



City of Tacoma

Community's Police Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 13, 2025

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 Borden, and Tracy Jones

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

Members Absent: Adrienne Jones, Ralette Churchwell

Staff and Liaisons Present: Executive Liaison Sonja Hallum, Lieutenant Jeffrey Katz, CPAC Staff Liaison Ted Richardson, TPD Assistant Chief Chris Karl

Staff Absent:, Council Liaison Mayor Victoria Woodards

Call to Order

Called to order by Chair Allen McKenzie at 6:04pm

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the agenda for the CPAC meeting held on January 13, 2025

Passed at 6:05pm

Approval of the Minutes

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

Motion passed at 6:05pm

City Reports

City Manager's Office

- 6:08pm – Ted gave an update that CVS has scheduled CPAC interviews for February 6. There are still two spots available for TPD's annual BWC and ICV annual review board on February 20 from 2-3pm, let Ted know if you'd like to participate. Finally, CPAC will be doing its annual elections for Chair and Vice Chair at the February meeting, staff will send out an explainer of how this will happen at the meeting.

Tacoma Police Department

- 6:08pm – No updates in order to keep it short for important upcoming presentation and discussion.

Presentations and Discussions

Shot Spotter

- 6:09pm – Alfred Lewers with South Thinking. PPT presentation:
 - 180 cities in US, Uruguay, South Africa, and other countries. Shot Spotter is one of various technologies the company offers. Showed video, gave statistics of high levels of accuracy. Wants to counter false information and respond to tough questions. PPT will be provided to committee members and posted on agenda for the public. Shared another video from Springfield, Illinois about a data-for-good event.
- 6:43pm – Louis asked how many cities ShotSpotter was currently in, how many had stopped using it? Answer: 98% retention rate, Chicago is main example, it was a campaign promise by the Mayor, despite 80%+ of residents saying they wanted to keep it. Many cities expand their coverage areas. Some cities go away with it for whatever reason, they come back to it later and expand its usage.
- 6:45pm – Allen, Tacoma got a grant from the DOJ to implement this. Real question is once the money runs out will we continue this. What metrics will we be looking at? Other than anecdotally, how are we going to measure success? Answer from A/C Karl: one part of three-pronged technology grant the City got, we aren't held to any obligation to continue after that time period. Saving lives is really what this is about. Fingerprint technology and crime scene or Faro 3D imaging technologies are the other two prongs. Alfred Lewers: it can also cost a lot of money to respond to gun violence, responding more quickly and more accurately should also be considered an investment.
- 6:51pm – Allen: if the main point is to save lives, why isn't the Fire Department responding? Answer: Fire won't respond to potentially dangerous incidents, but officers to carry first-aid kits.
 - Allen responded that it could be a joint response.
 - John added that with 30 years of Fire experience they are coached about the "golden hour," they have 60 minutes to get someone to the ER, after that someone's expectancy to recover goes down significantly. He could see value if it improves this time to ER.
- 6:53pm – Allen: What concerns have other cities raised when police come in amped up knowing shots have been fired? Answer: the police have spatial awareness and can be tactical in their

response. In eight years Alfred has had one community member call him upset about the police response to a ShotSpotter detection.

- 6:58pm – Louis not convinced , but will withhold his comments his now.
 - Alfred Lewers added that he’s available at any time in the future if needed
- 7:00pm – Allen asked A/C Karl if CPAC could see the ShotSpotter policy. Answer from A/C Karl: Yes, currently at TPD command review level but will go to CPAC.
- 7:01pm – John asked what the false positive rate is. Answer: less than 2%.
 - Tracy asked what the causes of false positives are.

Public Comment

- 7:06pm – Lydia Zepeda, salesperson said 300 court cases ShotSpotter was used in. 2.9 million court cases in one year un U.S., so 300 not many. Independent research says 80-89% false positives for false positives. TPD is already overwhelmed.
- 7:08pm – Sally Perkins, significant body of independent research. Policy should be developer at City Council level, not TPD level. Independent research can be provided to CPAC by community members. Lewers being able to respond back to us
- 7:09pm – Rebecca Stith – Glad you are doing interviews. Five interviews, now three, please answer this. There are several independent researchers in the area that could come speak to CPAC. Many other studies besides McArthur, but many others too. Police have more useful information from resident calls than ShotSpotter. Extension should be up to community and Council, not just TPD.
- 7:12 – Jenn Halverson Kuhn, does public health for work, does not see any evidence that ties to a public health approach. Public health is desperate for dollars and does not see any way this is connected to public health.
- 7:15pm – Allen gave Alfred Lewers a chance to respond to public comment. The damages done by police departments in communities, these are real. He has not seen these concerns played out with ShotSpotter, despite being real concerns in communities. Don’t discount the positives of the technology. Didn’t start public health approach and conversation on a broader scale until 2022, so still relatively new.

Complaints Review Memo from December 9, 2024 CPAC meeting

- 7:20pm – Review of the memo, committee accepted as is. Allen will work with staff to send to proper recipients.

Subcommittee Reports

Oversight Subcommittee

- 7:27pm – pretty quiet. Waiting on bargaining to begin and then will select two CPAC members to be involved in that process. No further updates at the moment.

Policy Subcommittee

- 7:28pm – No further Lexipol policies have been provided yet. At the full CPAC committee suggestion, wrestling with the terminology of “excited delirium.” John shared ideas with the policy committee.

Outreach Subcommittee

- 7:30pm – met in December, roughed out some goals for 2025. Want to do three vendor events this year, have some ideas.

Upcoming Important Dates

- February 6, 2025 – CVS committee to conduct interviews for new CPAC members
- March 13, 2025 – CPAC Annual Report to Community Vitality and Safety committee

Other Items of Interest

- 7:35pm – Tracy asked about Community Policing Academy

Adjournment

Motion passed at 7:38 pm

Allen McKenzie

Allen McKenzie, Chair

Ted Richardson

Ted Richardson, Staff Liaison