

JPAC

September 3, 2020

The Joint Police Advisory Council met on September 3, 2020 at 5:00 pm.

Those in attendance included Jackie Wolf, Andrew Chiki, Chief Pyle, Chief Powers, Ally Rapp Lee, MaryKathyrine Tran, Toby Stock, Kassie Settles on behalf of Kimberly Castor, and Maria Modayl. In addition, there were two call-in listeners.

Agenda Item 1: Jacob Blake Officer Involved Shooting

Jackie opened the meeting as Chair in place of Chad Barnhardt with discussion about the most recent officer involved shooting with Jacob Blake. The opening question by Jackie was, "How does training see to the kind of response in the Jacob Blake case doesn't happen?"

Chief Powers discussed how difficult it is to answer without knowing all of the details about what is true or not. On its face, the video and number of shots is horrifying. It is difficult to know what the officer was processing at the time and to understand the context of the reaction to a very stressful situation.

MaryKathyrine shared that we should consider how bias plays into these incidents. While we don't have all of the facts, there needs to be accountability. We also need to be prepared for situations where there is intent to harm because of bias.

Jackie echoed MaryKathyrine's point that people of color, especially black men are often perceived through implicit bias as a threat. Is it possible to train someone realistically as a threat?

Chief Powers responded that as officers they can't assume someone's intent. Even in situations where a child is in a car. There are examples of adults using children as shields. We should definitely consider implicit bias in this situation, but it is not the only lens. A lay person may not understand the officer's process.

Chief Pyle added that most people do not understand that the longstanding Supreme Court standard is that the Jury must assess an officer's actions based on what a reasonable police officer would have done under the same circumstances. This assessment must be based on what the officer knew or reasonably believed at the time, not what might have been found after the fact. He also added that there is no way to train an officer on fear, except through situations on the job. We have an idea of how an officer will react but no real way of knowing until it is happening.

MaryKathyrine: I still believe that there should be some training that evokes fear. Especially since the police's job is to be in situations that induces fear. The fact of the matter is that we

see black people being killed and students and my colleagues are scared. I want to know what we can do. I need clarity.

Chief Powers continued that it is not as easy to boil all situations down to implicit bias and that the majority of police interactions are not what is seen in the media.

Maria countered that she understood those positions, but there are other people in those situations like in a hospital. There are trainings for medical professionals for example. She continued that these systemic issues have been ingrained in our society based on these power dynamics. She suggested that there is perhaps a continued stronghold in the police of not wanting to change.

Jackie shared that gun control is another issue that we have. And part of the fear factor is the assumption for US officers is that a person may have a gun. Unlike in places like Germany where that is not the first assumption.

Agenda Item 2: 1804

Chad got an email from the managing director from 1804. We do have a contract with them. Would a few people on JPAC be willing to handle the publicity? Jackie's opinion is that 1804 has done a good job thus far. Jackie would propose that we continue with the contract. Maria disagrees and thinks that we have not had a good social media presence. She would not be able to say that she could do it. It seems that 1804 is reactive and not proactive. Someone needs to be on the pulse on things. Jackie disagrees with that in that we aren't able to provide statements without group agreement. Toby thinks that the only real problem with 1804 is the turnover and lack of continuity. MaryKathryne suggests that different members could bring things that they want posted throughout the month to be posted. We could have a process for a formal communication plan. Chief Powers is concerned that we have had content developed by 1804 that was not messaged well and we have had some near misses. Jackie will bring the item to Chad and he will follow up with us.

Agenda Item 3: General Discussion and Roundtable

Andrew- Are there regular reviews and debriefings that happen for low level incidents beyond high stress incidents? Is there an opportunity to bring in the voice and perspective of people that have been on the other side of police officer interactions?

Both Chief Powers and Chief Pyle responded that this is something that happens on a regular basis and current events are brought in and discussed. It goes beyond trainings and formal reviews but is a part of regular activities.

No other discussion was brought up.

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 pm.