

City of Montpelier Police Review Committee
Meeting Minutes · July 7, 2021
Video Conference

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

Other individuals present: Mary Smith, Morgen Edwards (committee intern), Carrie McCool

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

1. The committee members approved the agenda and meeting minutes for June 21, 2021.
2. There were no members of the public present.
3. The meeting on July 19 will be in person and will begin at 4:30 (with a 30-minute break at 6:30) and continue until the committee completes its review of all recommendations.
4. Chief Peete provided an update on meetings with Commissioner Shirling and the Vermont Criminal Justice Council re new recruiting and retention strategies to address statewide staffing shortages.
5. The committee discussed the following updates:
 - The Chair provided an update re the meeting with Creative Discourse and the MPD. The Chair shared feedback from MPD on committee recommendations.
 - Prohibition on hiring of officers under the Age of 21: some of the most reform-oriented officers are under 21, could miss opportunity to hire great officers under 21
 - Setting up separate number for mental health crisis calls: people will still call dispatch, need for public education campaign, other lines already in use
 - Use of Force protocols: no current MPD policy, prior police shootings are a source of community trauma, MPD considering use of force policy
 - Community engagement strategies: openness to think creatively about what community healing looks like in this moment
6. The committee members reviewed the following committee recommendations:

Recommendations Re to Sex Workers

Recommendation 1: Montpelier City Council should support H. 268 of 2021, which repeals prostitution laws while retaining felony human trafficking laws that prohibit recruiting, enticing, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a minor for the purpose of commercial sex; patronizing a minor for commercial sex; recruiting, enticing, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining any person through force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of having the person engage in commercial sex; compelling any person through force, fraud, or coercion to engage in commercial sex; and patronizing any person for a commercial sex act who is being compelled through force, fraud, or coercion to engage in a commercial sex act.

- 7 members voted to approve, 0 disapprove, 1 absent

Recommendation 2: Montpelier should repeal its prostitution ordinances ([Sections 11-705-707](#)), which criminalize housing for sex workers, the act of sex work and a safe workplace for sex workers.

- 7 members voted to approve, 0 disapprove, 1 absent

Recommendation 3: MPD should continue to deprioritize the investigation of consensual sex work related matters (as defined below) and instead prioritize human trafficking, coercion and when force is at issue.

- 7 members voted to approve, 0 disapprove, 1 absent

Recommendation Re: Training on Youth and Adolescent Behavior

Montpelier Police officers should receive training in understanding and responding to early adolescent and adolescent behavior as a required supplement to Basic Level II and Level III training received at the Vermont Police Academy. This training should begin as soon as possible under the authority of the Vermont Criminal Justice Council's Rule 13; but should also be considered and urged as part of the Vermont Police Academy's Basic Training for Level II and Level III.

- 7 members voted to approve, 0 disapprove, 1 absent

The committee also discussed recommendations re to decoupling traffic safety from the police, but did not vote on the recommendations.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 PM.

Meeting Minutes Submitted by Jen Duggan