

COMMUNITY POLICING ADVISORY BOARD
ACTION RECAP
SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 5, 2013

CONVENE / ROLL CALL:

Chairperson Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m. Board members present were Doris Brown, Jeffery Cash, Frank Castro, John Garvey, Krista Gulbransen, Angela Haller, Barbara Hunter, Chairperson Marcus Johnson, and Vice Chair John Nichols

Absent were Renia Webb, Chief James Williams, and Vertis Whitaker.

Vacancies are two mayoral appointments, District 5, District 7

1. PUBLIC COMMENT / OPEN FORUM:

Jim Dexter

2. ACTION RECAP:

2.1. Draft Minutes: May 8, 2013,

This item was taken out of order, after item 2,2

A motion that the May 8 2013, minutes be tabled until the next regularly scheduled meeting in order to fix or clarify some statement contained in the minutes.

Public comment: Jim Dexter

Moved: Castro

Seconded: Hunter

Vote- Ayes (8): Brown, Cash, Castro, Garvey, Gulbransen, Haller, Hunter, Chairperson Johnson, and Vice Chair Nichols. Noes none; Recused: none; Absent: Webb, Whitaker, and Williams

Motion passed

2.2. OPD Update

AC Figueroa, and Bob Stewart from Strategic Policy Partners presented to the Board. This was a verbal informational report.

No Action

Public comment: Jim Dexter, Susan Kayman

2.3. NCPC Check-In

Board discussion

No Action

Public Speaker: Jim Dexter

2.4. Chair Report

Chair noted that the City Council gave him one minute to speak at the budget hearing and although it was a busy night, he did present. He also had subsequent conversations with four council members about the CPAB recommendations and intends to speak with more of them.

No Action

No Public Comment

2.5. Retreat Planning

A motion that the Board considers Joaquin Miller for its retreat.

Public comment: None

Moved: Hunter

Seconded: Gulbransen

Vote- Ayes (8): Brown, Castro, Garvey, Gulbransen, Haller, and Hunter. Noes Cash, Chairperson Johnson, Vice Chairperson Nichols; Recused: none; Absent: Webb, Whitaker, and Williams

Motion passed

Chairperson Johnson and Staff person DeVries were given the authority to develop the agenda based on the board discussion.

NOTE: PAST MEETING MINUTES ATTACHED.

ADJOURNMENT- 9:18 p.m.

COMMUNITY POLICING ADVISORY BOARD
DRAFT MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 5, 2013

Chairperson Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:19pm.

Members Present: Haller, Hunter, Johnson, Nichols, Garvey, Castro, Cash

Open Forum:

Jim Dexter asked that with one speaker during a fifteen minute open forum, why are speakers limited to two minutes. He went on to state that there are no action items other than approving the minutes and he wants to see more.

Minutes:

OPD Update: AC Figueroa, and Bob Stewart from Strategic Policy Partners presented to the Board. Mr. Stewart discussed his background and experience in Oakland and other police jurisdictions. He first studied Oakland in the aftermath of the Oakland Riders case and again worked with BART after the Oscar Grant shooting. He started his law enforcement career as a Washington D.C. Police Officer, served as a major in Tallahassee FL, served as a police chief in Orman Beach, FL, as well as myriad consulting and teaching projects.

In 2006 a report was done on Oakland with similar recommendations to what his team is recommending but this time his team recognizes that they need to oversee the implementation process as well as make recommendations. He gave an overview of the key recommendations:

Calls for Service:

This is a common problem and he estimates 80% of calls for service do not required an armed response. The overwhelming number of calls diminishes the department's ability to respond to crucial calls in an appropriate period of time. They are putting forward several recommendations to reduce the number of calls for service.

Decentralization or District Command:

Mr. Stewart noted that Oakland is unique in that it is so committed to Community Policing that it passed a parcel tax to pay for it. However, he believes that Oakland has created what they call a "Split-Patrol" Model that is ineffective because the patrol officers and Problem Solving Officers are two separate and distinct units. They are recommending that this change through the Geographic Policing Model whereby a Captain has command of all the resources they need to police an area or district under their purview. The five basic operations of a police department: Patrol, Investigations, Special Operations, Intelligence, and Crime Analysis and many of these functions will now be managed at the neighborhood level. Using this decentralized model, the face of the department in any neighborhood will be the Lieutenants who will have a very intimate relationship with the neighborhood. This is because lieutenants command resources that Problem Solving Officers don't have. Small problems can be addressed by the officers but problems that require a complex approach will be headed up by lieutenants who can divert resources to the problem on a sustained basis to solve the problem long term.

Crime Reduction Strategy:

The Bratton team is focused on this strategy through modifying investigations, implementing Comstat. The other part of that strategy is Cease Fire which is not a short term project but is the new way of fighting crime. It includes intelligence about who is involved in crime and it is a partnership with other agencies and the community. It also uses intelligence to predict where the next violent act takes place (retaliation). He cited Cincinnati as an example of what NOT to do with Ceasefire; they had a model that worked and violent crime went down so they pulled the resources out of Ceasefire and the crime went back up. They are recommending a permanent use of the Ceasefire model to sustain reductions in violent crime over the long term.

Partnerships:

He said he is very impressed with the community efforts including the NCPs and Neighborhood Watch. However, they feel that OPD needs to participate more with the community partners, playing a more active role in their meetings and rely on the community more. This means that patrol officers will develop the same relationship with the neighbors that the Problem Solving Officers have. This will hopefully assist in a culture change in Oakland and mend the relationship between OPD and the community. One recommendation to achieve this is to see that new officers will work in the community for a week, meeting people and building a relationship from day one. Also, as a by product of the Negotiated Settlement Agreement, there is a need to hold older officers more accountable who are not good partners with the community.

AC Figueroa spoke next: about Chief Whent's three priorities: Reduce crime and the fear of crime, build community trust, and earn compliance with the Negotiated Settlement Agreement and all of the recommendations of the consulting team move the department toward those three priorities.

The Captains have been identified to head up each District and their teams are being established to be rolled out this month. They will be putting together Advisory Councils for each area and each member of the CPAB will be contacted to participate. The neighborhood investigations portion of this new model will be a little slower to implement due to staffing shortages but as they bring their staff up to capacity, they are determining investigating priorities.

AC Figueroa noted that as part of their culture change efforts, the new academy recruits had a barbeque with members of the Men of Valor Academy (formerly incarcerated individuals) and the recruits and members talked about their experiences with law enforcement. This event went very well and more will be scheduled and all the new recruits will be assigned to work with a community non-profit for a week before they hit the streets.

Regarding proactive police work, the national standard is to have patrol officers have 40% of their shift free to do patrol but right now that is not possible in Oakland and he is exploring the call reduction strategy to help move toward that standard. Regarding keeping PSOs in their neighborhood, he supports that goal and will continue to seek to keep PSOs in their beats as long as possible. He also thinks it's important to create new opportunities for resident participation including the creation of the Advisory Councils and increased participating in NCPs.

AC Figueroa also briefly discussed Ceasefire and the fact that the department is embracing this strategy completely.

Public Speaker: Jim Dexter complimented the committee for their discussion and recommendations to the City Council. He also complimented the Chair on the letter he delivered to the Council. However he raised the concern of the number of officers that the City can hire. He is concerned about budget proposals and the inconsistent support of hiring more officers. He also noted that the letter is addressed to the City Council but the Chief of Police needs to hear these recommendations so that his budget proposal reflects the CPAB's recommendations.

Public Speaker: Susan Kayman asked about the timeliness of Comstat data and whether that data is the same as the online data because she uses the online data and it has holes that she is aware of. She referenced a shooting in her neighborhood that did not show up and she would like to know if there is an effort to make the data more reliable.

Board Questions:

Member Haller asked AC Figueroa about the Comstat data and its accuracy. AC Figueroa noted there are numerous sources of the data on the website and it does need to be cleaned up on a regular basis. He cited some examples of how this happens such as late reporting by residents. He offered to have someone come speak at the next meeting about data.

Bob Stewart noted that there are two types of data departments use. One is real time data of what is happening, but often needs to be cleaned up after further investigations. The other type of data takes longer to publish but is more accurate.

Member Nichols asked Bob Stewart about his statement about 80% of calls not requiring an officer response. Bob Stewart clarified that in most major cities 80% of calls don't require police power, in other words, a report can be given over the phone or online very often. Other times, someone needs to go out and take a report but it does not need to be an officer. Another major category is when an officer needs to respond but can provide a delayed response without jeopardizing public safety. In the current model officers respond to non-emergency calls and are tied up when an emergency arises and in those situations, the officers will leave a non-emergency call before completing the task to respond to an emergency which leaves the citizen's feeling poorly served.

Joe DeVries noted that the Public Works Call Center data staff are reviewing the dispatch calls to provide accurate data about all calls for service and while there is some preliminary data, more data will be forthcoming.

Member Cash spoke about his NCPC and a problem property in his neighborhood. He asked his PSO several questions about this property and felt the PSO could not provide enough information to him and Member Cash feels this is an example of a need for more training. He is concerned that while command staff may support reform, he is concerned that the line staff won't buy in to it.

AC Figueroa commented that at the Comstat meeting today, the Captain gave a full analysis of that particular property. He agrees more training is needed because there has been a lot of good work done on this problem.

Member Castro noted that branding is important so he feels it is a mistake to re-brand community policing as neighborhood policing. Second he noted that the call reduction plan is actually a plan to better manage the calls but he feels strongly that a public education campaign about when they should call 911 will have a positive impact. He does agree with the plan to better manage calls. Last, he does not like the idea of minimizing the importance of PSOs by placing the burden of public engagement on the Lieutenants. His years of experience have shown him that the PSOs engagement with the community is essential.

He also asked about the data management and noted several examples of where there were inconsistencies. He hopes that at the next meeting we could have a more thorough discussion about data.

Member Garvey stated that the public engagement he has experienced with OPD has been really positive and wants to see the department do a better job publicizing these positive interactions. Regarding data, he noted that the City has different data sources and would like to see more progress made getting the data into the public's hands more effectively.

Last, Member Garvey noted that the CPAB's role is to monitor the implementation of Community Policing so he asked AC Figueroa what can the CPAB do to monitor community policing more effectively and if Bob Stewart could provide a concise working definition of community policing.

Bob Stewart defined Community Policing as decentralization of the department and strengthening the NCPCs where they need help. He went on to say that the best way to implement good community policing is to send officers to places where they have done a good job with it so they can see it work in action. He also noted that a standard command structure creates a schism between patrol and community policing because patrol officers who run from call to call resent the PSOs who get to know the neighbors and problem solve. This causes them to work inefficiently because the patrol officers are not connected to the community's priorities the way the PSOs are.

Member Hunter noted she shared Member Castro's concern about the Lieutenants becoming the main point of contact versus the PSOs. Bob Stewart clarified that the old model of lieutenants made them essentially Watch Commanders where they simply oversee a shift and make sure everyone does their job while they are on watch duty. The new model is to hold Lieutenants accountable for a geographic area 24 hours a day and all the officers in that area report to that lieutenant which holds everyone more accountable.

Chairperson Johnson noted that every member of the CPAB provided their information to be included in the Advisory Councils and he wanted to know the progress on those Councils and on the overall crime reduction plan. AC Figueroa noted that the Bratton Report is already out but the overall report from the consulting team is due in draft form in July so it is still being prepared. He also noted that the small advisory group that Chief Jordan pulled together has not met in awhile.

AC Figueroa agreed that he owed the committee a couple of reports including the information on call reduction and data, and he will do so. Chairperson Johnson noted that the CPAB is the advisory body and voice for the community.

Joe DeVries commented that the CBAP has been working hard to redefine its relationship with OPD since the beginning of the year and one of the key aspects of that relationship is for the CPAB to receive reports in writing the week prior to the meeting so they can review the information, similarly to a City Council Packet, which allows for more substantive conversation and the opportunity for the public to weigh in on the information as well.

Chairperson Johnson thanked the guests and especially Bob Stewart for acknowledging that the NCPCs and community in general want to engage and contribute to the process.

Meeting Minutes:

Public Speaker Jim Dexter: OPD currently has 634 officers, in past 9.5 years the city has collected 97 million to pay for PSOs but still have only 35 PSOs while the rest have assigned to CRTs. We have no data about those officers nor do we have data on the amount of time PSOs spend in their beats. This has been going on for 9.5 years and will cause Measure Y to not be reauthorized. The CPAB needs to address this.

Discussion: Member Haller raised a concern that Allene Warren's public speaker comments on putting NSCs back into OPD were misrepresented the way the minutes are written. Joe DeVries acknowledged that the chronology of the discussion is partially out of order and can cause confusion. Member Hunter concurred that the minutes are confusing and her position/ motion appear inaccurate. She acknowledged that this was a problem of clarity that needed to be fixed. Member Gulbransen agreed as did Chairperson Johnson who recommended the minutes be tabled so that they can be fixed. Member Castro made a motion that the minutes be tabled until the next regularly scheduled meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Johnson asked for a motion that the meeting be extended by 15 minutes and it was agreed to by consensus.

NCPC Check-in:

Member Cash commented that he had been to his NCPC and complained that it had diminished in its capacity over the years. He listed several complaints about the decline of resources for the neighborhood and feels this is an area that needs to be discussed at the retreat.

Chairperson Johnson noted that when Members go to NCPCs he hopes they introduce themselves as members of the CPAB to let the residents know that we are listening to their concerns.

Member Haller listed 4 NCPCs that she attended, 25y, 31z, 22x, and 22y and in each case they are getting new captains, they each have their PSO report, and at all of them car thefts are up and robberies are up. She does introduce herself and thinks its really important to do so.

Member Gulbransen attended the Beat 22x Steering Committee and she did introduce herself and discussed their election process (In regard to the complaints the CPAB Chair had received) and she felt they were moving forward in a positive way, establishing workable procedures for the future.

Chairperson Johnson attended his own NCPC and he pointed out that the PSO at those meetings sits at the table as a member of the neighborhood. He is kept engaged throughout the meeting as a member and therefore participates actively in the problem solving process. He sees the PSO as a contributing member of the neighborhood team.

Member Castro noted that he put out a call for all Neighborhood Watch Chairs to attend the monthly NCPC meeting because the attendance had been low. It caused a turnout of 60 people and he discussed the connection between NCPCs and Neighborhood Watch. He felt this was a standard every neighborhood should strive for. He also wants every patrol officer who works in a beat to take five minutes to attend the NCPC meeting so neighbors can briefly get to know their faces and what they do.

Member Hunter commented that her PSO is a Sergeant which greatly limits his time to be in the beat even though he really wants to be in that beat. She noted that he listed the priorities for the beat this past month as opposed to the residents telling him what they are. Chairperson Johnson asked about whether blight and illegal dumping are priorities for her beat and she confirmed that it is. He went on to note that at his NCPC they have brought in Public Works and others to address these non-police issues.

Joe DeVries noted that he attended three NCPCs last month and he sees a real task in standardizing how priorities are selected, how they are communicated to the PSO, the community, and the City in general. He sees a lot of inconsistencies that training can help with. He also pointed out that NSCs have a tricky balance between supporting neighborhood leaders and running the meetings. The NSCs are trained to help people develop more effective priorities but they don't want to dominate the conversation.

Public Speaker: Jim Dexter: He publicly honored Member Haller for all the work she has done attending NCPCs around the City. However, he feels the CPAB is not considered a driving force citywide and he hopes a newsletter and other communication will help to change that.

Joe DeVries spoke about his presentation to the Measure Y Oversight Committee during which he discussed the background of resolutions 72727 and 79235. He sees a lot of opportunity for collaboration with that committee. That committee was very excited about the CPAB's recommendations to the City Council and asked if they should support those regulations. He also noted that one of the members asked him to come speak at their church group on Sunday about city government.

The Chair noted that the City Council gave him one minute to speak at the budget hearing and although it was a busy night, he did present. He also had subsequent conversations with four council members about our recommendations and intends to speak with more of them.

Retreat Planning:

Joe DeVries reported that he booked the Joaquin Miller Conference Room for the retreat which will be publicly noticed and takes place on Saturday June 29th from 1 to 5pm. He also noted that he had not received input via email from members about subject matter and hopes to delineate those topics tonight.

Member Haller asked about a more central location such as the Garden Center. Chairperson Johnson agreed and emphasized that public access is important, he noted that the Board had met several times at the Eastmont Police Station. Joe DeVries explained that most of the Parks and Recreation facilities are booked this time of year but Joaquin Miller is available and he thought the Board would like the location.

Member Cash also stated that Joaquin Miller would be difficult to get to via bus and would prefer a more accessible location. Member Haller noted that Joaquin Miller is available by bus; she advocated that and the bus stops right across the street from the location.

Member Hunter made a motion that the Board consider Joaquin Miller for its retreat and Member Gulbransen seconded the motion. Member Castro stated that if it is accessible to public transit he supports using Joaquin Miller. Member Haller commented that on Saturday's the bus runs less frequently which could pose a challenge. Chairperson Johnson noted that he has enjoyed having meetings there in the past but wants to be sure to consider all sides and make sure the decision supports everyone.

A role call vote was taken.

Members in favor: Castro, Hunter, Garvey, Gulbransen, Haller

Members against: Cash, Johnson, Nichols

The measure passed. Joe DeVries offered to drive anyone to the retreat from City Hall if they need a ride, they need to contact him and be at City Hall by noon to get a ride.

Chairperson Johnson stated that the retreat is an opportunity to get to know each other, do some learning, make sure people are on the same page about Community Policing and make sure the group comes out of the retreat with some timelines and goals. For example, a atonable goal could be that six months after the retreat the Board will have worked through the by-laws issue and has proposed changes to the ordinance to the City Council. He also entertained the idea of having a training on the Brown act and Sunshine Ordinance at the retreat but wanted the Board's input, warning that the retreat is only four hours long so the Board cannot over everything.

Member Hunter stated she does hope the Brown Act and Sunshine Ordinance get covered as she feels she needs that training.

Member Castro asked Joe DeVries to review what has already been put on the agenda by other members. Joe DeVries explained that he received no input from members other than what he has gleaned from members' comments and public speakers over the past couple months. Chairperson Johnson noted that he wants an outside facilitator conducting the retreat so Joe DeVries can participate.

Joe DeVries went on to state he has heard about the following topics: Trust Building exercises, By-Laws, Sunshine Ordinance/Brown Act, reformation of committees, production of a newsletter, and a conversation with OPD about the meaning of community policing.

Member Cash acknowledged the need for trust building but also wants to see three priorities come out of the meeting. He wants to see what the CPAB's framework is, what the real time issues are that need t be focused on, and suggested the NCPC model where three priorities are selected and focused on until they are accomplished.

Regarding OPD participating, Member Garvey suggested a working definition of Community Policing coming from OPD is important but he does not want another presentation on strategic crime reduction plans, deployment, etc. Instead he would want a succinct conversation about community policing. Chairperson agreed with those sentiments and went on to note that if the Board got a specific commitment from OPD that the Board can then hold them accountable to that definition later down the road.

Joe DeVries asked that the Board focus in on the resolutions (72727 and 79235) as the definition of Community Policing instead of looking for other definitions thereby holding the City to the original legislation. Member Castro agreed that the original resolution is important but went on to add that role of the retreat is to get the Board to a place where they are doing the job they are charged with. He suggested giving OPD some homework; have them reread the legislation and then tell the Board exactly what OPD wants from the Board to ensure that OPD is complying with the original legislation on a monthly and yearly basis. He feels the focus should be on making the Board a relevant, diverse team providing recommendations and implement policies to make Community Policing work.

Member Cash agreed and noted that the Board gives OPD the benefit of the doubt regarding Community Policing and instead should give clear direction to OPD and hold them accountable. He does not want thirty minutes of theory and no idea of how it will be applied.

Chairperson Johnson supported Member Castro's comment that the retreat is an opportunity to make the Board a better team.

Member Garvey recommended three clear categories: A Community Policing Strategic Plan that the Board creates, a communications strategy to ensure the Board is a liaison to the community, and finally, address the issue of Power. He feels that every report from the past that he has read indicated that the Board has consistently felt the Board is not listened to and therefore needs to develop a way to ensure it has the power to be heard. He also suggested that the CPAB might need to merge with the Measure Y Oversight Committee. Chairperson Johnson responded that the two boards have different missions and, specifically, the Measure Y Committee is tracking funding whereas the CPAB has no funding. Member Garvey stated that although he missions may be different, the obstacles each board faces with the City are the same.

Joe DeVries summarized what the Board members have stated thus far: Ice breaker, a conversation about Community Policing and the enabling legislation, definition of Community Policing, a communications plan including a newsletter, the issue of accountability, the nuts and bolts of the Brown Act and Sunshine Ordinance, having a six month plan, committee formation, by-law changes, and working on the annual report. He suggested that these would be the items, or an ad hoc committee could work on the agenda, or the agenda could finalized right now.

Chairperson Johnson was willing to meet with Joe DeVries to iron out these items between now and the retreat. Members Gulbransen, Nichols, and Castro volunteered their willingness to work on the agenda with them.

Member Gulbransen suggested that sometime should be spent on governing documents such as the legislation and ordinances as a start to ensure the group is on the same page.

After further conversation, Chairperson Johnson and Joe DeVries were given the authority to develop the agenda based on the conversation.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18pm.