

Town of Brunswick, Maine

POLICING REVIEW COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, May 13, 2021

5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

The meeting began at 5:13 pm.

Present: Police Chief Scott Stewart, Councilor Jim Mason, Councilor Dan Ankeles, Councilor Kathy Wilson, Linda Asher-Ford, Claudia Watson, Jason Gould, Flora Hull and Troy Henninger

Absent: None

Approval of meeting summary from April 29, 2021:

Councilor Mason motioned to approve the minutes from April 29, 2021 as submitted. Troy Henninger seconded the motion. The motion carried. Councilor Wilson abstained.

Chair Gould summarized the recommendations from last meeting.

Recommendation 1:

The Committee recommends that the Brunswick Police Department conduct an Intercultural Development Inventory to measure its collective understanding of cultural differences, recognize how that understanding potentially affects policing, and determine whether additional training would be beneficial.

Chief Stewart asked a question. Linda Asher-Ford, Councilor Ankeles, Councilor Mason and Chair Gould commented. Claudia Watson, Chair Gould, Kathy Wilson and Linda Asher-Ford spoke.

Recommendation 2:

The Committee recommends that the Brunswick Police Department gather data on outcomes/responses to mental health calls and develop a log of all interactions with individuals experiencing a mental health crisis (for instances when this might not have been the identified purpose of the call).

Recommendation 3:

The Committee recommends that the Brunswick Police Department develop a Crisis Intervention Team comprised of appropriately trained individuals.

Claudia Watson and Chair Gould commented

Recommendation 4:

The Committee recommends that all Brunswick Police Department officers attend a Mental Health First Aid and a Youth Mental Health First Aid training to learn about behaviors exhibited by individuals with mental illness and helpful ways to engage with them.

Recommendation 5:

The Committee recommends the establishment of a position for a licensed social worker, clinician, or other behavioral therapist to work with the Brunswick Police Department. This position could be shared across departments in two or more towns.

Chief Stewart, Chair Gould and Claudia Watson commented.

Chair Gould spoke about Councilor Mason's public complaint resolution process that he brought up at the last meeting. Chief Stewart, Councilor Mason and Councilor Ankeles spoke.

Councilor Mason, Chair Gould, Claudia Watson, Troy Henninger, and Linda Asher-Ford spoke about the Committee.

Next Meeting: May 27, 2021, 5:00 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.