City of Madison

Meeting Minutes

COMMUNITY POLICING AND BODY CAMERA AD HOC COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 30, 2015	**9:00 AM**	**101 E. Mifflin St.** **YWCA - Vilas Room**

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Kristen Roman; Laura Laurenzi; Richard Beadles; Veronica Lazo; Tom Brown; Maria-Teresa Dary and Anthony B. Cooper, Sr.

Absent: 2 - Lucia Nunez and Percy L. Brown, Jr.

Others present: Rich Beadles, IT; Johnny Winston Jr, Madison Fire Department (in place of Laura Laurenzi); Nancy Saiz, Committee Staff; Gloria Reyes, Mayoral Assistant; Jacquie Boggess, YWCA; Colleen Butler, YWCA; Will Clifton, YWCA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Richard B. moved to approve the June 30th minutes, it was second by Cpt. Roman

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment – Gene Cox from Occupy Madison Village came to speak in support of Community Policing.
"Since the redoing of the Village there has been Community Policing, and there have been no police. There has been harm done in the Village but the residents of the Village have created a community where people take responsibility for themselves. This is good for the community and individuals."

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

[39451](#) Overview of Reports by Capt Roman August 2015

Tom B. brought up the importance of the work we are doing in lieu of the Cincinnati Shooting that happened last week. Cpt. Roman gave an overview of the report she worked on as stated in resolution 36838. This is a list of pros, cons, and things that need to be kept in mind if this committee moves forward with recommending cameras.

•Focus of the research was on reports and articles that speak to policies being set
•There is not much research on this topic.

- Committee needs to be realistic about the cameras expectations, benefits and drawbacks
- Do they really provide accountability and transparency?
- If policies are crafted around the use of cameras, there needs to be a continual review process of set policies.
- The end goal is not for cameras to take the place of officers developing relationships and building trust in the community.
- Some of the early discussion points to a reduction of complaints, more timely resolution to complaints
- Car cameras have also shown the previous point.
- When car cameras were first introduced there was push back from the police officers. Now officers see the benefit.
- Police officers have many of the same concerns as community, in terms of transparency and accountability.
- More reports and how to guides have been coming out on the pros and cons of cameras.
- If the committee decides to go forward with recommending cameras, there is a lot of sifting of policies and procedures to go through to make sure the committee chooses what fits Madison.
- A benefit to police is the cameras add to evidence and helps put reports together.
- Citizens benefits are there is follow up and complaints are being resolved.
- Biggest issue is Privacy
   - Privacy needs to be one of the biggest parameters around cameras.
   - Immigration – concern about evidence and the use of it
   - Open records ramifications will be huge
      *Police will have to add staff to keep up with open record requests. As it is Madison has more open records requests than Milwaukee.
- Police department cost will increase tremendously
   - Equipment + Staff
- There are federal programs that can help offset the starting cost, however it will ultimate fall on the City of Madison to continue funding.
- There are ways to impact cost by building parameters on how cameras are phased, it could start as a pilot by positions or departments.
- Feelings vary within the police department. Some see it as a protection for themselves.

The biggest questions for this Ad Hoc Committee are: what are the benefits? And what are we undermining by using cameras? This committee ultimately recommends whether cameras are used or not.

Rich B. – Technology is a tool. It will not solve the problem.

Tom B. – Partnerships and education are important to implement best practice strategies that are consistent. We all want the same things public safety, trust, crime reduction, but both sides need to give

Cpt. Roman – Part of the recommendations need to have an element of measurement. What are those things? Are we all in agreement? How are measurements developed? Once we start answering those questions Police officers need to be involved in the development of a program.

39452   YWCA Update August 2015

Colleen Butler from the YWCA introduced the staff who has been working on gathering community input:

Will Clifton – has been one on one interviews as well as focus groups within the City of Madison.
Jacqueline Boggess has been working with various community groups doing one on one interviews as well as focus groups. Some of the groups Ms Boggess has met with include:

-Operation Fresh Start
-UNIDOS
-MUM
-LGBTQ group on Campus
-Nehemiah
-Union de Trabajadores Inmigrantes (UTI)
-GSAFE
-Alianza Latina
-Urban League
-Freedom Inc.
-100 Black Men

Over 100 people have interviewed. There is diversity in age, ethnicity, and nationality

Jacquie Boggess is Co Director of a national policy organization called Center for Family Policy and Practice based in Madison WI. Jacquie gave an overview of her findings and made the committee aware that interviews were wrapping up, and therefore still working on the report. The following are themes that she found overall.

•When the conversations began most groups and individuals said YES cameras should be used.
•As the discussion began and there was conversation most people felt cameras were NOT necessary.
•Vulnerable and marginalized communities were targeted. Therefore, open records was not the main concern
•The main concern – the ability police officers will have to turn cameras off and on. Many asked 'what is the point of cameras then?'
•This gave most people a false sense of security. This can be seen on both sides.
•Depending on the group, privacy concerns were brought up especially for LGBTQ and Domestic Violence groups.
•A positive aspect people spoke to was situations may not escalate quickly
All across the groups there was theme that kept coming up that spoke to the police presence highlighting the overall feeling of distrust, fear, and a constant feeling of surveillance. People understand that there may be fear on both sides but cops carry guns.

Will C. – Pointed out that there was an overlap on much of the info gathered from community and employees of the city interviewed.

After much discussion the committee agreed that they needed more time to look at the final report from the YWCA and have an honest discussion about how to move forward. The resolution was revisited and was noticed that one of the two charges has been done.

1)guide develop and implement a community and employee engagement process and timeline
The second charge however assumes that the committee will move forward with a recommendation for body cameras.
2) develop a policy on the use of body cameras, and 3) develop a framework for a pilot study to occur in 2016.

After YWCA gave a report on its findings the committee feels that they need more time to discuss and consider everything that has been brought up ie police relations, cost, community perceptions, privacy, etc.

39454   Meeting Schedule August 2015

Committee decided to meet on August 25th at 1pm. The YWCA report will be done and sent to committee on August 24th. The committee will work on a definitive recommendation on the meeting of the 25th.

39456   Plan for Recommendations to go to Mayor and Council (September 15) August 2015

Veronica L. made a motion for committee to still give a report to the Council on September 15th with their definitive recommendation on whether cameras should be used or not. If committee recommends to move forward with a recommendation for cameras than committee will ask for more time and assistance on developing policies and framework.   Anthony Cooper second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Anthony motioned to adjourn meeting. Veronica L seconded. Motion passed unanimously.