

City of Montpelier Police Review Committee
Meeting Minutes · June 14, 2021
Video Conference

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

Other individuals present: Mary Smith, Morgen Edwards (committee intern), Chief Brian Peete

The meeting was called to order by the Committee Chair Alyssa Schuren at 4:39 pm.

1. The committee members approved the meeting minutes for June 7, 2021.
2. There were no members of the public present.
3. The following updates were provided:
 - If members identify police review or public safety review reports from other jurisdictions, please share them with committee members. The Chair noted that Ithaca, NY just released a report, for example.
 - The Chair noted that we must provide citations and appropriate sources for all report sections.
 - Lauren noted that the City Council discussed the committee's request for an extended timeline (i.e. prior to budget process) at the last meeting, and the Council did not have concerns.
4. The committee members reviewed the following committee recommendation:
 - *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; and (5) tracks and analyzes their impact. 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.*
 - 6 members voted to approve the revised recommendation; 1 member abstained; 1 member absent
 - *Public Drinking Recommendation 1: Montpelier City Council should repeal its ordinance related to "Drinking in Public Places" (Chapter 11, Art VIII, Section 11-800).*
 - 7 members of the committee voted to approve; 1 member absent

- *Public Drinking Recommendation 2: Given state law, it is our understanding that Montpelier City Council cannot decriminalize public drinking, but the City Council should direct MPD to deprioritize their response to public drinking calls and instead ensure alcohol-related calls associated with non-criminal conduct be sent to Good Samaritan Haven's street outreach worker(s). If a street outreach work is unavailable, calls can be routed to MPD. Alcohol-related calls associated with criminal conduct will continue to be routed to MPD. It is recommended that (appropriate) criminal charges related to public drinking be sent to the [Community Justice Center](#) and follow [their existing protocol](#).*
 - 6 members of the committee voted to approve; 1 abstain; 1 member absent
- *Public Drinking Recommendation 3: Montpelier City Council should increase its financial support of Good Samaritan Haven's (GSH) regional street outreach workers to 1.5 fulltime equivalents, allowing GSH to hire a fulltime street outreach worker in addition to the current part-time (32 hours/week) worker to handle the current and future volume of outreach needs to the unhoused population, and to manage the increased need associated with Recommendation 2.*
 - 7 members of the committee voted to approve; 1 member absent
- *Public Drinking Recommendation 4(a): Montpelier City Council should ensure training for MPD officers so they understand what to look for medically when they do wellness checks on intoxicated people and how to deescalate people.*
 - 5 members of the committee voted to approve; 1 voted no; 1 abstain; 1 absent
- *Public Drinking Recommendation 4(b): Montpelier City Council should fund training for Street Outreach Workers so they understand what to look for medically when they do wellness checks on intoxicated people and how to deescalate intoxicated people.*
 - 7 members of the committee voted to approve; 1 member absent
- *Public Drinking Recommendation 5: Montpelier City Council should review or direct a future committee to review all public safety related ordinances to ensure they conform to modern society and reflect the will of the City's people.*
 - 7 members of the committee voted to approve; 1 member absent
- *Montpelier City Council should ban Montpelier Police Department's (MPD) application of "controlled equipment" (commonly known as "military equipment") through the Department of Defenses' Excess Property Program ("1033 program"). If MPD seeks to acquire new items on the 1033 program "controlled list" not currently used by the Department, notice should be provided to Council.*
 - 7 members of the committee voted to approve; 1 member absent

5. The committee members discussed the timeline for the report. The Chair proposed and committee member discussed the following new timeline:

- Recommendations & Current Practices completed by July 19th
- Report draft to PRC for review and comments by August 1
- Report to public for review by August 15
- Report to City Council by August 30

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM.
Meeting Minutes Submitted by Jen Duggan