

Title of Recommendation	Community Advisory Group(s) Evaluation		
Author(s): (Subcommittee or committee members)	Marcia Perez, Lakayana Drury Racial Equity subcommittee	Date presented	Created 5/21/20 Revised 7/21/20 Presented 7/28/20 APPROVED 7/28/20

Summary of Recommendation:

The PCCEP Racial Equity subcommittee recommends that the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) conduct a thorough review of each advisory group that seeks to inform the PPB and build community connections. Additionally, it is recommended that no new committees be established until a review is completed, which would help develop a uniform standard of operations for advisory councils. Such evaluation would also help avoid duplicative efforts and provide the needed information related to the support necessary in order to carry out the mission of advisory councils.

Explanation of recommendation:

The President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing outlines six pillars which seek to reform policing in a comprehensive and inclusive manner that incorporate community based-initiatives. The Policy and Oversight Pillar, two, emphasizes that if police are to carry out their responsibilities according to policies, they must reflect community values, thus, the interest for citizen or community review boards/committees. We know that communities will be more accepting of and respond more positively to police when they are well informed and their input has been encouraged and is valued. This supports Mayor Wheeler's statements and commitment to want to work effectively with diverse communities, and to lead an organization committed to community policing, transparency and accountability.

Since PPB continues to develop advisory councils and there is little data on the actual effectiveness of community advisory groups or citizen review committees, this recommendation would seek to clarify the value of community advisory groups to PPB and would increase trust that Portland so desperately needs and wants. It’s important to differentiate the difference of advocacy and oversight of advisory groups and their intersections/functionality. Seeing that PPB does not have a specific budget other than funds from staff time including overtime, dedicated to supporting the existing advisory groups, this recommendation seeks to clarify how much funding is allocated toward community advisory groups, that actually results in specific outcomes related to helping PPB make decisions by obtaining a diverse set of inputs from the community.

The PPB has encouraged public engagement and collaboration through their community engagement plan and advisory groups and we know that Portland residents will likely improve perceptions of police through effective and meaningful collaboration. Simply having conversations can increase trust and legitimacy and help departments make better decisions. By enhancing community advisory councils, efficiency and effectiveness, the PCCEP seeks to improve trust and legitimacy between communities, as eventually measured by annual surveys. To roll out this recommendation, the PCCEP RE Subcommittee recommends the following steps:

1. Collaborate with PPB community advisory council staff coordinators/chairs, law enforcement representatives, PCCEP members and community members to update the PPB Advisory Groups website that would accurately reflect the mission and values that reflect the group desired outcomes, while also drafting uniform by-laws and guidelines for each group.
2. This collaborative would also develop a needs assessment for each advisory group to determine its functionality.
3. Use the results of the needs assessment to determine how each group can be supported by PPB and hold PPB accountable to the structures already in place to enhance community connections.
4. Develop a framework in coordination with the PPB that would require PPB to report results back to the PCCEP and greater community.
5. The framework would demonstrate the following:
 - a. How each advisory council/group impacts outcomes related to community engagement
 - b. If groups perceive or believe they've influenced changes either within the PPB or their respective community
 - c. How community input is considered, or not

By adopting this recommendation, PPB increases its effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy when it comes to engaging with specific communities that are often disproportionately marginalized by police. This will further result in community members having a sense of voice, fairness, transparency, and impartiality in policy making and other recommendations.

How does this recommendation redress barriers to racial equity?

People of color, especially Black, Native Hawaiian, and Other Pacific Islander communities are disproportionately impacted by PPB policies and procedures. By completing a thorough review of the existing advisory groups, this recommendation will determine the needs of currently existing groups and build capacity, while increasing trust in communities that have been affected by policing practices. Community members will be more aware of how PPB is invested in their communities.

<p>How does this recommendation improve outcomes for people with behavioral health issues, challenges and /or in crisis?</p>	<p>This recommendation will determine if current advisory councils are considering the voices of those experiencing behavioral health challenges and would allow for persons living with mental illness to share their specific needs within their cultural context. Likewise, this recommendation could give voice to members of the different abilities communities by increasing awareness of needs within their chosen communities.</p>
<p>How were marginalized and underrepresented communities, including those who will be affected by this recommendation, engaged to shape, write and otherwise develop this recommendation?</p>	<p>This recommendation was articulated by the Racial Equity subcommittee during the establishment of the PCCEP RE Subcommittee Community Engagement plan. During the brainstorming of community engagement activities, it was determined that there are several existing community advisory groups that seek to obtain community involvement that may already be working toward similar outcomes. The RE Subcommittee members determined that there's a need to better articulate what is already in place to establish community engagement outcomes. We partnered with Marlon Marion, Director of Equity & Inclusion with PPB to further determine how PCCEP can assist in strengthening already existing efforts which would further trust and avoid compromising legitimacy by duplicating and siloing efforts.</p>

Resources

Please list all relevant resources to this recommendation.

1. Portland Police Bureau Community Advisory Groups
<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/30476>
2. Portland Police Bureau Training Division Evaluation 2018 Annual Needs Assessment
<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/725855>
3. The President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing
https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/taskforce_finalreport.pdf
4. Portland Police: Where We Stand
<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/762929>