

**City of Montpelier Police Review Committee**  
Meeting Minutes · May 24, 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), Bill Fraser, Chief Peete

The meeting was called to order by the Committee Chair Alyssa Schuren at 4:30 pm.

1. The committee members approved the meeting minutes for May 17, 2021.
2. Justin provided an update on the draft report. Justin noted that all draft sections received to date have been very well written and the report compilation is going well to date.
3. Bill Fraser provided a brief overview of the process the City goes through to bargain the police contracts (patrol officers and supervisors) and the contracts, and answered questions from committee members. The Chief, Captain, and public safety administrator are exempt from collective bargaining. The date for first proposals for the police contracts is June 1. The committee can identify any issues or concerns that the committee would like the City to address in the negotiating process by June 1.

Bill noted that the contracts do not set the City's budget or dictate the number of police officers the City employs. However, if the City shifted traffic enforcement or other services currently performed by police officers to non-police officers, the City would need to consult with a lawyer.

Bill relayed that a community member asked a question about Article 26: Does Article 26 allow police officers to ignore City ordinances? Bill noted the answer is no. This section of the contract prevents the City from passing an ordinance to preempt the provisions of the union contract.

4. The committee discussed the report.
  - Please submit your 1-2 bios (Justin) and identities (Alyssa).
  - Committee members should review the draft sections that are completed now (PRC Formation, Landscape of Community Safety, Arrest Data, Training, Use of Force, Militarization, Characterization of MPD Culture Survey) by June 1.
  - Alyssa is drafting the characterization of stakeholder feedback and asked that members provide the results of any outreach to Alyssa. Bill noted that we should have the Creative Discourse community survey results in early June.

5. The committee members reviewed committee recommendations.
- *Montpelier City Council should budget and plan for the purchase, deployment, archiving, use, and all requirements and policies associated with the use of body worn cameras (BWC) for all officers while on field duty. Body worn cameras will not be used by the Montpelier Police Department until the Montpelier City Council finalizes a policy for the training of officers and the use of body worn cameras that (1) protects privacy and rights; (2) ensures officer accountability; (3) ensures transparency; and (4) incorporates best practices in records management. As part of the development of this policy, the Montpelier City Council should review the ACLU Vermont criteria for body worn cameras policies, and the Vt Law Enforcement Advisory Board (LEAB) Body worn cameras Policy Draft, July 20, 2021.*
    - Committee members discussed the recommendation and voted to approve: 7 voted to approve and 1 member abstained.
  - *Montpelier City Council should revisit the adoption of Tasers or other CEDs to provide officers another alternative to firearms.*
    - Committee members discussed the recommendation. Chief Peete and Bill Fraser also provided comment. There was no vote, and the recommendation will be discussed at the June 1 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 PM  
Meeting Minutes Submitted by Jen Duggan