

Citizen Advisory Board for Fair and Impartial Policing
Meeting Minutes
Monday February 13, 2017 at 6:30pm
City Hall, City Commission Chambers
6 E. 6th Street
Lawrence, KS 66044

Board Members Present:

Nicole Rials, Vice Chairperson
Jo Andersen
Adrian Jones

Board Members Absent:

Baha Safadi, Chairperson
Laura Canelos-Ramon

Lawrence Kansas Police Department Staff Present:

Sgt. Amy Rhoads
Cpt. Trent McKinley

Meeting Called To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm with a welcome on behalf of the board by Nicole Rials. Members of the board introduced themselves along with the LKPD staff members present.

Review of Minutes:

Meeting minutes from the October 10th were reviewed. Nicole Rials noted that the meeting on December 19th, 2016 did not involve a quorum so no meeting was held. This agenda item was moved to the end of the meeting but was not re-addressed so will be moved the agenda item on 04.10.2017.

Racial Profiling Report:

Sgt. Rhoads provide information on a racial profiling complaint that involved a traffic stop made on June 1st, 2016 in the 700 block of Iowa Street. During the process the complainant wanted to know their options related to filing the complaint. Options were discussed including sending the complaint to the KS Attorney General's Office for review which is the option chosen by the

complainant. The investigation was turned over to the AG office and Sgt. Rhoads read an excerpt from a letter sent from Attorney General Derek Schmidt's office acknowledging the complaint and determining that the complaint found to show no evidence that race or gender were used in deciding to initiate the traffic stop. The complainant has been notified of the finding and no further action will be taken by the AG office. A second letter was sent to the complainant letting them know the outcome of the investigation.

Adrian Jones asked if such letters can be made available in advance to the board. Cpt. McKinley acknowledged request and will have to look into legal matters including the open records act, dissemination of the AG record and redacting personal information from the complaint letter. Cpt. McKinley also noted the letters are standard format and do not provide details related to the circumstances of the complaint, how the investigation was conducted.

Nicole Rials requested information regarding the turnaround time of the decision. Sgt. Rhoads stated the letter is dated October 31st, 2016.

Adrian Jones commented that in these cases considering no information was provided to the board with the AG leading the investigation; what is the role and purpose of presenting this information to the board. Cpt. McKinley replied that when investigations are being done by the LKPD department, the board has opportunity to inquire into the process and request further insight.

In the case of the AG investigating, the entire file, reports have to be turned over to the AG office. The specifics of the complaints investigated by the AG fully moves the complaint to another jurisdiction after which the findings are reported. Cpt. McKinley is not certain if additional information can be requested from the AG office by the board.

Taser Use Report:

Sgt. Rhoads provided a report on one taser deployment. This deployment took place on November 17th, 2016. Sgt. Rhoads provided a synopsis of the incident including the circumstances that led to the deployment of the taser. Sgt. Rhoads answered clarifying questions from the board. Cpt. McKinley provided information related to taser deployment, including effective and in-effective results and the procedure following taser exposure.

Board discussion items:

A. City of Lawrence requesting Bylaws for all advisory boards.

The City of Lawrence is re-writing the ordinance for the board and will be requiring updated Bylaws for all advisory boards. This process will include the City and the board expounding on the role of the board and scope of responsibilities.

Board members discussed the need to understand the parameters of these changes which will further define the board and how it can be more resourceful, impactful and beneficial to community members and to the LKPD.

The board discussed limitations of defining its own parameters and the need for the city to outline the liberties and limitations of what the board is able to do. The board discussed the

likelihood of a framework and structure with pre-established parameters with expectation the board will have input in its role.

The board discussed the importance of getting new members appointment. It was acknowledged that members of the public are expressing concern over the lack of movement in the process. The board discussed its anticipation of moving forward with the expanded changes.

B. Board Impressions on proposal to increase involvement in complaint process

The board discussed the desire to have an increased involvement in the complaint process. Examples include community members having more options to present complaints to the LKPD; perhaps through the board. Jo Andersen expressed concern that with an open and more forthright process, perhaps more community members would express their complaints internally instead of utilizing the KS Attorney General's office. The board discussed its goal that community members feel the process is fair and impartial. Details related to the open meeting act, privacy of the community member involved in the complaint, and other legalities that will need to be considered.

C. Law Enforcement Community Dialog Dinner

Deferred due to the absence of Chair, Baha Safadi who is involved in this initiative.

D. Board Website

Adrian Jones provided an update after talking to the City of Lawrence communication manager. The board can have a website but the website would have to be linked to the City website. The resources related to setting up the website design could come from the City; however, there is an interim communication manager at this time. Another notation is there would be restrictions to who is able to post on the site and everything posted would have to be reviewed.

E. Public Comment

Community members requested clarification regarding allowance of public comments. Vice Chair, Nicole Rials did not take public comment and noted that while there are many questions related to the board and its future role, there are few answers the board is able to provide at this time. City officials are still considering and determining the full scope of the board's role. Nicole encouraged community members to continue to come to the meetings and express concerns and ideas via email.

Submitted by
Nicole Rials, Vice Chair