



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Columbia Police Chief's Vehicle Stop Committee

Tuesday, January 14, 2020
5:30 PM

Regular

City Hall - Mezzanine
Conference Room - 701
E. Broadway

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: 9 - Robert Aulgur, Andre Cook, Toni Dukes, Pamela Hardin, Matthew Nichols, Eric Parsons, Dale Roberts, Jerome Sally and Chad McLaurin

Absent: 1 - Don Love

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion passed unanimously.

Accept the agenda as submitted.

Yes: 9 - Aulgur, Cook, Dukes, Hardin, Nichols, Parsons, Roberts, Sally and McLaurin

Absent: 1 - Love

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft Committee Minutes - December 10, 2019

Motion passed unanimously.

Accept the Dec. 10, 2019 minutes as submitted.

Yes: 9 - Aulgur, Cook, Dukes, Hardin, Nichols, Parsons, Roberts, Sally and McLaurin

Absent: 1 - Love

IV. VARIABLES ASSOCIATED WITH VEHICLE STOPS AND POLICING

Members discussed current and potential methods for evaluating police officer performance. The City of Columbia rates all employees according to the same set of general job success factors (knowledge and effectiveness; decision making; service; cooperation and teamwork; communication effectiveness; integrity and adherence to policies; continuous improvement; and engagement). Employees develop and are rated on their ability to achieve their own, specific, job-related goals. Although complaints against officers might be used as measurable, objective performance data, many police interactions will generate complaints and it may not be fair to evaluate performance or determine an officer's merit based on this data. Supervisors are required to randomly review their employees' videos, and there is a "Blue Team" review of every use of force followed, if needed, by one-on-one coaching.

Members discussed officer motivations to stop vehicles. It's possible that a stop for a moving violation can also result in more than one lawful reason for a stop. Before approaching the vehicle, an officer may be aware of other factors that create a pretext for investigating further. In any event, the officer must be able to articulate the reasons for a stop.

Members discussed recommendations to make it easier for persons to file complaints against officers as soon as possible after the event. This seems fair with less risk of losing detail associated with the event. Officers could provide business cards with a QR code, a brief survey or a link to a website customer survey. If written warnings are reinstated, the printed warning could carry a message about filing a complaint. A report on complaints filed might reveal good things about interactions. Even if people know a process is available, they may not want to follow the whole procedure and want, instead, their concerns to be heard. The community needs to know there is recourse available to them.

V. CPD POLICY 500 - TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Policy 500 - Traffic Enforcement

Members discussed parts of this policy.

- General - The Attorney General's revised checklist aligns with an updated draft of Policy 402, relating to bias-free policing. There is no option to not comply. It appears the AG has answered a lot of the Committee's questions, but there may be more information that the community wants.
- Sec. 500.4, Traffic Enforcement Procedures - "Blanket saturations" are only permitted for DWI and targeted enforcement
- Sec. 500.4.1, Physical Arrest - This authorizes use of written or verbal warnings and citations in lieu of arrest. While not available yet, the CPD records management system should allow someone to see tickets and warnings tagged by an officer PIN number, and it may be possible to create a report to track this.
- Sec. 500.5, Specific Traffic Offense Guidelines - This is based on a standard needed to gain CALEA accreditation for the Police Department. Even though the guideline provides for officer judgment and discretion, people may be uncomfortable because they don't know what drives discretion.

VI. CPD POLICY 402 - BIAS-FREE POLICING

Policy 402 - Bias-Free Policing

Members discussed parts of this policy.

- Sec. 402.6.1 - Reason for Detention - The section references a "protected class" Although this sounds like separation and division, it is a legal term arising from the courts and has been used for the last 20 years.
- Same section - The policy requires an officer to "articulate sufficient reasonable suspicion" to justify detention. If someone looks nervous, is that "suspicious?" Is it possible to know if "suspicion" is being misused? This is hard to measure on its own, but there are many indicators.

Andre, Bob and Eric all left for other commitments. A quorum remained to conduct business

VII. CPD COMPLAINT PROCESS

Because the topic was covered earlier in the meeting, fine-tuning is not needed at this time. Chad suggested that it might be nice have a CPRB member at the meeting, given the board's interest in complaints. Members noted that the CPRB heard appeals of the Chief's decisions and could participate in CPD's open, public policy review meetings. The Vehicle Stop Committee advises the Chief and has a different focus than CPRB.

VIII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Matt said he would be absent for the Committee's February meeting. There were no public comments

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS - FEBRUARY 11, 2020

Toni invited members to bring recommendations relating to variables captured in the December 2019 minutes to the next meeting. The Committee needs ideas and solutions to implement with the resources we have. Members can send lists to Toni Messina over the next couple of weeks. She will compile and provide for all members.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion passed unanimously.

Move to adjourn,

Yes: 9 - Aulgur, Cook, Dukes, Hardin, Nichols, Parsons, Roberts, Sally and McLaurin

Absent: 1 - Love

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