

City of Montpelier Police Review Committee
Meeting Minutes · May 17, 2021
Video Conference

Committee members present: Alyssa Schuren, Michael Sherman, Lauren Hierl, Abbey Jermyn, Justin Drechsler, Daniel Towle, Jack McCullough, Jen Duggan

Other individuals present: Mary Smith, Morgen Edwards (committee intern), Carol Plante

The meeting was called to order by the Committee Chair Alyssa Schuren at 4:32 pm.

1. The committee members approved the meeting minutes for May 3, 2021.
2. The Chair invited public comments after reviewing the Committee's charge. There were no public comments.
3. The Chair noted that Bill Fraser would be happy to provide an overview of the police contract and answer questions if members are interested. The committee members agreed to invite Bill Fraser to the next meeting.
4. The committee discussed the report.
 - Alyssa reminded members to provide their bios and drafts of current practices sections to Justin if they have not already. Also, please send comments on drafts of current practices that have been submitted to the author of the draft.
 - Dan volunteered to draft the section on the national landscape around police accountability.
 - Justin asked for committee members to provide feedback on how the city routes 911 calls, which almost always involves sending a police officer to respond to the crisis. The members discussed alternative models and potential recommendations to ensure police are not dispatched to situations where police are not required. One important issue to consider is the need to identify and build non-police support systems (i.e. community safety officers, animal control)
 - Jen volunteered to contact Chief Peete to obtain a complete list of MPD policies that are in place to better understand potential gaps and whether there are global recommendations related to policies.
 - Alyssa asked that all members provide their drafts of the current practices sections by June 1.

5. Justin provided an overview of the MPD culture survey. One of the big themes from the survey results are that officers feel vilified by the national discussion. There is also a significant disconnect between the officers' perception as to how they are interacting with marginalized communities and the experiences of marginalized communities based on our outreach and the Creative Discourse outreach. Justin noted that he is considering recommendations that would (1) set forth a process for MPD to acknowledge and reckon with harm caused and (2) increase meaningful community engagement. The members discussed potential alternative models and potential recommendations. Justin will propose recommendations to committee.
6. The committee members discussed committee recommendations. The members reviewed the current list and added several additional recommendations for consideration. The members then reviewed specific recommendations in detail:
 - *Montpelier City Council should adopt a policy requiring MPD to receive approval from Council, following community notification, engagement and a public hearing, before MPD can apply for resources through the Department of Defenses' Excess Property Program ("1033 program").*
 - The committee members discussed and voted on a revised recommendation: *Montpelier City Council should adopt a policy that bans the procurement of "controlled equipment" through the 1033 Program.* The committee approved this recommendation.
 - *Montpelier City Council should study, budget, and plan for the purchase, deployment, archiving, use, and all associated requirements and policies, associated with the use of body worn cameras for all officers while on field duty.*
 - The committee members discussed whether to include more specific guidance re a policy for body worn cameras. Alyssa noted that the ACLU has put together a policy for body worn cameras. Members will review the ACLU policy on body and send feedback to Michael for consideration.
7. The May 31 meeting will be moved to Tuesday, June 1 from 4:30-6:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 PM
Meeting Minutes Submitted by Jen Duggan