

Northampton Policing Review Commission

Full Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 5, 2021
6:00PM -9:00PM
Remote Meeting

To join the remote meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/99313864265?pwd=QIR3T2VnMG9LNzFVc01hbVRRNmp1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 993 1386 4265 **Passcode:** 471988

- **Or by telephone, call: +1(929)436-2866 US**

1. Call to Order
 - Announcement of Zoom Recording
 - Roll Call
 - Approval of Meeting Minutes
2. Public comment (30 minutes)
3. Presentation and Q&A by Rachel Bromberg
4. Announcement of speakers for commission and subcommittees
5. Subcommittee updates and Discussion of Preliminary Report
6. Updates on new appointees to the commission
7. New business
8. Adjourn

1.MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Dan Cannity at 6:01 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZOOM RECORDING

Commissioner Dan Cannity made an announcement that this meeting was being recorded for the public record and would be available on Northampton Open Media, as well as, the City of Northampton website.

Commissioner Elizabeth Barajas-Roman present
Commissioner Booker Bush present
Commissioner Dan Cannity (co-chair) present
Commissioner Nick Fleisher present
Commissioner David Hoose present
Commissioner Alex Jarrett present

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido present
Commissioner Nnamdi Pole present
Commissioner Michael Quinlan present
Commissioner Josey Rosales present
Commissioner Cynthia Suopis present
Commissioner Carol Owens present

2. Public comment (30 minutes)

Community Member Hildegard Freedman said she's upset with the governor's amendment to the decision of the legislature that weakens the core racial justice provisions and served on police accommodations, accountability, and common sense regulations.

Community member Richard Hendrick said these are exceptional times, and thanks the commission for their work. He said he looks forward to observing the process of decision making. He mentioned on December 23 a Ohio police officer killed a black man. He said he hopes the commission can find an appropriate replacement for Commissioners Carmen and Dana.

Community member Ed Olmstead thanked the members of the commission for their continued hard work. He said he's concerned about the compensation and benefits of civilian responders.

Community member Rye Buckley thanked the commission for their work. He said the commission must hear voices of those who experience policing the most.

Community member Robert Eastman said we are all here for justice for black lives who are murdered every day at the hands of police. He reminded the commission to keep this in mind when the commission addresses current social services.

3. Presentation and Q&A by Rachel Bromberg

Rachel Bromberg gave a presentation on a peer-based model in Toronto designed to implement a non police crisis response. She said the Toronto city council felt this was the moment to do something became invested in designing an alternative. She said there was a 92 page report created. She said the model is staffed exclusively by mental health clinicians and peer supporters, is accessible through 911 directly, and is available 24/7 across the city with immediate response times.

Commissioner Alex Jarrett wondered whether there are any examples of cities of Northampton size that Rachel has seen teams working on.

Rachel Bromberg said the city closest in size to Northampton is Olympia Washington (45,000 people) and that they've had a Crisis Response Unit since early 2018 which consists of a team of social workers dispatched via the 911 service.

Commissioner Carol Owens said Rachel's model broadens the sense of what dispatch can be under a public health umbrella. She said the commission has used various language to describe community response that shouldn't be the police.

Commissioner Booker Bush wondered if the funding is coming from new funds or if there's any conscious effort shifting funding away from other things toward the programs.

Rachel Bromberg said it's going to be funded partially by the city. She said part of it might be funded by the health budget which is set by the Province. She said in terms of other cities, there are lots of ways these programs get funded. She said the two biggest ones are directly through the city, the health budget, with some money by the state.

5. Subcommittee updates and Discussion of Preliminary Report

Outreach Committee

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido said the subcommittee met before the holidays. He said the committee plans to workshop the first draft of a document for guidelines that anyone on commission can use so that there is consistency.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said they plan to have testimonies distributed and maintained in a public way so that there is equity in terms of sharing experience and testimonies like the public hearing.

Commissioner Carol Owens said that for people who are willing to talk to the commission, there may be the possibility of recognition because the data will be shared with the commission and stored. She said the commission needs to talk about this more and get input from everyone.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido said especially specific incidents might be easy for police to figure out who this is. He said he wants to address this. He invited the public to come to the meeting.

Spending & Contracts

Commissioner Josey Rosales said the committee is going through data from the NPD personnel hours of patrol time, and are trying to get to the heart of what the police budget is actually paying for. Josey shared their screen and showed a graph showing policing taking up a huge portion of highest paid city employees. They said the police department isn't accurately cataloging their time. They said 96.*% of police time isn't accounted for.

Policing Policies & Services

Commissioner Nnamdi Pole said the focus of their meeting was to get clear about how to contribute to write the report. He said the committee is working on the effort to summarize domestic violence, traffic, sexual assault, and mental health.

Alternatives to Policing

The Alternatives to Policing subcommittee edited their section of the preliminary report.

6. Updates on new appointees to the commission

Commissioner Dan Cannity said the commission has exhausted the pool of women of color.

He noted he reached out to organizations to help provide funding and said the commission hasn't heard back yet.

7. Adjourn

Commissioner Michael Quinlan moved to adjourn. Commissioner David Hoose seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously at 9:06pm.