

Police Equity and Use of Force Advisory Group
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 07, 2021
7:15 – 8:45 pm

In attendance:

Committee members: Richard Kuklewicz (Selectboard Chair), Ariel Elan, Maddox Sprengel, Deborah Frenkel, David Bulley, Faith English

Not in attendance: Richard Hall

Community Member: Jeff Singleton

1. Facilitator opens the meeting, including announces the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken.
2. Discuss any questions or comments regarding our 3-week recess.
 - None
3. Approve Police Equity and Use of Force Advisory Group Minutes: December 3, 2020, December 10, 2020 and December 17, 2020
 - Deborah makes motion to approve, David seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
4. Review progress and discuss findings on action items noted in the minutes of our December 3, 10, and 17 meetings.
 - Reviewed materials shared about alternative interventions for mental health crises (e.g. [CAHOOTS](#) model in Eugene, OR)
 - Reviewed information shared about crisis interventions teams (CITs), inconclusive about how effective they are in reducing police use of force
 - Reviewed information shared about cannabis revenue can be used by municipalities and evidence-based policies promoted by [Campaign Zero](#).
 - Discussed whether or not it would be possible to identify types of calls made to MPD in order to better understand the need of our community/what percentage of calls result in use of force.
5. Report on any correspondence with the Montague Police Department (MPD) since last meeting (December 17, 2020).
 - Lt. Bonnett has indicated that he is willing to return for a follow-up conversation to answer any additional questions. Committee agreed to invite him to attend our meeting on 1/21/21 to allow for sufficient time to prepare questions.
6. Continue considering how this committee can learn how Montague's police policies and practices are carried out on the job. How are the policies and practices experienced or perceived by members of the public, especially by members of key sub-groups, as requested in the Selectboard's charge to us?
 - We support the work the other Community Engagement Committee has done by soliciting input from the community. We will proceed with making policy recommendations based on available data/research.

We acknowledge that there are likely experiences among community members that

were not captured in survey responses. We would like to hear from these individuals, although we are unclear if and how that would be feasible.

7. Brainstorm key points and structure for our report to the Selectboard.
 - Our committee will begin drafting the report during our next meeting.
8. Discuss possible request to Selectboard to fund a written transcript of our Nov. 19, 2020 interview with MPD command staff, to enhance public access to this material.
 - Rich K.: send request to Wendy
 - David: [transcription services](#) available online
9. Plan Agenda for next meeting.
 - Review action items
 - Prepare interview questions & topics for meeting with Lt. Bonnett
 - Begin drafting our report/letter to submit to Selectboard, including recommendations for MPD
10. Topics not anticipated within 48-hour advance-notice posting requirement.
 - None

Adjournment

- Deborah. makes motion to adjourn
- David seconded
- Motion passes unanimously

Action items:

- All committee members to review outstanding questions for Lt. Bonnett (in document sent by Ariel on 1/7/21) as well as prepare any additional questions we have, to bring to our meeting next week.
- All committee members to prepare items to be added/recommended on report.

Items suggested so far to include in our report (none voted on to date):

- Suggestion from Jeff S., community member: this topic about mental health/wellness checks should be included in our report/requiring further research/regional capacity/looking for grants;
- Alternative method for submitting complaints regarding police behavior;
- Expand reporting & review of incidents of use of force to include a civilian committee rather than being limited to review by the Lt.