

Northampton Policing Review Commission: Spending and Contracts Subcommittee

Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, February 3rd, 2021
5:00-7:00pm
Remote Meeting

To join the remote meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/93630783785?pwd=Z0NyMHBFSlgrUEhFd1ZadjV5RDZRdz09>

Meeting ID: 936 3078 3785

Passcode: 166122

Or by telephone, call: +1 929 436 2866

1. Call to Order
 - Announcement of Zoom Recording
 - Roll Call
 - Approval of meeting minutes
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes
3. Public comment: 30 minutes
4. Explanations of expenditures and revenue streams from the NPD
5. Staffing regulations and processes
 - minimum requirements in laws? Ideal levels?
 - contractual obligations when including staffing levels measured across departments and services (i.e., peer responders)
4. Further research and discussion on data acquired on policing in Northampton
5. New Business
6. Next Meeting Scheduling and Agenda
6. Adjourn

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Josey Rosales at 5:05pm.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZOOM RECORDING

This meeting is being recorded for the public record and would be available on Northampton Open Media, as well as, the City of Northampton website.

ROLL CALL:

Daniel Cannity Present
Michael Quinlan Present
Josey Rosales Present

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

There were no minutes to approve.

4. Explanations of expenditures and revenue streams from the NPD

Commissioner Dan Cannity said some of the things that might be revenue generating, details for instance, those jobs don't suddenly need to not get done. He would like to see that money earmarked and go directly towards reinvestment. He said identifying those funds and where they go is something the committee can do.

Commissioner Josey Rosales said they think that even if there was money allocated to the new department, it would still be less expensive than police doing that job.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said he agrees. He said when you take away responsibility, you take away money. He said it will be dif

Commissioner Michael Quinlan said the city operated on a hundred million dollar budget and that all of the cities' needs need to be addressed. He said you still have to pay people to respond to various services and that when he went through the budget proposal the mayor sent to city council last May, he looked at the various city departments and what they cost. He said the health department was budgeted up a bit due to COVID, but it will cost a little over 500K, with 11 full time people. He said the department clicked for him in terms of size, scope, and money.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said racism has been declared racism a public health emergency. He said now it's time to look at other funding as well if it's going toward alleviating this issue.

Commissioner Michael Quinlan said the council is already advocating for a department. He

said sometimes the issues of racial bias are difficult to study. He said it came to him that looking into this office would make sense because it could oversee peer advocates, emergency response, civilian flaggers or whoever else would make sense to be under that umbrella.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said if there is a broader community health department that has power and influence to do their job, and that treats people well, it can do some of this work. He said he wants to make sure whatever is proposed is feasible and that the committee provides strong recommendations.

The commissioners discuss the Austin Justice Coalition report.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said this committee is the only one that has brought up staffing levels and that it might be important to think about specifics in terms of numbers. He said fewer officers hasn't helped Northampton feel more safe.

Commissioner Michael Quinlan said in terms of law of averages, there are still many officers on for shifts, in terms of numbers of shifts available, the city is making five officers available per shift.

Commissioner Josey Rosales said also paying attention to who is making the hires is also important in terms of being in charge of hiring and being able to say who is qualified.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said when six police officers resign, he thinks: there should be six people who are responding for needs of safety, so we should hire six peer-led responders and let's do that immediately.

Commissioner Josey Rosales said with the success of a potential on the success of pilot programs, we can use it as further divestment and reinvestment after this initial peer led response so that funds can continue to be moved to these peer led institutions that will hopefully bring services to the community.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said he's unsure if Northampton has ever done this or had a dedicated needs assessment for the city. He said Umass is able to do a needs assessment, and the size is similar, so it is possible. He said in terms of training, there are trainings that peer-led support workers can do.

Commissioner Josey Rosales asked what the city is legally responsive to in terms of the contract in relation to personnel laws.

Commissioner Michael Quinlan said that's what the city would control in terms of how many people and how they do the job.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said the follow up question could be finding out what trainings are mandatory versus optional that the NPD is sending officers to. He said since the committee is asking for specific data and numbers, he feels like getting this information

from an email from the chief makes more sense than having a discussion. He read from the data from the NPD which showed in 2019 patrol officers participated in 4,442 field training hours to probationary officers which occurs during regular patrol hours. He said looking at trainings he wondered about the overlap with city employee training.

Commissioner Michael Quinlan said he's been through the city training but he's unsure what it looks like for a full time employee.

Commissioner Josey Rosales said there feels like there needs to be more intra-subcommittee interaction in order to answer some of these harder questions. They said if they don't know what other committees are recommending as alternatives, it becomes difficult to move forward.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said the purpose of more of the full commission meetings is just that. He said this committee is the reactive subcommittee in a lot of ways, and have been tasked to dig into the nuances.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Josey Rosales moved to adjourn. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.