

Community Police Review Board July 10, 2018 6:00 p.m. City Manager's Office
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Ira Feitelson, Chair; Jodi Sherwood, Vice Chair, Bevin Clapper, William Distad; David J. Rheinholdt; Steven Rice; Michael Staudinger, Lynelle Wilcox

Members Absent: Robert McGinty

Staff Present: **Gretchen Bennett, Mayor/City Manager's Office**

Marc Weinstein, City Attorney's Office

Guests Present: Sgt. Kevin Hill, and Sgt. Stephen Smith, Salem Police Dept.

1. Roll Call. Chair Feitelson welcomed the group and called the meeting to order. The meeting was recorded. He welcomed guests. Introductions were shared.
2. Approval of Minutes. Member Staudinger provided formatting changes and a change to his status from present to absent. Member Staudinger motioned to approve the April 10, 2018, minutes as presented with changes; Member Distad seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.

3. Public Comment: None

4. Consideration of Requests from City Manager or Chief of Police: None

5. Downtown Enforcement Team: Sgt. Kevin Hill is with the Downtown Enforcement Team (DET). He shared his background and experience which includes SWAT and narcotics. Two years ago, he was assigned to the DET. There are now seven altogether on the team who touch base at a downtown office location. The team provides police service: the main mode of transportation for the officers is bike and they are also on foot and in vehicles.

They enforce state law and city code in the downtown core and approximately 27 miles of pathways in parks. They assist at rallies and protests. The work to use community oriented policing approaches to try to resolve issues rather than Band-Aid complex situations. This is easier to do within the DET team than when on patrol, who has a higher call volume. Arrests do not automatically lead to jail time; there are factors including the type of offense that are considered. The team works with tools such as trespass letters of consent. Sidewalks are a public right-of-way space; DET helps with clarifying questions around property.

There is a downtown crime prevention district. Based on certain offenses, a person can be excluded from that area. Variances are available under certain circumstances.

Youth engagement is a part of the team work: a program called Gladiators, for example, in conjunction with the HOME program at the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agencies. A running club with youth was started. Fishing lessons and a fishing trip is another **example, called "cops and bobbers."** **One young man turns eighteen at the end of the month and spoke to the SPD for being such a huge influence in his life through the program.** The team also helps with bike rodeo events. The team takes time when they can to have positive relationships.

Being downtown helps with the opportunity to talk with people.

The team works directly with issues related to homelessness. People don't always know what to do in situations and they call police for assistance. He spoke about the diversity of the homeless community. He explained the team takes time to learn about people and has built partnerships with many nonprofit organizations.

Sgt. Hill spoke of the LEAD program, which is Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion – qualifying persons can voluntarily enter the program. For example, if an eligible/interested person (enrolled in the program) is caught with possession of methamphetamine, there can be a call to a Navigator position, who is employed by the county. The Navigator assist with paperwork and social service connections. It is an opportunity to help break cycles and reduce cycling through the justice system.

He spoke of funds provided by a private donor which are used for the betterment of a person or community; police can assist in certain situations and then follow up with services. An immediate needs station has been established with items such as tents and socks. The station is available 24/7 for law enforcement to access as needed. The group discussed donation options.

The group discussed an issue of separating people from their property, which is a barrier for people who are homeless. **Sgt. Hill used an example of a person who had their father's ashes with them, and had become separated from their property; he assisted with locating the person and returning the ashes to him.** The group discussed sit/lie ordinance policy topics and general dynamics related to people interacting together. Discussion ensued about the importance of engaging as individuals. Member Wilcox appreciated the relationship building the department is doing.

She spoke to training she recently attended by Dr. Donna Beegle and her critical message around poverty. She mentioned the training may be of interest to officers; she described it very positively.

Sgt. Hill mentioned a One Hundred Day Challenge related to youth homelessness. He spoke of many youth who couch surf who are homeless. He discussed a workgroup actively working to build and establish emergency youth shelter. Law enforcement are at the table working hand in hand with service providers. The Board thanked Sgt. Hill for his time and the information.

6. Request for Review Hearings: None. No updates to the postponed review hearing.

7. Reports: Ride Along Update

A written status update was provided.

Member Clapper provided two observations from ride alongs attended. She expressed concern **that there didn't seem to be a good protocol for communicating with people who are deaf. She said the officer didn't seem to have the same ability with ASL as they had with other language** (later in the day there was a phone resource to assist a person who spoke Spanish). While there was a ready mechanism to assist with Spanish, there was not that same level of immediate

resource for ASL. However, she noted there is a large deaf population in Salem per capita and yet there did not seem to be a formal protocol for officers to readily access help. She asked if FaceTime would be a tool, for example. Sgt. Smith spoke of the department direction regarding working with people who are deaf and the resources officers could utilize. He spoke of the larger number of officers who speak Spanish than ASL. He described the telephonic resource of the Language Line for spoken languages. Officers have the ability to have Sgt. Hardy assist, who communicates with ASL. Another option is to write notes if they are able and willing to do written communication. Depending on what the call is, is what resources there may be. There is also certified interpreters available in some circumstances. They talked about the situation that was aggravated by not being able to communicate. She asked about having more formalization in protocol to use. Sgt. Smith indicated he can talk with the training team regarding a refresher or update regarding the protocol. He mentioned the TTY telephone system is also available.

Member Clapper observed that neither officer she rode with knew about the CPRB; she recommends for officers to know of the purpose of the board and of how complaint processes would go. Sgt. Smith spoke of the methods of communication with officers about the CPRB, observing not a lot of officers have been exposed. She spoke of the importance of officers being aware of the board, from an accountability standpoint. Sgt. Smith indicated he can remind officers of that information.

8. Adjournment. Vice Chair Sherwood moved to adjourn the meeting; Member Distad seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted, Gretchen Bennett, Staff Liaison