

PUBLIC SAFETY AND SERVICES OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Monday, April 24, 2017
Hearing Room 1

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Henderson Watts at 6:35pm.
Quorum present.

ITEM 2: ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Letitia Henderson Watts
Commissioner Rebecca Alvarado (arrived after roll call)
Commissioner Rev. Curtis Flemming
Commissioner Tony Marks-Block
Commissioner Kevin McPherson
Commissioner Natasha Middleton
Commissioner June Williams (arrived after roll call)

Excused: Vice-Chairperson Jody Nunez
Commissioner Troy Williams

ITEM 3: AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion to approve Agenda was made by consensus.

ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Commissioner Middleton to accept the minutes as received; Seconded by Commissioner McPherson. **7 Ayes.**

ITEM 5: OPEN FORUM

1 Speaker

ITEM 6: COORDINATOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS – Chantal Cotton Gaines

This is Commissioner Marks-Blocks last meeting.

ITEM 7: OAKLAND UNITE GRANTEE PRESENTATION / Violent Incident & Crisis Response Strategies

Introduction of grantees for Violent Incidents and Crisis Response team was made by Ricardo Garcia-Acosta, Violence Prevention Network Liaison of the Human Services Department (HSD).

Ms. Sarah Serin-Christ gave an overview of the Violent Incident and Crisis Response Strategies for Oakland Unite. Providers present:

1. Holly Joshi, Executive Director of MISSEY: She has focused on stabilizing the organization and beefing up the administrative services of the organization. MISSEY does healing adult relationships, creating safe spaces, critical reflection and healing, and creating self-efficacy for and opportunities for youth leadership.
2. John Torres, Deputy Director of Youth Alive! Shooting and Homicide Programs. He explained the major initiatives (“Caught in the Crossfire” and the “Khadafy Washington Project”) that Youth Alive! offers for Measure Z. He welcomed one of their clients to speak. Tami Cloud is one of the staffers.
3. Kevin Grant, Human Services Department. He shared his cell phone number and offered the SSOC to come to see the work they do. His cell number is 510-326-7859. He explained that BOSS, Youth Alive! and Street Outreach are partners.
4. Shamar Dorners explained his role with one individual client as a Violence Interrupter.

SSOC Discussion:

1. For the mentor relationships, do you do background checks?
 - a. Ms. Joshi: Yes for all staff and volunteers.
 - b. Mailee Wang, Human Services Department: explained that all providers working with youth are required to conduct background checks.
2. What are the drop-in center hours?
 - a. It is 5 hours now. It is to coordinate around the girls’ schedule. It is open from 1-6pm.
3. What is the relationship between BAWAR and OPD?
 - a. Ms. Serin-Christ: Initially when the relationship started with BAWAR and OPD, OPD was picking up more youth and BAWAR went out there each time. But CSEC has changed now so fewer youth are on the street and less likely to get swept up on the street. It is now more online traffic than in person.
4. Can you speak to opportunities for greater collaboration across programs and strategies?
 - a. Mr. Kim: the presentation tonight is a good example of very coordinated services. These groups of providers come together each week to discuss activities that occurred in the past week.
5. What sort of self-care practices have been discussed for these particular providers?
 - a. Mr. Kim: within the capacity building program, one of those topics is about self-care. Also, different agencies have started practices of their own.
 - b. Mr. Torres of Youth Alive!: At Youth Alive! does several things: a mental health component through a clinical director being on staff. The director brings a lot of knowledge about trauma-informed practices and keeps the conversation fluid. Youth Alive! has other staff on board that help with this as well and use a “safety plan” type of structure.
6. Can the City consider using a “safety plan” model like Youth Alive! is using for the street outreach staff?
 - a. Mr. Kim: Absolutely. HSD has internally started some efforts like this.

This report was received and filed by consensus.

ITEM 8: CRO BEAT 12 PRESENTATION –Officer Anthony Hutzol and Deputy Chief Darren Allison

Introduction by Deputy Chief Darren Allison: this presentation is the opportunity to hear about what the Community Resource Officers (CROs) do in general and specifically the type of projects he works on in

his area of the community. Officer Hutzol works in the North Oakland area. He was excited to do the community work of CROs. He walked the Commission through the PowerPoint presentation.

CROs usually have 2-4 projects open at any given time.

Public Comment: 1 speaker

SSOC Discussion:

1. Are all the CROs trained in how to use the NextDoor platform? And has NextDoor addressed their racial profiling issues?
 - a. Officer Hutzol: there is no formal training. Officer Hutzol has trained all of his squad-mates in Area 2. There is no policy that says that an officer HAS to post on NextDoor.
 - b. Deputy Chief Allison: Part of the efforts OPD took with NextDoor was to educate the community on what to look for in their community and how to responsibly use NextDoor and post concerns.
 - c. Ms. Cotton Gaines: The City Administrator's Office, in partnership with Vice-Mayor Annie Campbell Washington and Neighbors for Racial Justice, addressed this concern with NextDoor and they are making changes to their overall platform as a result of the grassroots movement from some of the neighborhoods on concerns about the racial profiling.
2. For those areas with no Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils (NCPCs), what kind of presence does the CRO have in those areas? Do you try to create one in those areas? And is there a CRO for every police beat?
 - a. Deputy Chief Allison: OPD is not limited to just NCPC meetings. CROs will build relationships with whichever groups are present in those areas (Neighborhood Watch, host living room meetings, and other existing groups, etc.).
 - b. Deputy Chief Allison: The Neighborhood Services Coordinators (NSCs) try to create NCPCs in areas that don't have one with the community but it doesn't always pan out.
 - c. Deputy Chief Allison: Yes. Every beat has at least one CRO. In some cases, two beats will share one CRO and they all have a Neighborhood Services Coordinator assigned.
3. In the future, if can the Commission have information about what CROs do for the violence prevention work? Do they have examples of what CROs do to address recurring violence (especially in areas of higher violence and crime)? It would be good to have CROs come to SSOC meetings periodically and any groups they partner with.
 - a. Deputy Chief Allison: I will work with staff to schedule more CRO presentations to SSOC.

ITEM 9: MEASURE Z FINANCIAL AUDIT – Paige Alderete, Finance Dept. – Controller's Bureau

Ms. Alderete explained the Measure requirements and the California law which require the financial audit. The audit was conducted by a 3rd party independent auditing firm, Patel and Associates.

Patel and Associates Representatives: Sanwar Hershwal & Adi Hershwal

The Associates explained the financial audit report in the packet and is happy to report that there are no findings for this audit.

Public Comment: 1 speaker

SSOC Discussion:

1. What are the internal controls that the City uses for audits?
 - a. Mr. Hershwal: this audit report is a limited-scope audit report. The report comes from the standard auditing report template. In the financial audit, the auditors compare budgets to actuals. The outside auditor is unable to guarantee the entire internal controls for the City. They look at the year related to Measure Z only.
 - b. Ms. Alderete: the City audits its internal controls annually through the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) which is a standard requirement for municipal governments. It was recently taken to the City Council.
 - c. The sample size for this audit was 60 items.
2. On page 13 for the Family Violence Law Center, are those unduplicated numbers of number of people served?
 - a. Erin Scott, Executive Director of Family Violence Law Center: those numbers are unduplicated.
3. It is nice to see the number of clients actually served.
4. It would be nice to see a high level summary of the audit in the future.
 - a. Ms. Alderete: Staff will plan to do that going forward. Also in terms of next steps, this item will be presented to the Finance Committee and then on to the full City Council.

Motion made by Commissioner Alvarado to receive and file the annual audit report. No one seconded the motion. Motion dies.

Decision made by Chairperson Henderson Watts to hold this item until next month when the Commission can offer up more ideas and recommendations for the full Council. Consensus on this.

ITEM 10: PROPOSAL ON THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF A DEPARTMENT OF VIOLENCE – Councilmember Gibson McElhaney

This item is an informational item but we could take action if needed. Staff confirmed.

Councilmember Gibson McElhaney explained the PowerPoint that was shared at the City Council's Life Enrichment Committee.

Public Comment: 1 speaker

SSOC Discussion:

1. Can you please provide clarity around the creation of a department and the creation of the position? For the Measure Z ordinance is there a particular phrase around no amendments and does this proposal amend Measure Z?
 - a. Councilmember Gibson McElhaney: The City cannot make amendments to the Measure Z legislation by law without the voters approving the changes unless the changes are written within the legislation. The City can change departments offering the services. The City has never put General Purpose Funds into the violence prevention over the years. I am arguing for the work to be managed by a director of violence prevention because I believe the City needs additional focus on this to move forward. This proposal would not try to use Measure Z funding for the director.

2. The Director of Public Safety overlaps with the proposed Chief of violence prevention so it seems duplicative. Was there ever an idea of it being a director of “Oakland Unite” instead of a Chief of Violence Prevention?
 - a. Councilmember Gibson McElhaney: Yes. But Chief stands out more. In Richmond, that is why they used “Executive Director” instead of just “Director.” With respect to the Director of Public Safety, she has no direct oversight over City services. She is an advisor to the Mayor. You need someone that reports to the City Administrator who is responsible for implementation of all services.
3. Tell us more about the intent to put more General Purpose Funds into this kind of work.
 - a. Councilmember Gibson McElhaney: There are philanthropic entities that want to give us funds for this. My initial take of \$350,000 is on the high side of an estimate, but the City Administrator will provide a full analysis to go into the budget.
4. What authorities would this chief have in your vision?
 - a. Councilmember Gibson McElhaney: The Chief should be able to stand before this commission and stand up for the violence prevention goals. In Richmond, the Executive Director could stand toe to toe with the Chief of Police and that was significant for Richmond.
5. It is important for City staff to be involved in the discussion.
6. How does the Chief of Violence prevention help in clearing homicide rates? And if the Chief doesn’t achieve the goals, do they get fired?
 - a. Councilmember Gibson McElhaney: OPD does the clearance. Strong advocacy is what the Chief of Violence Prevention would do. And the goals are set to hold the City to a higher standard. The City Administrator overall is responsible for hiring and firing. So the Council will put the goal on them, but does not have the authority to fire them.
7. The chart in your report that compares Oakland residents to the Iraqi soldiers on page 37 of the packet is unclear because there were not 420 homicides in 2015.
8. Does the City Council need the SSOC’s approval to create this office?
 - a. Councilmember Gibson McElhaney: No. The department can be created by 5 votes of City Council.
9. There is not a more important issue than Violence Prevention. Instead of putting Band-Aids on the issues, maybe this can create real solutions.
10. The Commission would like more information from the other cities. When looking at the homicide rates from these cities for the last 10 years, there does not seem to be a direct correlation between the creation of this department and the drop in crime. If philanthropy is giving money to help with violence, why can’t they give it now? Why is the City not already putting money from the General Purpose Fund behind violence prevention now?
 - a. Councilmember Gibson McElhaney: One focus helps people achieve more. She would like the CAO to analyze how much of the police overtime is due to homicides.
11. The SSOC would like to see more information about the age groups and the opportunity to partner with OUSD. The SSOC would like to see more of a timeline of the partnership and the initiative overall.
12. If the Commission doesn’t vote today, there may not be enough time to weigh in before this goes to Full Council on May 16th.
13. The Commission would like to see the staff analysis and information about the full outcome.
14. Ms. Cotton Gaines: the staff analysis report will be published on May 4th or May 5th to be available for the May 9th Finance and the Public Safety Committees. The proposal was received not far in advance of the Life Enrichment Committee on April 11th, so staff did not have the opportunity to provide analysis prior to that date.

Motion made by Commissioner Flemming to endorse the proposal of Councilmember Lynette Gibson McElhaney and Council President Larry Reid to develop the Department of Violence Prevention; Motion seconded by Commissioner June Williams.

4 Ayes: Commissioners Flemming, McPherson, J. Williams and Chair Henderson Watts

3 Abstentions: Commissioners Alvarado, Middleton and Marks-Block

Nay: None

ITEM 11: HUMAN SERVICES DEPT. FINANCIAL REPORT – 4TH QUARTER 2016 – Peter Kim, HSD

Mr. Kim explained the report in the packet.

SSOC Discussion:

1. Please provide a list of the trainings/trainers that the Bright Research Group provides.
 - a. Mr. Kim: These are available on the Oakland Unite website (OaklandUnited.org) where there are links to all of the trainings.
2. The SSOC has seen some successes; how does HSD feel it is doing with meeting metrics?
 - a. Mr. Kim: you will see a general overview about how grantees are doing next month.
3. Note: in the Audit report everything with one asterisk, reflects a six month contract and the Unity Council had an asterisk by it.

A motion to receive and file this report was made by Commissioner Flemming; Seconded by Commissioner Marks-Block. All present in favor (Alvarado excused).

ITEM 12: BUDGET DISCUSSION FOR COMMISSION

A motion to move the budget discussion to the following meeting was made by Commissioner Middleton; Seconded by Commissioner Flemming; All approved.

ITEM 13: SITE VISIT UPDATES FROM SSOC MEMBERS

Chair Henderson Watts gave an update on the Oakland Unite Grantee Meeting. It was very positive and they appreciated us being there.

ITEM 14: SCEHDULE PLANNING AND PENDING AGENDA ITEMS

Chair will work with staff on next month's agenda.

The Commissioners and staff gave thanks to Commissioner Marks-Block for his service on the Commission and wished him well.

ITEM 15: ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Marks Block; seconded by Commissioner Flemming. All approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:07PM