

Charleston Citizen Police Advisory Council

February 3, 2022

A meeting of the Charleston Citizen Police Advisory Council was held this date beginning at 6:02 p.m., virtually over Zoom.

Notice of the meeting was sent to all local news media.

PRESENT: Thuane Fielding, Paul Tamburrino, Frank Walsh, George Palmer, Emily Broome, Jack Handegan, Doris Grant, Jerome Harris, Eduardo Curry (@ 6:08 p.m.), Ryan Davis (@ 6:29p.m.), Melvin Ezell (@ 6:57 p.m.)

Also Present: Cpt. McFadden, Andrea Derungs, Cpt. Cretella, Deputy Chief Walker, Cpt. Bruder, Steve Ruemelin, Deputy Chief Thompson, Cassandra Payton, Cpt. Middleton, Jeremy Collins

Call to Order/Welcome

Roll Call

Ms. Derungs called the roll.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Walsh, the minutes of the December 2nd, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

Citizen's Participation Period

- Suzanne Hardie said the heart of CAJM's call for a racial bias audit was to build trust between the community and CPD because trust was key for the safety of citizens and Police. She said Black citizens had shared hundreds of stories of unfair and disrespectful treatment by Police, which was shown most clearly in traffic stop data with a 3:1 ratio of Black drivers being stopped, despite making up only 21% of the population. She said CNA found disparities in traffic stops and use of force, poor data collection, and gaps in engaging segments of the community. She said CNA's findings were a means to the end, not the end itself, and that the purpose of doing them was to reduce racial disparities. The community's input and oversight of CPD's progress was key, and that was where CAJM and CPAC came in. In the 2.5 years since the report, some progress had been made on policy clarity, data capture, and developing the dashboard. She said data showed no reduction in any category of crimes or use of force, and there had been poor communication with the community. She also said there had been no interim report released and Wendy Stiver's replacement had not been hired.
- Bill Thomas said good thought had gone into CPD's dashboard design. A scoreboard showed how many audit recommendations had been complied with vs. how many were in progress, and it was fairly easy to navigate. However, it fell short of its objective of effectively communicating the audit status to the public. It was not current, and its last update had been at the end of 2020. He said some of the status updates on individual recommendations were vague and many that were still in progress lacked a clear plan or target completion dates. There were also no metrics for tracking progress on the community's largest concerns, such as racial disparities in traffic stops and use of force, response time to citizen complaints, workforce diversity in CPD, and community interaction. He also noted that the dashboard was a one-way communication

tool that didn't allow for community feedback, and that the acronyms and jargon made it difficult to understand.

- Sarah Fitzellen asked for the dashboard to be updated quarterly, at a minimum, and that a summary should be added to show all progress made from the previous update. On individual tasks, CPD should add an estimated completion date and whether it was a new practice, one-time event, or ongoing. She also said that anything on the dashboard listed as full-compliance should fully address the audit recommendations. She asked for measurable metrics with analysis to demonstrate progress towards addressing major community issues and racial disparities. She also asked for the ability to ask questions and make comments and that the jargon be translated so that all community members could easily participate in the process.
- Mavis Huger said CAJM was asking CPAC to review the dashboard with CPD and support some of the improvements they had heard from the previous speakers. They wanted CPAC to monitor the compliance and efficacy of audit progress, preferably on a quarterly basis, for improvements to the dashboard; overall progress on reduction of racial disparities for stops, arrests, and citations; and getting a third-party to have independent oversight. She asked for the hiring of a replacement for Wendy Stiver to be a priority. She also asked for CPD to deliver the interim report they had promised and that CPD/CPAC explore a contract with the Center of Policing Equity. She thanked CPAC for the time to speak and asked for their help in achieving their shared goal of increasing trust between CPD and the community and making sure that there was accountability for reductions in racial disparities.

Ms. Fielding thanked the speakers for sharing their concerns. She encouraged them to review previous CPAC minutes as some of their concerns had discussed at previous meetings.

Moment of Silence in Memory of Councilwoman Mary Alice Mack

Ms. Fielding said Mary Alice Mack, who had served on CPAC in its early days, had passed away in January. She asked everyone to join her in a moment of silence.

Welcome New Members/Farewell to Members

Ms. Fielding said Eduardo Curry and Marisol Bailey's appointments had been approved by City Council. Unfortunately, Ernest Bryan, who had also been approved by City Council, was no longer able to serve on CPAC, so he had resigned. She noted that Councilmember Mitchell was working on a replacement for Councilwoman Mary Alice Mack.

Subcommittee Reports

- Communications - Paul Tamburrino

Mr. Tamburrino said the subcommittee would finally be holding their first educational session on February 8th at 7:00 p.m. They were predicting it would last about 30 minutes – 20 minutes of information and 10 minutes for questions. It would be a town hall format, and only the panelists would be seen and heard. Any participant that wanted to submit questions could do so in writing. He said this would also be a good way to respect decorum. He said they were assured that the City Council meeting earlier in the day would be finished by the time their meeting began. Mr. Ruemelin clarified that the regular City Council meeting would be held on Wednesday, but a special City Council meeting would still

be held on Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Tamburrino said that for the first part of the meeting Lt. Byrne, the commander for the Central Business District, would cover why changes were made and what impacts they had seen. He said Ms. Broome would moderate, since she was closer to the situation. They would pose questions in addition to the ones the community would submit. He said their goal was to hit topics that affected almost everyone.

Mr. Curry said he would like to join the Communications Subcommittee and asked if there was anything he could do to help promote the upcoming event. Mr. Tamburrino said he was now a member of the subcommittee and that he would send him some communication after the meeting. He encouraged all the CPAC members to forward the email he had sent them to their connections. He reminded members to register for the event and also warned them that they could be voluntold to lead a future information session if the topic was in their area of expertise.

- Policies and Procedures – Jerome Harris

Mr. Harris said he had shared a summary of the January 4th meeting with everyone earlier in the week. Of the 77 policies that existed, 33 updates had been completed, 16 were in progress, 5 were under command review, and 24 were yet to be scheduled. He said one of the important things to come out of that discussion was procedure related to General Order 5, which said CPAC could review directives and policies. The procedure CPD had established was that only after policies became public would CPAC be able to review and comment. He said he believed the intent of editing General Order 5 was so that CPAC would be able to provide comment before policies were posted publically. He noted that General Order 1, which pertained to the mission of CPD, had been completed after the subcommittee meeting, and he suggested that they discuss that at a future CPAC meeting. He said they had received an update that the cutoff for applications for the Procedural Justice Director position was January 14 and that the third-party, independent assessment was a priority. He said that toward the end of the meeting, they were interrupted by individuals using racial epithets and profanity, at which point he adjourned the meeting. Following that, he raised the concern of security with CPD staff and asked that the same procedures followed during City Council be applied to CPAC meetings, too. He said he was deeply concerned about issues of accessibility and security not being clear to either CPAC members or the public.

Ms. Fielding said, in regards to accessing meetings, the Zoom information was only sent to committee members and that the top part of agenda specified how citizens could speak to CPAC. She asked what was done differently for tonight's meeting to ensure they weren't interrupted like the subcommittee's meeting had been. Mr. Ruemelin said CPAC's meeting was run the same way as City Council's – that the members were the only ones to receive Zoom links and everyone else had to be let in by the administrator, who had the power to mute individuals or remove them from the meeting. Mr. Harris said he wanted to be sure that the same rules applied to the subcommittee meetings, too.

Ms. Fielding asked Mr. Harris if he said that the Policy Subcommittee was not able to review a policy before it was released to the public. He confirmed that's what he understood Cpt. Cretella to have said, that once the command staff had completed their review, the documents were made public, and then CPAC would have the chance to comment on them. Ms. Fielding said that was concerning because when

she looked at CPAC's guidelines, one of their actions and tasks was to "provide comments, suggestions, and recommendations...on department policies, procedure, and programs related to community policing and services." If one of their responsibilities was to provide comment, it was implied that they would participate in the review of documents before they were released. She asked why CPAC's comments would not be included in the review process before the document was publically released. Cpt. Cretella said there were a few schools of thought behind it. When Ms. Grant had proposed a year and a half ago that CPAC review all of the policies, CPD had 10-15 policies already in the review stage. For example, they were reviewing General Order 7, officer conduct, at the moment. They would look at it and see if there were any clear adjustments that needed to be made. If they kicked it to CPAC at that point, either to a subcommittee or the entire body, there could be a lag of 2 months before they got comments back. In the meantime, there would be other policies being reviewed. So, there would be a lot of moving parts. He said at any time, CAJM, CPAC, or any citizen could comment on a CPD policy. He said that was the good thing about the way their department was structured – the policies were black and white, but they were fluid. He said they had no problem with CPAC providing comments, which was why they were included in G.O. 5, but it came down to a timeliness issue. Ms. Fielding said CPAC met every other month, and in the months in between, the Policy Subcommittee met, which meant there was a meeting every month. She said they had purposefully increased the frequency of meetings so they could work on challenging areas. Mr. Harris said the Policy Subcommittee had come forward with the recommendation that, in order to avoid the time lag Cpt. Cretella mentioned, there be a 30-day period between the Chief's review and the final review from command staff during which CPAC could review policies and directives. He said the subcommittee had already identified priority policies that they would like to review. He said it was a benefit for CPD and the City for CPAC to be allowed to review and comment before policies became public. Mr. Palmer said if the goal was for CPAC to have an impact on what CPD was doing, it made no sense for CPD to post things publically before consulting CPAC. It made it seem like there was no value to their input if CPD moved forward without it. Cpt. Cretella said they had finished G.O. 1 in mid-January. If they hadn't published it, it would have gone to the Policy Subcommittee in February and then in March it would go to the full CPAC to vote on, which meant there would be a 2-month lag until it could be published. Mr. Palmer said if they valued the input, they had to wait to get it. Ms. Fielding said they understood what Cpt. Cretella was saying, but one of the reasons CPAC was established was to have participation from the community and improve relationships between the two. By bypassing CPAC, it seemed to nullify the committee's purpose. Mr. Curry asked if there was something written that gave them a period of time to respond to any changes to policy and if there was an opportunity to call emergency meetings if there were things of a time-sensitive nature. Ms. Fielding said they hadn't done that in the past, but it was the reason why they had increased the frequency of their meetings. Mr. Harris said the Policy Subcommittee had put forth the 30-day recommendation, but it was not included in CPD's General Order as procedure. Ms. Fielding asked Mr. Ruemelin how they bridged that disconnect. Mr. Ruemelin said he had attended the meetings that formed CPAC and the intent was not to have CPAC review every policy that was up for review. It was only to review those that CPAC saw as relevant. For example, polices on uniforms or vehicles wouldn't be brought to CPAC unless they specifically had an interest in it. He also noted that it didn't have to be limited to policies when they were under review – CPAC would comment on any policy at any time. From a legal perspective, if the Supreme Court came down with a decision that changed law, CPD would

change the policy tomorrow and they wouldn't have time to wait for a review period. Ms. Fielding asked Mr. Harris if his subcommittee could work with that. Mr. Harris said they had identified priority items, and he agreed with Mr. Ruemelin that they should change policies to comport with the law when necessary. However, he noted that they had identified G.O. 1 as being important and, when it was under review, CPD did not accommodate their concerns before publishing it publically. He said policy went through staff, Legal, and then command staff for feedback before it was published. He recommended that CPD ask CPAC if they had any comments on it when it was at the command staff level. If they didn't have any comments to make, or they didn't have the time to review it, it would be okay, but it gave CPAC the inclusion and credibility they were looking for. Mr. Tamburrino suggested curtailing the motion to include only policies and procedures that were of interest to CPAC. Mr. Harris argued for leaving it open because there could be policies and procedures the community was interested that weren't on CPAC's list.

On a motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Ms. Grant, CPAC voted unanimously to have the Chair work with CPD staff and Steve Ruemelin so that CPAC could be involved before policies and procedures were released to the general public.

- Traffic Stop – Camden Shields

Ms. Fielding stated Mr. Shields was unable to join them that evening, but he had sent out a report.

Updates

- *Community Engagement*

Cpt. McFadden said they were going back to doing newsletters. In 2022, she would like to go back to doing some of their crime prevention opportunities and planning. In the past few months, they had received good feedback on going into apartment complexes and presenting crime and safety tips to management and community members. She hoped to expand that and move into apartment complexes where they didn't usually go. They were still doing well with active shooter training, and had engaged in a gun control forum with some male youth. They had restarted Coffee with a Cop this month, and had the chance to engage with a lot of community members. They were specifically looking at ways to get into Palmilla Apartments to help with crime prevention strategies. They had done a lot of holiday outreach, such as Good Night Lights at Shawn Jenkins, a drug take back event with the Rec Department in Martin Park, Santa's Escort Ride, a holiday event at Bridgeview, and Toys for Tots. In January, they did a clothing drive at The Gathering Center. They received an award from Greg's Groceries for the food boxes they were able to give out in the community. In regards to their quick response overdose outreach program with PAARI, Rachel and Officer Washington had completed the Charleston Center's Train the Trainer Program for naloxone distribution. They were also awarded the COSSAP Grant, which was an opioid stimulant and substance abuse site-based program. It was their proposed extension for the Charleston County Addiction Crisis Task Force. That funding would allow for community-driven programs and responses to some of the drug threats in Charleston County. It also meant they would be able to keep Rachel onboard. Lowcountry Youth Services was their year-long mentorship program in Gadsden Green, which began December 2nd. During the first quarter of the program, they had worked

on communication skills, active listening, team building, emotional intelligence, and conflict resolution. Since opening the Gathering Center, from June to November, they had seen a reduction in firearm-related violent crime compared to the year before. She said they were trying to plan some youth engagement at Memminger Elementary School. One of their crime prevention focuses for 2022 was on vulnerable adults, so they were trying to get back into the senior centers that would allow them. They were also working with Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy to plan a community walk in the Ardmore community and would probably try to do one in Palmilla and Bridgeview, too. They wanted to engage the residents and talk about what kind of service projects CPD could do for them. It was more about bridging the gap and opening communication so that when there was crime, residents would feel comfortable talking to them. They had established dates for the next Citizen's Police Academy, April 6th through May 25th. They were also planning an open house and recruiting event for April 28th.

Mr. Tamburrino requested that CPAC members be included on the emailing list for the newsletters. Mr. Harris asked Cpt. McFadden where she was on the survey she had mentioned during the Communications Subcommittee meeting. Cpt. McFadden said hadn't made changes since they last spoke. They had talked about distribution over a period a couple months so that they could get a good sample. She wanted to make sure they got into several communities, but she would let them review it before she sent it out. Mr. Harris asked if there was an intentionality of integrating the data into the SOP report. Cpt. McFadden said she was working off their strategic plan. The data would be the start of a 1-5 year period with the goal of figuring out where CPD was in relation to citizens but also the different types of crime or fear of crime in each community. They would distribute the responses to area commanders so that they could come up with solutions. Mr. Tamburrino asked what the status was of replacing Wendy Stiver. Deputy Chief Walker said they had closed phase 1 of that process. It had been a nation-wide search, and they had received 30+ applications, so now they were narrowing it down. Ms. Fielding asked if there would still be an interim report for the Racial Bias Audit. Cpt. Cretella said that when Ms. Stiver left, command staff came together and asked what was best for CPD and the community. They decided that if they compiled a report it would sit somewhere and people wouldn't engage with it, which was why they had done the dashboard. They had advised the Public Safety Committee that they would update the dashboard a minimum of twice a year. Additionally, anything that occurred during that year would be in the end-of-year report, which would be published by the second quarter of the following year. The end-of-year report would include a section on the audit, but there would be no formal interim report. Ms. Fielding asked if there was a way for the public to provide comments on the dashboard. Cpt. Cretella said they could email either cretellaa@charleston-sc.gov or speaktocpd@charleston-sc.gov. He said they were looking for suggestions about how to make it more efficient, user friendly, and readable. Mr. Harris asked for DC Walker or Cpt. Cretella to provide an update on the status of the third-party review. DC Walker said they had two phases for the review. First, they were working to find a consultant to review the recommendations and assess what work still needed to be done. They were also working with the Center for Police Equity in regards to data and processes related to the audit. Ms. Fielding asked if there was a target date for those two items. DC Walker said they would fill the Procedural Justice position before the end of the first quarter, and they hoped to find a third-party assessor, that was within the budgeted amount, by the end of the first or beginning of the second quarter.

Topics for Future Agenda/Reminders

Mr. Tamburrino encouraged CPAC members to join the Citizen's Police Academy and to participate in a ride-along. He said they would have better dialogue and understanding the more they interacted with CPD. He asked for an update on how Chief Reynolds was doing. DC Walker said he was in good spirits, had a successful procedure, and had started rehab this week. He said he would hopefully return to Charleston in the next few days. Ms. Fielding encouraged members to keep Chief Reynolds in their prayers. She confirmed that 6-8p.m. worked for the CPAC meetings going forward and that their next meeting would be held over Zoom. She said if they followed their pattern of the first Thursday of the month, their next meetings would be June 2nd and August 4th. Mr. Harris said they should talk about General Order 1 at the next meeting.

Having no further business, CPAC adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Andrea Derungs
Clerk of Council's Office