

To: Common Council Executive Committee
From: Public Safety Review Committee, Brenda Konkell, Chair
Re: Review of Mission per President's Workgroup on Police and Community Relations - Recommendation #13
Date: February 20, 2020

PURPOSE

The Public Safety Review Committee would like to finish the discussion about the mission of the committee so that we can focus on working on the important public safety issues that need to be addressed in this community. We have found that lack of clarity about our mission continues to hamper our work and prevents us from setting priorities.

BACKGROUND

In the May 12, 2017 report from the President's Work Group on Police and Community Relations there is the following item:

Action Item 13: The Common Council directs the Common Council Executive Committee to undertake a review of the role, membership and charges under ordinance(s) for the Public Safety Review Committee.

The description in the report of the Public Safety Review Committee is as follows:

Madison General Ordinance Sec. 33.22 - The board shall be advisory to the mayor and Common Council to assist them in the performance of their statutory duties. The board may review and make recommendations concerning departmental budgets; review service priorities and capital budget priorities of the Police and Fire Departments; serve as liaison between the community and the city on public safety issues; and review annually and make recommendations to the Common Council regarding the annual work plans and long- range goals of the departments

Nearly three years later, while there have been multiple discussions between various iterations of the Common Council Executive Committee, Public Safety Review Committee, Council Leadership and Mayor's Office, there have been no definitive conclusions.

PUBLIC SAFETY REVIEW COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

ORDINANCE

The committee reviewed the ordinance and had the following initial comments and suggestions:

Madison General Ordinance 33.22

(4) Duties . The work of the Public Safety Review Committee shall be advisory to the Mayor and the Common Council to assist them in the performance of their statutory duties regarding the police and fire departments. The role of the Public Safety Review Committee shall in no way interfere with the lawfully prescribed powers and duties of the Common Council, the Police and Fire Commission, the Mayor, or

the Chiefs of the respective Police or Fire Departments. The Public Safety Review Committee may, in the performance of its duties:

- (a) Review **service priorities**¹ and capital budget priorities of the Police and Fire departments;
- (b) Serve as liaison between the community and the City on **public safety**² issues;
- (c) Review annually and **make recommendations to the Mayor and the Common Council**⁵ regarding the **annual work plans**³ and **long-range goals**⁴ of the departments.

Legistar description of PSRC, Description in President’s Work Group Report:

Madison General Ordinance Sec. 33.22 - The board shall be advisory to the mayor and Common Council to assist them in the performance of their statutory duties. **The board may “review and make recommendations concerning departmental budgets**⁶; review service priorities and capital budget priorities of the Police and Fire Departments; serve as liaison between the community and the city on public safety issues; and review annually and make recommendations to the Common Council regarding the annual work plans and long-range goals of the departments.”

PSRC COMMENTS

We seek clarification on the following phrases:

- 1. **“Service priorities”** – because this is in the same sentence with the “capital budget priorities” is this referring to the operating budget?
- 2. **“Public safety”** – is this limited to the functions of the police and fire department, or could it be considered broader and include public health, emergency preparedness and other issues?
- 3. **“annual work plans”** - What is this phrase referring to? Do the departments have “annual work plans” and if so, how do we access them? Does this relate to the Performance Excellence initiative? Or budget priorities? Or department head contract language? What happened to the strategic planning the Police Department was doing? Does the Fire Department have a work plan?
- 4. **“long range goals”** – Where do we find these for the police and fire departments?
- 5. **“recommendations to the Mayor and Common Council”** How would we make these annual recommendations to the Mayor and Common Council? Or should they be made to the police and fire departments? Does the Mayor and Common Council review these annual work plans and long range goals? Or is that just in the context of the budget?
- 6. **“review and make recommendations concerning departmental budgets”** Is this referring to department budget requests, or the entire budget process?

ROLES OF COMMITTEES

One of the points of confusion is what is the role of the increasing number of committees formed to address policing issues in our community. The committee discussed the various roles and identified the following roles and issues for consideration.

Committee	Police and Fire Commission	Public Safety Review Committee	Temporary “178” Committee	Oversight Committee
Main areas of decision making	Personnel Matters	-Budget -Liaison to Community -Review workplans and set long range goals	Mission to be determined by CCEC in resolution forming the committee	-Internal police policies -Community member complaints

		-Advisory to the Mayor and Alders on Citywide polices (referrals from and policy recommendations to the council)		-Work with independent auditor
Important Distinctions	Mandate set by state law	Covers the Fire Department budget, policy, goals and community liaison roles	Temporary committee that will dissolve when Oversight Committee is constituted	-No Alders on the Committee to advance policies -Doesn't cover the fire department

In discussing what the Public Safety Review Committee role would be in each of the areas under our purview, we discussed the following ideas:

Budget

- Hold public meetings at budget time
- Make recommendations about
 - police and fire department budgets prior to Alder amendments
 - make recommendations about alder amendments at Finance and the Common Council

Liaison to the Community on Police and Fire Department

- Listening sessions
- Strategic Community Input
- Informative Presentations
- Our own “coffee with a cop”
- Strong plan for follow up from public input

Budget

- Work Plans/Long Range Goals
- Review and recommendations on
 - Strategic Planning
 - Performance Excellence
 - Chiefs’ Work Plans
 - Long Range Goals of Police and Fire Department

Advisory to Mayor and Alders

- Make recommendations about citywide public safety policies
- Respond to referrals on citywide policies by the Common Council

Relationship to Oversight Committee

- In the event the Oversight committee would make recommendations that would require Council action, the PSRC would be a referral on those items

RECOMMENDATION

Our recommendation after all this discussion is primarily to continue with the work as outlined in the ordinance, with relatively few tweaks to the language. In our discussions we concluded the following:

1. “Service Priorities” appears to be referring to the operating budget.

2. Public safety issues covered by the Public Safety Review Committee are limited to issues the police and fire department are involved in. Public health policy issues should be covered by the Public Health Board for Madison and Dane County. In drawing this conclusion we recognize this is not a bright line and issues may, from time to time, overlap.
3. "Annual work plans and long range goals of the departments" vary between the departments but this language would include the five year capital budget plan, strategic planning, Performance Excellence or other mayoral initiatives, the Chiefs' work plans and other planning initiatives that may arise.
4. The "recommendations to the Mayor and Common Council" refers to items that may be referred to us or items initiated by the committees. We would work through the alder on the committee to introduce these items to the Common Council.

These recommendations require very few tweaks to the ordinance.

Madison General Ordinance 33.22

(4) Duties . The work of the Public Safety Review Committee shall be advisory to the Mayor and the Common Council to assist them in the performance of their statutory duties regarding the police and fire departments. The role of the Public Safety Review Committee shall in no way interfere with the lawfully prescribed powers and duties of the Common Council, the Police and Fire Commission, the Mayor, or the Chiefs of the respective Police or Fire Departments. The Public Safety Review Committee may, in the performance of its duties:

- (a) Review and make recommendations regarding service priorities operating and capital budget priorities of the Police and Fire departments;
- (b) Serve as liaison between the community and the City on public safety issues;
- (c) Review annually and make recommendations to the Mayor and the Common Council regarding the annual work plans and long-range goals of the police and fire departments.
- (d) Accept referrals from and make recommendations to the Mayor and Common Council on public safety issues involving the police and fire departments.