



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Columbia Police Chief's Vehicle Stop Committee

Tuesday, December 10, 2019
5:30 PM

City Hall - Mezzanine
Conference Room, 701
E. Broadway

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Toni Dukes called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was established. She introduced new member Chad McLaurin, appointed by Chief Geoff Jones as a representative of Race Matters, Friends. Toni appointed Chad to the Data Subcommittee.

Present: 8 - Robert Aulgur, Toni Dukes, Pamela Hardin, Don Love, Matthew Nichols, Eric Parsons, Jerome Sally and Chad McLaurin

Absent: 2 - Andre Cook and Dale Roberts

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/REVISED AGENDA

Motion passed unanimously.

Accept the agenda as submitted.

Yes: 8 - Aulgur, Dukes, Hardin, Love, Nichols, Parsons, Sally and McLaurin

Absent: 2 - Cook and Roberts

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Minutes - Nov. 12, 2019

Don proposed amending the minutes on pg. 3, second bullet, reflecting his comment, to delete "Thinks the Attorney General's data is more helpful than veil of darkness data" and insert, instead, the following:

"The VSR data is limited because it "aggregates" totals, for instance, for stops of white males. CPD keeps its data in an "incident-based format," which allows various categories of data to be examined at the same time, for instance, stops of white males occurring just before dark."

Although one of the presenters said in November that many police officers don't live in Columbia, members agreed, for the record, that they know that not to be true.

Motion passed unanimously.

Accept the Nov. 12, 2019 minutes as proposed by Don.

Yes: 8 - Aulgur, Dukes, Hardin, Love, Nichols, Parsons, Sally and McLaurin

Absent: 2 - Cook and Roberts

IV. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Members discussed issues relating to a Committee attendance policy, including the need to assure a regular quorum to do business; expectations that members will attend and do the work that is required; the Committee's likely lifespan; acceptable reasons for absences; and the current status of the Committee's deliberations.

Motion passed unanimously.

Adopt the following attendance policy: after two consecutive, unexcused absences, which means a member's failure to contact either Toni Dukes or Toni Messina before the absence, the Chair will counsel the member. If there's a third unexcused absence, the Chair will ask the Police Chief to consider appointing a new member.

Yes: 8 - Aulgur, Dukes, Hardin, Love, Nichols, Parsons, Sally and McLaurin

Absent: 2 - Cook and Roberts

V. DEVELOPING COMMITTEE AGENDAS

Members discussed regularly setting topics for the next successive meeting at the point on the agenda, "Next Regular Meeting Date." If a critical issue arises before the next successive meeting, a Committee member should contact Toni Messina, in writing, by noon of the Wednesday before that meeting.

VI. DATA SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Subcommittee chair Eric said that a meeting of that group scheduled earlier in the day canceled due to lack of a quorum. He reported on business conducted at the subcommittee's Oct. 29 meeting. With the help of a student, he is updating the Veil of Darkness analysis with 2018 data, and 2019 data should be available next January. It may be possible to see the effects of CPD's ending saturation patrols. It may be helpful to look at the locations of calls for service during 2018 and 2019, and it may be possible to merge officer calls with traffic stop incidents.

Changes that will be made to data collected by the Attorney General appear to be for the better. As CPD changes its data collection system, it's a good time for all of us to discuss and provide our thoughts to the Department.

VII. SELECTION OF VARIABLES AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH VEHICLE STOPS

Bob presented his list variables, which the Committee could consider as recommendations

- CPD should use incident-based reporting (IBR) to monitor police activity - thinks this may be in the traffic enforcement Policy 500 and should be a Committee goal
- CPD should budget sufficient resources for IBR to be available to all supervisors and should train supervisors in its use - better computers or more memory may be needed to capture this data
- CPD should make stop-related complaints easy to use and give immediate notice of right to complain on a business card-type document. Should make sure that complaint-specific body cam and other evidence is flagged and kept for a reasonable time - has heard this suggestion from several people - find easier ways to be make a complaint at the scene and time of a stop
- De-emphasize odor of marijuana-only searches. Pretext stops should be carefully monitored and documented to ensure pretext actually exists - marijuana odor as a priority does not square with City ordinance
- CPD should continue implicit bias training and begin inter-racial focus groups to talk about Columbia's race history - might replicate what people experienced during the recent trip to Memphis - describe how it worked locally - involve officers and the community
- Define procedural rules based on person of interest or wanted stops v. warrant issued for arrests stops.- Missouri recognizes this situation but has not provided guidance, yet - issuing a warrant is the easiest, cleanest way to conduct an investigative stop for a person - there may be times when police just want to talk with a person, even if there's no probable cause
- Use of automatic hit data stop from license plate reader or other AI (artificial intelligence) type application - get ahead of the curve on this technology

Other variables, suggestions and comments

- Put a QR code on an officer's business card - would allow someone to use a smart phone to get information relating to complaint process - could fill out an online form then and there
- Due to police station remodeling, someone who wants to complain must ask for a form at the front desk and also return it there
- What policies are in place to address oversight of CPD processes
- To what extent does the community trust CPD
- Annual officer evaluations should include standards associated with Committee recommendations and measures associated with policies - this could assure that recommendations actually are carried out
- Officers interacting in the community in a non-policing manner - bridge that aspect into policing
- Might define "credible intelligence" locally with feedback from the community (applies to person of interest)

- There should be three categories for odor stops: marijuana, alcohol and other
- Compare the list of things we look at in terms of the data we will get, for example, if an individual is stopped repeatedly, that affects the data - how are pretext stops recorded - what happens after the stop...is it investigative or for odor - should list these so the next meeting produces what we want
- How many times is a specific officer involved
- Most stops tend to occur when law-abiding citizens are in bed - they vary by time of day and day of the week

Members can send lists to Toni Messina over the next couple of weeks. She will compile and provide for all members.

VIII. CPD POLICIES

Policy 402 - Bias-Free Policing

Due to time limits, discussion of policies 402 and 500 was deferred until the next meeting.

Policy 500 - Traffic Enforcement Function and Responsibility

IX. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Toni asked all members to read and understand Policies 500 (traffic enforcement) and 402 (bias-free policing). In a recent meeting with Chief Jones, she shared some of the things the Committee has been working on, and he's happy with where the Committee is in its deliberations. He said it's acceptable for members to gather their own data by observing traffic stops during ride-alongs with officers. The Committee's focus is Columbia and how community policing should look here.

Chad noted that the Committee's website needs updating with recent minutes and other documents. He would like to see the CPD or City evaluation form.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE - JANUARY 14, 2020 - PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

Motion passed unanimously.

Approve the following agenda items for the Jan. 14, 2020 meeting: further discussion of variable associated with traffic stops and policing; CPD policies 402 and 500; and CPD complaining process.

Yes: 8 - Augur, Dukes, Hardin, Love, Nichols, Parsons, Sally and McLaurin

Absent: 2 - Cook and Roberts

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn the meeting.

Yes: 8 - Augur, Dukes, Hardin, Love, Nichols, Parsons, Sally and McLaurin

Absent: 2 - Cook and Roberts

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