



APPROVED

**CITY OF YPSILANTI
POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS/BLACK LIVES MATTER
JOINT TASK FORCE
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017 - 7:00 P.M.
YPSILANTI CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ONE SOUTH HURON, YPSILANTI, MI 48197**

I. CALL TO ORDER –

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL –

TASK FORCE

Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Brown, Chair	Present
HRC Commissioner Jennifer Symanns	Present
Council Member Pete Murdock	Present
HRC Commissioner John Shuler, Co-Chair	Present
Council Member Brian Robb	Present
HRC Commissioner Theresa Saunders	Present

III. INVOCATION –

Commissioner Shuler asked all to stand for a moment of silence.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –

"I pledge allegiance to the flag, of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

V. AGENDA APPROVAL –

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown moved, seconded by Commission Symanns to approve the agenda as submitted.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the agenda was approved.

VI. MINUTES

— October 10, 2016

Commissioner Saunders moved, seconded by Commissioner Symanns to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Symanns submitted an amendment to the minutes stating on the second page the minutes read "Deputy Chief of University of Michigan" and should read "Deputy Chief of Eastern Michigan University".

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the minutes were approved as amended.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS –

1. Community Oversight/ Citizen Review Board
 - a. Sub-Committee Report

Commissioner Saunders stated there was concern about the depth of the sub-committee report regarding the development of a Community and Police Commission. The document was reviewed and the Task Force was informed that the document is only a recommendation to this body.

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown stated some of the recommendations presented that this body is unable to make a decision. She stated there was discussion during the last meeting regarding the possibility of circumventing the Human Relations Commission and sending the Task Force recommendation to Council.

Interim City Clerk Hellenga responded the discussion was not during a Task Force meeting. He explained during the last Council meeting Mayor Edmonds inquired about the possibility of the recommendation moving directly to Council.

Council Member Murdock stated this Task Force can make any recommendations it wishes and should not be concerned if Council will approve the recommendations. He said when this Task Force was instated the procedure was once this body approved a recommendation it would be sent to the Human Relations Commission. However, he does not have a strong feeling it is necessary, but the HRC members of this Task Force might feel differently.

Commissioner Symanns stated because of the time it has taken for this process she does not see an issue with it being moved directly to Council. She said it might be wise to send this to Council to see if this body is moving in a direction Council supports.

Commissioner Shuler stated he does not have a strong feeling if this is to be moved to the HRC after the Task Force approves a recommendation. Before the Task Force approves the recommendations it would be worthwhile to discuss what has been submitted.

Council Member Murdock stated after reviewing the recommendations he does not see a purpose listed for a Community and Police Commission. He said the Task Force should decide on a model before it makes its recommendations.

Council Member Robb stated he believes it is quite clear. The two tasks that are listed in the report are to review police misconduct and complaints and it will facilitate the review of two to three policies per year. However, the detail on how the body would go about those tasks is unclear. He stated the structure of the commission, as designed by the sub-committee, does not provide disciplinary power. He asked if complaints are reviewed by the commission and then a recommendation is made to the Chief, City Manager, or Council. He asked what kind of power the sub-committee thinks the commission should have. He said Ann Arbor produced a 43 page presentation that it worked on for a year and what was provided by the sub-committee does not have that detail. He said what the sub-committee produced is a recommendation that Ypsilanti should have a review committee, but did not provide detail of what the review committee can do. Commissioner Saunders responded these questions should be answered through conversations with the Chief and the City Attorney. She said that was the position of the sub-committee.

Commissioner Shuler asked if report of the sub-committee is a recommendation to the Task Force to develop the details of the commission. Commissioner Saunders responded in the affirmative, and said

the sub-committee examined best practices but did not superimpose those practices. She added the sub-committee developed work items it thinks should be included.

Commissioner Shuler asked if the sub-committee could elaborate on the best practices they came across. Council Member Richardson responded she does not feel the sub-committee needs to go over each of its findings. She explained the sub-committee extracted the best practices from each of the boards it examined and submitted them to the Task Force. The purpose was for the Task Force to determine whether it wishes to recommend the development of a Community and Police Commission to City Council. She said it would then be the responsibility of the created Commission to determine further detail of its structure in concert with the Police Chief and the City Attorney. She would like to see the Task Force to recommend this to City Council to create the Commission.

Commissioner Shuler asked if the intention of the sub-committee is for the Commission itself determines its own processes. Council Member Richardson responded the Commission's recommendation would still have to be approved by City Council.

Council Member Murdock stated the rationale for creating a review board was to develop an independent body to review accusations of police misconduct. Mr. Murdock said there is a methodology on how the review board would function, which he had hoped would have been developed by the sub-committee. That information is necessary to create an ordinance, which must be done before the nominations for Commissioners.

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown asked if the sub-committee is suggesting another body be created to develop the processes of the Commission. Commissioner Saunders responded in the affirmative. Council Member Richardson added the body would work in conjunction with the City Attorney and the Police Chief.

Council Member Robb asked if the sub-committee is suggesting the Commission should investigate police complaints, and if so what is the process for the investigation. He said the sub-committee researched best practices and asked what the best practice for that process is. He stated in order for the formation of a Commission to be recommended to Council those details need to be in place.

D'Real Graham understands the concerns, and said this is important work that is being advocated for, and would be curious to hear the methodology that is developed. He said it is important for the community to be involved when creating the methodology. He said it is disappointing to know the road block to move forward is semantics, rather than supporting what was provided. Council Member Murdock responded it is much more than semantics and the policy submitted by the sub-committee simply states a Commission be created with no power. Mr. Graham replied that is your interpretation and he will not argue Mr. Murdock's interpretation.

Commissioner Symanns stated during the last Task Force meeting a document was shared that included a summary of these points. At that meeting the sub-committee was requested to provide further detail. She said it seems the Task Force does not feel there is enough detail to move forward. She said if that is the case it might be useful to send what has been developed to Council to see if Council wishes to move forward with a creation of a Commission. With the blessing of Council the Task Force can create the processes of the Commission. Commissioner Shuler agreed. Mayor Pro-Tem Brown stated what she understands is the sub-committee is requesting the Task Force to review its findings and recommend Council create another body to create the Commissions processes. Council Member Robb asked why Council would create another body.

Council Member Richardson asked what was the charge given to the sub-committee when it was formed. Council Member Robb responded the sub-committee met and provided its report to the Task Force, and at that time it was requested the sub-committee provide greater detail. Mayor Pro-Tem

Brown added the initial charge was to develop a recommendation to the Task Force to approve, and pass it to the Human Relations Commission, or to City Council to begin establishing the Commission. Ms. Richardson responded the operative phrase is "begin establishing", which she feels the sub-committee has done. She requested that before greater detail of this Commission is determined Council should decide if it wishes to move forward with the Commission formation.

Council Member Robb stated he believes the majority of Council would be in favor of creating a Commission. However, what is not included in the recommendation is how the complaints would be reviewed. An audience member interjected that in order to move forward with the development of a Commission it must be done with the Police Department and City Council. Commissioner Symanns responded it would be best for Council be asked for authorization to move forward with the development of a Commission. She explained the sub-committee provided the "what" and the "why" but not necessarily the "how". Council Member Richardson agreed.

Commissioner Shuler stated when the sub-committee was formed it was done so to expedite the completion of the details of a review board. He said the detail provided by the sub-committee is not full. Council Member Richardson disagreed, and said the sub-committee completed its charge.

D'Real Graham stated he understands the concern of the language regarding the function of the body. The suggested title for the body is Community and Police Commission, and if this Commission solely focused on police misconduct the sub-committee would have had more time to develop its methodology. However, it is the intention of the sub-committee that the Commission be developed in a manner that promotes community relations, as well as examine police misconduct.

Council Member Robb asked if it is best practice for a review board to have disciplinary powers. That is a very vital component and should be decided upon before this is sent for Council approval. Commissioner Saunders responded the sub-committee did not make a recommendation because providing disciplinary powers to a commission is a major policy change. Also, examining misconduct is secondary to building community relations. Mr. Robb responded shifting toward community policing is also a major policy change. Ms. Saunders responded she did not say community policing. Mr. Robb replied community policing is a major tenant of the recommendation. Ms. Saunders responded it is one of the tenants. D'Real Graham added this is more of the development of a program and this body would focus on community relations, allowing Council and the HRC to focus on other matters. He added it is not the attempt to ignore the disciplinary function of the commission, but it is out of the sub-committee's capacity to handle. Commissioner Symanns added the proposed Commission is a hybrid; it does not just focus on police misconduct.

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown stated when this began discussions were focused on the creation of a citizens review board. What has been presented is a hybrid focusing on police review and community relations. She said it makes sense for this to go to Council to ensure this is the direction Council wishes to take. Commissioner Symanns responded in the affirmative.

Council Member Murdock stated Community Policing Action Council (CoPAC) was developed to address the issue of community and police relations. Council Member Richardson responded it was not. Mr. Murdock replied he is not saying it was successful in its mission, but that was its mission. Mr. Graham stated the sub-committee work was not inspired by the structure of CoPAC.

Council Member Richardson requested that the Task Force vote to send this to Council for Council to decide if this is the direction it wishes to take.

Council Member Murdock stated it seems in order to move this forward Council will need to approve of the direction the Task Force is taking. He suggested a resolution be created that states Council agree to the establishment of a Community and Police Commission and directs staff to create on

outline to achieve the responsibilities listed in item five. The other items on the report are important but can be handled administratively, and the items listed in section five will be important in developing the ordinance. He said he isn't sure how long it would take but it would begin the process.

Commissioner Shuler stated he views the report as a recommendation to this Task Force and would prepare to provide the detail of the Commission before sending it to Council. He asked the members of Council if any Council Member would be opposed to creating a Community and Police Commission. Council Member Murdock responded he does not believe there would be issue. Council Member Richardson responded she does not believe Council is against creating a Commission, but out of respect for Council they should be asked. Mayor Pro-Tem Brown agreed.

Commissioner Symanns moved, seconded by Commissioner saunders, to send a recommendation to City Council, accompanied by a list of responsibilities for City Council to provide authorization to the Task Force to continue establishing a Community and Police Commission, and engage appropriate staff in pursuit of said task.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and a resolution of authorization will be sent to Council.

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

None

IX. CHAIR RESPONSE –

None

X. ADJOURNMENT –

Commissioner Symanns moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Brown to adjourn the meeting.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.