



# CITY OF CONCORD

*New Hampshire's Main Street™*

## Public Safety Advisory Board Meeting

### **DRAFT** Minutes

May 24, 2021

#### **Call to Order**

Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

**Board Members Present:** Councilor Amanda Grady-Sexton (**chair**), Mayor James Bouley (late), Councilor Erle Pierce, Donald Carter, and Steve Edwards.

**Late:** Councilor Candace Bouchard, Councilor Zandra Rice Hawkins

**Absent:** Councilor Fred Keach, Lisa Brown, Anna McKenna, Carol Hargrove

**City Employees Present:** Fire Chief Sean Brown, Police Chief Bradley Osgood, Deputy Police Chief Gregory Taylor, Deputy Police Chief Steven Smagula, and Deputy Police Chief John Thomas.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Bouley motioned to approve the minutes from May 3, 2021. Councilor Bouchard seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

#### **CALEA Update**

Chief Bradley Osgood updated the board. He said that they have a meeting with HL Turner regarding issues with the Police Department building on May 25, 2021. He said that the company is attempting to develop a report identifying the police department needs regarding the physical structure of the current building, and how to better utilize the building. The report will also suggest various offsite locations where a new building could be built.

Chief Osgood also noted that the policy manual that the police department currently has assembled has been built on CALEA standards.

#### **Harm Reduction Syringe Service Programs**

Chief Osgood gave an overview of the Syringe Service Program, also known as Needle Exchange. He also spoke about heroin, fentanyl, and methamphetamine and why drug users use needles. He said that the police community sees that the drug users often times get infections because they are using dirty cotton, needles, or

water, thus transmitting disease and infection. The New Hampshire Harm Reduction committee is ready to launch a safe syringe service program/needle exchange.

Chief Osgood also spoke about Senate Bill 234 that was signed by Governor Sununu in 2017. The bill authorized a syringe service program in the State of NH. They are allowed to provide needles, syringes and other drug preparation equipment and disposal services, while also providing education and counseling about injection and overdose risks. They also provide Narcan to prevent overdoses. The program also provides referrals to medical health care, mental health care and other support services. They are required to report to the New Hampshire Public Health quarterly, and they are not allowed to operate in a school zone.

The Chief said that the CDC has been studying the harm reduction models for about 30 years. He said that these programs save lives because they lower deaths from overdoses, while also helping reduce disease transmission. He said that people who use these services are shown to overcome addiction as well. This program also reduces the number of used syringes and needles that are found throughout the communities. He said that he has been in contact with the New Hampshire coordinator and that they want to begin these services in July. He said that they are not allowed to be on City property.

Councilor Rice-Hawkins asked if the City of Concord requested that the program not be on City property or if that was a parameter of the grants that the program received.

Chief Osgood said that his understanding was that that was a City Policy decision.

Councilor Rice-Hawkins asked if there was data on the percent of the kits that were returned intact in previous communities.

Chief Osgood said that he did receive some data but that was not in it.

Councilor Rice Hawkins stated that information would be of interest to the Public Safety Advisory Board after the program has started.

Mr. Carter asked if the group would be providing or offering services beyond needle exchange, such as helping them to stop using drugs.

Chief Osgood answered that their focus is to help people stop using drugs. He said that they provide education and will point people in the right directions for services. He said that they track how many people they refer to a treatment center. He said that sometimes this can be successful. He was unsure on the percentages of that.

Councilor Grady-Sexton said that she is aware that there have been some issues in the City of Manchester with their needle exchange program and asked Chief Osgood if he was aware of those issues and whether he was confident that the same issues would not arise in Concord.

Chief Osgood said he wasn't really sure about the specific issues in Manchester. He said that he thinks that Concord and Manchester Communities are very different. He noted that if there were any problems with these sites he would promptly address them with the director.

Mr. Carter said that when on construction job sites that they go around and make sure that sharps are not on their sites. He asked what the Chiefs recommendation would be when sharps are found.

Chief Osgood recommended that they call the Police Department. He said that staff knows how to handle the needles and will take care of it as soon as possible.

### **LEACT and Review of the President's Task Force- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing**

Chief Osgood asked if there were specific questions that members wanted to discuss.

Councilor Rice-Hawkins asked for an update on the LEACT.

Chief Osgood said that he has been trying to brief the City Manager on where the department stands, but has not had the opportunity to yet. He said he wanted to talk to the City Manager before he addressed the board or the City Council.

Councilor Grady Sexton said that there could be changes as to what the House and Senate adopt, so it could be premature to give an overview until it passes.

Chief Osgood said that he attended a large majority of the LEACT hearings and the subsequent recommendations applicable to municipal policing that followed.

The discussion moved from the LEACT recommendations to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Report.

Councilor Rice-Hawkins suggested going through the task force recommendations one by one and continuing from where the committee last left off.

Chief Osgood spoke about recommendation 2.13. He said that the Concord Police Department does have an anti-bias policing policy. He said that officers receive ethics training before attending the police academy and then again at the academy. He noted that the department has an instructor that is trained in de-escalation techniques.

Councilor Rice-Hawkins asked if some of the trainings are required on an annual basis.

Chief Osgood answered that they are mandatory for all employees during calendar year 2021 and that he has asked the Professional Development Unit to ensure that all Officers have completed the training by June 30<sup>th</sup>. He said that there are several courses that deal with implicit bias that would be good for the civilian workforce as well.

Councilor Rice-Hawkins asked if this will be a onetime training or if it will be an annual required training.

Chief Osgood answered that it is an annual training; however it will be subject to ensuring the training has changed instead of being the same training that they took before.

Councilor Rice-Hawkins asked if there were adopted policies regarding profiling and discrimination.

Chief Osgood said that it part of the department's anti-bias policing policy. He said that it talks about those issues. He said that the policy was modeled after the International Association of Chiefs of Police policy.

Councilor Rice-Hawkins asked the Chief if it was on the department's website. Chief Osgood answered that it is not.

Councilor Rice-Hawkins requested to add the policy to the department's website.

Chief Osgood answered that Councilor Rice-Hawkins could make the request however he would have to address it with the City's Legal Department. He said that he doesn't believe that policy is subject to redaction.

Chief Osgood said that if anyone had a particular question that stood out that they could start there, as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing document is complex.

Councilor Rice-Hawkins recommended going through the document line by line. She said that she wants to ensure that if the department is already doing these tasks that she wants to communicate that to the public, as well as address improvements that may need to be made.

Councilor Grady-Sexton asked the committee whether they think that they should go through the document line by line.

Councilor Bouchard said that she doesn't know if now is the time to go through the report line by line as it will be too time consuming, she suggested that the committee read through it and ask questions as they have them.

Councilor Pierce agreed with Councilor Bouchard and suggested setting aside a little bit of time during each meeting to address any questions the committee may have.

Mr. Edwards and Mr. Carter agreed with the other committee members.

Mayor Bouley suggested that Councilor Rice-Hawkins meet with Chief Osgood to go over the document in depth.

Councilor Grady-Sexton offered to meet with Councilor Rice-Hawkins and Chief Osgood regarding the document and suggested that they could report back to the committee.

Councilor Rice-Hawkins suggested to invite some community members to the meeting regarding the document.

### **Homelessness Subcommittee Report**

Mayor Bouley gave an overview of the homelessness subcommittee's meeting. He said that the Police Department and Fire Department provided a good foundation for discussions going further. He said that this is an issue that takes a tremendous amount of time from the police and fire departments, as well as other city resources. He noted that he was surprised by the numbers of homeless community members as it has significantly grown in the last few years. He said that there is not one place that the people are coming from,

however the City offers a lot of resources which can be attractive to someone who is in need of services. He said that a common theme is that everyone could improve communications amongst the different entities. He noted that they subcommittee was going to ask the Homeless Task Force to join them in a discussion regarding the homelessness problem in the City.

Councilor Rice-Hawkins noted that last June it was reported that there were around 150 homeless people in the City.

Councilor Grady-Sexton said that the Police Department did recommend that those organizations that offer tents to the homeless population also offer trash bags.

Councilor Rice-Hawkins asked if there are trash cans or dumpsters that are available to the homeless.

Mayor Bouley said that they could discard their trash in any downtown dumpster.

Councilor Rice-Hawkins asked if those were private dumpsters.

Mayor Bouley said that they are City owned. He noted that those in the downtown district pay into that fund. He said that there are plenty of dumpsters downtown.

Councilor Rice-Hawkins asked if the homeless population is aware that they can use those dumpsters.

Mayor Bouley said that they are.

Councilor Grady-Sexton asked if the Harm Reduction Coalition has been asked to provide any reports to the City Council.

Mayor Bouley said that he thinks it would be very appropriate for them to come and talk to the Council as there are a lot of questions that could be answered.

Chief Osgood said that he will reach out to the Coalition and ask them to address the Public Safety Advisory Board or the City Council.

Councilor Grady-Sexton asked if members were available to meet on June 28, 2021 at 3:00 p.m., via zoom. She noted that they will invite the Harm Reduction Coalition and also invite Councilor Champlin to the meeting to discuss the homeless problem.

Councilor Rice-Hawkins asked if there was a new location that the homeless population has moved to.

No one on the board was aware of a new encampment.

Mr. Carter expressed concern regarding having community members join the meeting between Chief Osgood, Councilor Rice-Hawkins and Councilor Grady-Sexton regarding the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Task Force, he said that he believes it would be too time consuming.

Councilor Rice-Hawkins stated that the committee has made little progress in addressing the recommendations of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Task Force.

Councilor Bouchard noted that everyone may have a different approach to reviewing the document. She noted that the discussion was an important discussion to have regardless of the approach.

Councilor Rice-Hawkins asked for clarity from the committee. She asked if the committee would like to come back with questions regarding the document or whether they would like her to meet with the Chief to discuss it.

Councilor Bouchard said that she thinks that Councilor Rice-Hawkins and Councilor Grady-Sexton meeting with Chief Osgood is a good idea. She noted that she does not think that the community members should be invited to the discussion at this time.

Mayor Bouley noted that essentially he is suggesting a subcommittee to address the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Task Force Guidelines. He notes that would be open to the public but that they do not need to invite community members.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.