



City of Tacoma

Community's Police Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 12, 2024

Hybrid Meeting

6:00 p.m.

The CPAC is comprised of Chair Allen McKenzie, Vice-Chair Louis Cooper, and Committee Members Angela Mealing, Ralette Churchill, Esther Evans, Adrienne Jones, John Bordon, and Tracy Jones

Members Present: Adrienne Jones, Angela Mealing, Louis Cooper, John Bordon, Allen McKenzie, Esther Evans, Tracy Jones

Members Absent: Ralette Churchill

Staff Present: Staff Liaison Ted Richardson, Staff Liaison Chelsea Talbert, Lieutenant Jeffrey Katz, Executive Liaison Jacques Colon

Staff Absent: Council Liaison Mayor Woodards; TPD Chief of Staff Michelle Woodrow

Called to order by Chair Allen McKenzie at 6:02 pm

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the July 9, 2024 CPAC meeting.

Motion passed at 6:02

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the agenda for the CPAC meeting held on August 12, 2024

Passed at 6:03

Briefing Items

City Manager's Office

- 6:03 – Ted shared the CPAC recruitment season is coming up. The period will be August 27th to September 15th. There are 5 open seats of which four are at large seats and one youth seat. Applications are reviewed by the chair of CPAC then sent to the chair of Community Vitality and Safety Committee (CVS) who reviews applications and decides who to interview. Interviews with CVS occur November 14th. Terms start in the new year. Youth seat is September through June though can work for
- October 7th is the Committee, Board, and Commission Member Orientation. The flyer is in your inbox

Tacoma Police Department

- Contact info for Lt. Katz: jkatz@cityoftacoma.org (253) 591-5962.
- 6:09 – Lt. Katz shared there are currently 5 Community Service Officers (CSO), budgeted and hoping to get up to 10. Currently 3 are in the field and have response to 167 calls, completed 136 police reports, and spent over 308 hours on calls. There is a full-time sergeant who oversees the role and a lieutenant who helps oversee the program. CSOs will only be dispatched by a sergeant.
- Reach out to Lt. Katz via email if you would like to participate in a ride along. The Community Policing Academy (formally Citizen's Academy) is coming up in September. There is a procedure for applying and Lt. Katz highly recommends it. It is 9 - 12 weeks.
- Esther asked about the time between when a qualifying 911 call comes in and when a CSO is dispatched. Lt. Katz will look into it and get back. Allen and John would welcome a CSO to attend a CPAC meeting to learn from them

Police Reports Review

- 6:24 – Review of most recent batches of complaints starting with 23-0098 where an officer was laughing at the scene of a death which was not sustained. Louis and Adrienne both said it is common sense to not laugh at a scene of a death. Lt. Katz said there is a policy in P 1.1 which has courtesy and unbecoming performance information and shared the language associated with policies. Adrienne asked if the complaint was filed under courtesy instead of unbecoming conduct, if it would have been upheld and raised concerns about different perspectives. Tracy asked if there is a policy about body cameras being muted as they were on this scene. Lt. Katz shared there is a policy and language that body cameras don't need to be activated if officers are unlikely to interact with the public and can have them muted for personal or sensitive conversations. It is recommended that officers state why they are muting their camera before going on mute.
- 23-100 – Complainant alleges that detective was abrasive however the conduct was deemed appropriate and within training given the circumstances. Lt. Katz confirmed it is within policy.
- 23-103 – Officer told a person with a totaled car that she needs to renew her tabs. Committee members discussed that this is another example of an instance where empathy and understanding should be taken into consideration when interacting with community members who have experienced trauma instead of needing to dictate or control a space. Members also flagged bias in the writing of the report related to complainant not appearing dissatisfied as people, especially people of color, are taught not to react in front of police in order to stay alive.

- 23 – 0032 – Committee members note that the Chief signed the letter in June 2023, but the letter was not sent to the complainant until February 2024, a full 10 months of wait time. Esther flagged that all three of the previous complainant letters were significantly delayed and it's unreasonable to expect community members to be satisfied with that performance. Esther shared it reflects poorly on TPD as community members do not know that the Chief signed off on it and the delay is with the City Manager. Jacques shared he doesn't know specifics around the timelines and will bring it up and put it in the memo which will be put together from today's meeting.
- 23-0069 – There were no comments on this complaint.
- 23- 0094 – Allen asked if intent to offend needs to be proven. Lt. Katz said it is not an element listed in the policy for intent to be proven. Allen encouraged "I" language in reports for matters that are subjective. Members and Lt. Katz discussed context and that complaints come from people who have had negative experiences. Adrienne asked if there are any restorative practices in place. Lt. Katz said the limitations of the formal process is this process which is designed to find facts and make a determination. There is not a policy to support or require restorative conversations. Allen highlighted that there is no appeal process or even record of bureau-level investigations like transcripts of testimony. Lt. Katz shared that he is willing to bring conversations forward. Adrienne said the community needs more. Lt. Katz offered to help tease out the details of what that could look like and assist with bringing it to the chief.
- Contact info for Lt. Jeff Katz: jkatz@cityoftacoma.org (253) 591-5962.

Public Comment

- 7:23 – Allen opened the floor for public comment. There was no public comment.

Presentations and Discussions

21st Century Policing report discussion

- 7:25 – Allen opened the floor for discussion on which recommendations CPAC would like to receive updates on.
- Louis asked why CPAC should limit to a few recommendations and would like to documentation and feedback on each recommendation as each should be tracked. John seconded.
- Allen would like to hear about use of force. Louis said he is most interested in 29, 30, 31, 36, 45, and stops and arrests column on page 86.
- Louis also proposed that instead of meeting in September that TPD provided a written explanation which CPAC can review and discuss. Allen liked that this would create a written document that can be shared with community. Esther asked if it could be broken into bite-sized pieces like a set of responses to recommendations 1 – 6 for example or utilizing the sections that are outlined in the report. No members expressed opposition to the idea.
- 7:33 – Louis made a motion to ask TPD to respond in writing to each of the 21 CP recommendations with information about what has occurred with each recommendation. The motion passed. Committee members would also like status of implementation and any other relevant information included.
- John expressed interest in page 64 related to uses of force by officers and found eye-catching information related to certain officers with a high number of uses of force. John would like to know if the same officers are still high users of force.

- Adrienne would also like information on implementation status for example “50% implemented”, “implemented and reviewed”, and any additional details with progress reporting including where TPD is and where TPD would like to go.
- Allen noted page 86 has a strong recommendation. Allen would like to learn more about recommendations 8 and diversity, 13 and 14 around less lethal force, 15 related to excited delirium, would also like to see aggregated data, 30, 31, 32 and 34 related to stops and seizures, 38 beyond CSOs, 41 and 42 as CPAC has talked about scenario-based training, 48 related to training and teaching components, 49, 50 and 51 about officer wellness which is a CPAC priority from the retreat and all of page 119 – 133. However, Allen notes the committee has decided they would like to hear about every recommendation

Public Comment

- 7:44 – Allen opened and closed public comment when no members of the public wished to speak.

Duties prescribes by Bylaws - Member Report Backs

Oversight Subcommittee

- 7:45 - No update right now but Louis knows there is a discussion happening with the City and Local 6 on August 20th and hopefully there will be a report back.

Policy Subcommittee

- 7:46 – John shared the subcommittee will be meeting soon and will bring something to the table at the next CPAC meeting. John affirmed that suggested revisions were sent related to the policy Michelle previously mentioned. Allen shared there is a meeting next week with the TPD related to Lexipol review.

Outreach Subcommittee

- 7:48 – Esther shared that on August 24 there is a back-to-school fair at the Eastside Community Center from 10 AM – 4 PM where CPAC will be tabling with their new banner. Esther asked for help with tabling from any CPAC members.

Subcommittee Membership:

- Oversight Subcommittee: Ralette Churchwell, Allen McKenzie, Louis Cooper
- Outreach Subcommittee: Esther Evans, Adrienne Jones, Angela Mealing, Tracy Jones
- Policy Subcommittee: John Borden, Ralette Churchwell, Adrienne Jones

Upcoming Important Dates

- August 13, Study Session, noon – Community Safety Action Strategy
- August 24, 10:00am – TPD Back to School Readiness event at Eastside Community Center
- September 10, Study Session noon – Homelessness Strategy Update
- September 17, Study Session noon – Alternative Response
- October 7, 5:00pm – Onboarding and Training for members of City Commissions, Boards, and Committees

- November 14, CVS 4:30pm – CPAC Interviews

Upcoming Council presentations and recordings of past presentations can be viewed here: [City of Tacoma - Calendar \(legistar.com\)](#) Live Study Session and Council meeting can also be viewed on TV Tacoma: [TV Tacoma - City of Tacoma](#)

Other Items of Interest

- 7: 54 – Allen and staff reviewed upcoming important dates.

Adjournment

Motion passed at 8:00 pm

Allen McKenzie

Allen McKenzie, Chair

Chelsea Talbert

Chelsea Talbert, Staff Liaison