



City of Tacoma

Community's Police Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 9, 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, Ralette Churchill

Members Absent: NA

Staff and Liaisons Present: Staff Liaison Ted Richardson, Staff Liaison Chelsea Talbert, Lieutenant Jeffrey Katz, Outgoing Executive Liaison Jacques Colon, Incoming Executive Liaison Sonja Hallum, Mayor Woodards, TPD Assistant Chief Christopher Karl

Staff Absent: NA

Called to order by Chair Allen McKenzie at 6:03 pm

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the August 12, 2024 CPAC meeting.

Motion passed at 6:04

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the agenda for the CPAC meeting held on September 9, 2024

Passed at 6:05

Briefing Items

City Manager's Office

- 6:06 – Ted gave an update on CPAC recruitment so far. Currently five people have applied for three open positions, two currently CPAC members' applications will be forwarded to Council for appointment as well. The application period closes on September 17th, interviews are tentatively scheduled for November 7th.
- 6:07 – Mayor Woodards introduced the new CPAC Executive Liaison Sonja Hallum. Sonja shared a few words about herself. Jacques thanked CPAC for their partnership during his two years on the committee.
- 6:14 – Mayor Woodards shared that the City has entered into bargaining with Local 6 for police oversight and is currently discussing a communications plan for what can be shared with the public when about the bargaining process. The City Manager has agreed to allow CPAC to appoint a community member to sit at the bargaining table. A one-page description of what this entails will be shared with the committee soon.
- 6:17 – Mayor Woodards shared the CPAC will receive \$50,000 for outreach for the 2025-26 biennium.

Tacoma Police Department

- Contact info for Lt. Katz: jkatz@cityoftacoma.org (253) 591-5962.
- 6:26 – Lt. Katz shared that TPD is currently down 25 officers. If you know anyone interested please direct them to www.reflectandprotect.org, especially anyone who has a different vision for public safety than what they currently see in Tacoma.
- Reach out to Lt. Katz via email if you would like to participate in a ride along.
- No current CLO openings, but there will be 1-2 in the coming year

Review of Complaints Memo drafted in August

- 6:35 – Allen reviewed the draft of the memo summarizing the complaints CPAC discussed in August, including the policy recommendations and policy questions for each. The committee shared no suggestions or edits.

Police Reports Review

- 6:43 – Review of most recent batches of complaints starting with 23COM-0117, which is in the beginning of the second batch of complaints CPAC received in March.
- 23COM-0117 – Allen described the complaint and commended the officer for trying to contact the complainant several times and leaving a voicemail. The total review period was four months.
 - John asked if complainants ever receive a message confirming receipt of the complaint and giving an expected timeline.
 - Lt. Katz replied that there is a complaint receipt message sent but that the timeline is hard to estimate. He then described the current complaint process to demonstrate this and will share a form template describing the receipt with CPAC. Further discussion of what could be communicated and how ensued.

- Adrienne stated that she met with Lt. Katz to discuss a notification system that could update the complainant on the status of their complaint as it moved through the review process.
- 23COM-0118 – Allen described that the complainant waited for 10+ hours to receive a call back from TPD that they were sending an officer to execute a order to serve related to a DV issue. NO one ever called and person had to return home before order could be served.
 - Lt. Katz agreed that this is an issue, but because this couldn't be directed at one officer the complaint process is not the best way to address this issue.
 - Allen asked if a supervisor can override the priority level the call receives. Katz responded that in rare cases yes, but they most often follow the service level agreement worked out between TPD and South Sound 911 (SS911).
 - John asked if SS911 could recontact her. Katz responded that they often do.
 - Ralette stated that she does not agree with cancelling or deprioritizing a DV call, even an order to serve, as it's still related to past harm or abuse.
 - Lt. Katz send he will send the TPD-SS911 level of service agreement.
- 23COM-0119 – Complaint was sustained. Officers refused to take complainants DV report because it was received more than four hours after incident had occurred.
 - Allen asked what discipline was received. Katz said he could find out but wasn't sure what could be shared due to public disclosure laws.
 - John stated that if a complainant receives a letter that their complaint was sustained but they don't know what happened to the officer(s) involved, they are missing a piece to achieve resolution after the incident experienced.
- 23COM-0120 – Same officer as previous complaint received a second allegation of not serving a DV protection order, all within four days.
 - Allen asked if this triggered a warning or action in the Early Intervention System (EIS). Katz responded that two complaints in four days would not trigger anything, but the supervisor could have done something, coaching or discipline.
 - Allen asked if coaching is tracked, Katz responded that formal coaching is, informal isn't.
- 23COM-0121 – A 12-year-old threatened to bring a gun to school, Mom concerned he was involuntarily committed. Case is legally fraught, Katz provided perspectives of officers and different possible approaches they could've taken.

Public Comment

- 7:40 – Allen opened and closed public comment, five people provided comment:
- Rebecca Stith – Welcomes Sonja, appreciates money for CPAC and the start of negotiations with Local 6. Asked if CPAC can look into policies of ShotSpotter. Noted that more and more cities are putting checks on this type of technology.
- Oneida Arnold – From District 2. Went to a community meeting on ShotSpotter. Is concerned that feedback was taken after the fact. Researched it extensively, found its unreliable, has a high failure rate, and can target already marginalized populations. Tacoma hasn't healed from Manny Ellis trial, ShotSpotter is not the answer. Needs more community review, it is traded on the open market. Prefer the City doesn't use it.
- Nancy – Is confused that sergeants and patrol officers decide which call to respond to, she heard SS911 decides this. She called 911, there was fighting and noise in the background, no officers ever showed up. Wonders how many other murders weren't counted because they got reported as medical deaths.

- LaTasha Palmer – From District 3. Seconds comments already made about ShotSpotter. Asked how EIS works, if CPAC has previously received information about it, and if they can influence it.
- Barb Church – Went to ShotSpotter presentation, was almost all done by a company marketing person, not TPD staff. Asked if CPAC was briefed on ShotSpotter.

Duties prescribes by Bylaws - Member Report Backs

Oversight Subcommittee

- 7:54 - Refer to Mayor's comments at beginning of meeting. Also looking forward to 21CP report by TPD.

Policy Subcommittee

- 7:56 – Will begin meeting regularly right before monthly CPAC meeting. Currently working on one Lexipol policy review, Automated License Plate Readers.

Outreach Subcommittee

- 7:58 – Esther shared that the August 24 back-to-school fair at the Eastside Community Center was very successful, they handed out lots of flyers. She is not aware of any additional upcoming to do outreach at.

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

- September 17 – CPAC application window closes
- September 17, Study Session noon – Alternative Response
- October 1, Study Session noon – General Budget Overview
- October 7, 5:00pm – Onboarding and Training for members of City Commissions, Boards, and Committees
- October 31, 5:00pm – CBC Equity Index Training
- November 7 (*tentative*), 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

- 8:00 – Allen and staff reviewed upcoming important dates.

Adjournment

Motion passed at 8:02 pm

Allen McKenzie

Allen McKenzie, Chair

Ted Richardson

Ted Richardson, Staff Liaison