 - PCCEP Staff: That's a good suggestion to make sure that there is a closing of the loop to get back to the person who filled out the survey if any action is taken.
 - [PCCEP Member Leslie Martinez asked how the capability of the contact survey system to ensure follow-up with someone who filed a survey would be consistent with the requirement that survey takers' information would be anonymized?] **2:05:02**
 - Celeste Carey, PCCEP Co-Chair: That's a good point. This is the kind of concerns that we will bring up with the body that is administering the program.
 - [PCCEP Staff clarified that, after the vote, changes made to the recommendation document in real time during the meeting in response to feedback will be edited to clean up bad word choices and misspellings, without changing any of the meaning of what PCCEP approves.] **2:07:25**
- Open Community Comment on the Recommendation **2:08:54**
 - [Community Member #1 raises a concern about the reference to "mental illness" in the recommendation, saying she was unclear by what that means. She said there is a whole range of disabilities secondary to brain injuries that are not mental illness, and she wouldn't want people labeled as mentally ill when in fact they are not.] **2:09:21**
 - [Community Member #2 suggests that PCCEP request the City Council create a budget item for a contractor who will create the technical infrastructure of the contact survey system.] **2:10:52**
 - Dr. Christoff, COCL: I just heard the question about working with the COCL and, I had put in the chat the technical analysis that we had provided in February. You know, these contact surveys are things that we've done in the past. We did this in 50 cities across the country. I know that we've attempted to create a contact survey in Portland. So, if there's if there's any questions or any logistical issues or methodological questions, we're always happy to help because we have done this before. **2:16:02**
 - Dan Handelman, Portland CopWatch: There were some talk before about how people who had a negative interaction should get feedback about whether any action was taken. I'm concerned that people might fill out this survey and think that it's a replacement for filing a formal complaint. Also, I

like the idea that somebody thought of about putting a checkbox in so people can self-select if they want to not be totally anonymous or I would say if they want this to be forwarded to the oversight body for investigation. The only other thing I have is I have one word I think you should pull out and that's the word "customer." Because customers are people who make a choice to walk into a store and say 'I would like your help I want to buy something from your store.' But, many many people who have interactions with police do so without any choice. **2:17:12**

- [PCCEP Co-Chair Celeste Carey calls for the vote on the recommendation.] **2:18:58**
- Additional discussion on the recommendation
 - [PCCEP Member Odelia Zuckerman asks for a pause to confirm that community's suggestions were noted in the recommendation.] **2:19:20**
 - PCCEP Staff: Thank you for pausing on that, Odelia. I did make note of Dan's suggestions. What else did community say that needs to be included?
 - [Celeste Carey, PCCEP Co-Chair, PCCEP Staff, and other members discuss the earlier concern raised about the blanket use of the term "mentally ill."] **2:20:08**
 - [PCCEP Co-Chair Celeste Carey reads a statement in the Zoom Chat – the definition of "mental illness" is in the Settlement Agreement in Paragraph 41. Co-Chair Carey states that, even though there is an unfortunate connotation with the use of the term "mental illness," the PCCEP must use that term because that is what is in the Settlement Agreement.] **2:21:20**
 - [PCCEP Staff clarifies the intention of the contact survey process is not for individual accountability for individual complaints about harms done. It is intended to be more a high-level look at general patterns of behavior of individual officers, which can be used for officer performance evaluations, indicating where individual officers may need additional training.] **2:27:30**
- The vote on the recommendation is redone. The members unanimously vote in favor of approving the recommendation. **2:32:50**
- Open Public Comment **2:34:10**
 - Community Member #3: The reason the term "mental illness" in the Settlement Agreement is the police assume that anyone having any kind of difficulty is mentally ill. They are probably lumping it all together and this needs to be mentioned. They may even be labeling the deaf and people with other disabilities as mentally ill. **2:35:02**
 - Mollay Ramos, PCCEP Member: Can undocumented immigrants fill out contact surveys even if they are not citizens? **2:37:02**
 - PCCEP Staff: The answer is yes. The idea is that the personal information of the person filling out the survey is not important.
 - Facilitator: We strengthened the sanctuary law for undocumented immigrants several years ago. The police are not allowed to ask anybody if they are citizens. That is illegal. If they do, there are accountability measures.
- What's Next **2:39:50**
 - There is a meeting on Wed., Oct. 25 of the Settlement & Policy Subcommittee, rescheduled from earlier in the month.

- The 10/25 meeting next week will be the PPB presentation of their Stops Data Report
- Meeting Adjourned