

City of Boulder

Police Oversight Task Force Meeting Notes

8/1/2019

(Absent: Nami, Shirley, Selasee)

Check in: Attendees shared reflections from an essay titled Courage by David Whyte

Administrative update:

- Deputy Chief Weinheimer provided an overview of the PD/city training plan around bias, racial equity, and use of force.

Making Meaning of the Data

- Task Force members gathered in small groups to discuss the results of community interviews

Discussion of Task Force Member prohibited from entering building during 7/25 Meeting

- The group shared and processed the experience Sheila had of being prevented from entering the 7/25 Task Force meeting by a city staff member who was unaware of the meeting taking place and did not take the time to confirm
- The group requested a direct apology from the staff member and to consider mentioning this incident in the report to Council

Data Synthesis Discussion: Themes from community interviews

- Group 2
  - Duty of the Board to read all complaints
  - Keep some parts of the PSRP but make changes
  - Set a threshold for complaints—the board should handle more serious allegations
  - Desire for an all-community member board
  - Variety of ways to submit complaints
  - Recruitment process for the Board to be actively marketed to diverse segments of the community—go to where people are
  - Underrepresented minorities should have a presence on the board, including those formerly incarcerated
  - Life experience, not education, should be a key qualification of board members
- Group 1
  - Boulder PD are cordial
  - Oversight Board would build a stronger community
  - Ability to recognize patterns of complaints against individual officers
  - Oversight board made up of majority community members with some PD representation
  - Important for Board members to have a connection to the community

- Board members must demonstrate a commitment to their work
- Split opinion regarding potential Board members having a criminal history
- Increase avenues to file complaints—ensure accessibility for people of all abilities
- Group 3
  - Diverse representation on the board is important
  - Board should be made up of most or all community members
  - In favor of anonymous reporting capability, but acknowledgement that it is difficult
- Discussion
  - Very common theme: Offer multiple reporting avenues
  - Recognition that the interviews represent a small sample of the community
  - Observation: it is absolutely possible to recruit diversity when we are intentional about it—it is important to be specific about the type of diversity being sought
  - Observed difference in perspective from those with professional connections to Boulder PD than the community members without professional connections.
  - Surprised by the majority advocating for a Board primarily composed of community members
  - Pay attention to patterns and practices
  - Community concern over the culture of police departments
  - Stops by police are regularly tied to questions of who belongs and who does not

#### City Council Presentation Preparation

- 2 formats will be presented to Council—memo (submit by Aug 27) and live presentation (Sept 10 council meeting)
- Pam offered one possible framework for the presentation/memo outline
  - Tell the story of the task force’s progress so far (who is in the group, how has the group come together, what has the process been)
  - Note the research and outreach conducted
  - Share observations of current state and possible opportunities for improvement
  - Share framework for future recommendations, without yet having developed specific recommendations
  - Important to identify what feedback is desired from Council—Make questions direct and specific
    - For example: Will Council consider recommendations to significantly or completely change the current PSRP?
- Possible Speakers: Todd, Sophia, Michelle D., Shawn Rae, Sheila
- Staff will confirm that the update is first on the Council agenda
- Agreement to add a Task Force meeting on August 22 to prepare for Council
- The Task Force will hold a dry run of the presentation
- August 15 meeting—determine the outline for the 9/10 Council memo and presentation

#### Public Comment

- Financial support to future Oversight Board members to enable them to participate should be considered.
- Recommendation for follow up with the Human Relations Commission regarding the issue of Sheila being barred from entering the OSMP building. (Next meeting August 19, 6 pm, location will be posted on <https://bouldercolorado.gov/boards-commissions/human-relations-commission>)
- Eugene, OR—hybrid model including a staff auditor with a community review panel. Palo Alto, another model that could be viable. These cities are being researched.

## Homework

Think about your recommendations for the September 10 presentation to Council as well as a recommended structure for an oversight board. Provide a rationale for your recommendation.

For your recommendations of the structure of the board, state the qualifications and number of people on the OB, along with how you suggest they are recruited. Lastly, include a description of the investigative powers (if any) and the decision-making authority of the OB. Be as specific and concise as possible.

**Please submit your thoughts to Pam (davis@bouldercolorado.gov) by Sunday, August 11.**

Pam and Aimee will consolidate the recommendations and send them to the task force no later than EOD on Wednesday, August 14. Please read the document and come to the August 15 meeting prepared to discuss potential recommendations. Lastly, come prepared to discuss key messages you will communicate to city council during the Tuesday, September 10 study session.

**Note 1:** Materials for the Tuesday, September 10 study session must be sent to city council no later than Tuesday, August 27.

**Note 2:** Independent Monitor Nicholas Mitchell from Denver is coming to speak with the task force on August 15. Additionally, we will have responses from the city interviews conducted by Pam.

**Note 3:** The agenda for the August 15 meeting is full. Please pre-read all materials to ensure you are fully prepared to identify possible structures, test your ideas, and identify materials for the September 10 council study session.