



CITY OF TOPEKA

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE: POLICE & COMMUNITY

CITY COUNCIL
City Hall, 215 SE 7th Street, Suite 255
Topeka, KS 66603-3914
Tel: 785-368-3710
Fax: 785-368-3958
www.topeka.org

Date: June 29, 2022

Time: 1:00pm

Location: ECR; 3rd Floor City Hall 215 SE 7th St (*virtual attendance was available as well*)

Committee members present: Councilmembers Karen Hiller, Sylvia Ortiz (Chair), Mayor Michael Padilla

City staff present: Chief Bryan Wheelles (TPD)

1) Call to Order

Chairwoman Ortiz called the meeting to order at 1:02pm. Committee members introduced themselves.

2) Approve minutes from June 17, 2022 meeting

Committee member Hiller advised of changes needing to be made to the original draft minutes that had been distributed. Committee member Padilla made a motion to approve the minutes, as amended. Committee member Hiller seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0-0.

3) Review and Approve Draft Recommendations

Chairwoman Ortiz referenced additional language that had been included in a fourth version of the draft recommendations. The Committee reviewed this change. The amended change is found in the newly created section *b8 Topeka Police Department Personnel Review Form* and would include the following language "...understanding and appropriate application of Duty to Intervene policy and that the individual demonstrates...".

MOTION: To approve recommendation document, as amended. Motion made by Committee member Hiller. Seconded by Committee member Padilla. Motion moved 3-0-0.

Committee member Padilla stated he had another commitment and would need to leave the meeting by 1:45pm. Chair recognized the request.

Committee member Hiller provided a list of FAQ's that she drafted that she felt would be helpful for providing direction to questions that have been received. Topics would be listed in question form and would cover the following:

- Independent Police Auditor and Citizen Complaint Filing
- Chokeholds
- Public Access
- Personnel Records
- Use of Force - June 24th, 2022 incident
- Civil Service Board Expansion Rationale

Chairwoman Ortiz stated that the information had been covered, but that she would reach out to Deputy Chief Haltom to identify corresponding meeting dates or website locations to add to these topics so individuals would be able to view the information for themselves. She stated she did not want to include this list as part of the recommendation document, however noted it could be added as a separate item for reference. Committee member Hiller agreed.

Committee member Hiller noted that there were three areas within the recommendations where specific language was included that invited citizen participation within various processes.

Chairwoman Ortiz stated that she would have City Attorney review and finalize the recommendations, to ensure correct language was included and up-to-date to reflect this June 29th meeting.

Committee member Hiller suggested including instruction, in the final recommendation, for the Special Committee to set a meeting six months and one year from now to review the Recommendations to see what actions have been taken. Chairwoman Ortiz stated she would need to think on that suggestion.

Chairwoman Ortiz stated she felt the Committee had completed all of the work that was set out for them to address, as well as much more, and that they had completed a comprehensive list of recommendations to reflect that information.

Committee member Padilla echoed that if the FAQ sheet was added as an additional piece of supplemental materials to the Governing Body, for reference, that he was agreeable to that, but agreed with Chairwoman Ortiz that it would not need to be included within the recommendation document.

Committee member Padilla stated that many of the answers were easy for the Governing Body and City Manager to find. He understands that Committee member Hiller would like to have the Committee continue checking on the progress, but he does not feel that additional meetings at this time would be

necessary. Chairwoman Ortiz reminded that all of the items pertaining to all of the meetings, including video and presentations, are available online on the Committee's webpage. And that additional questions related to which topics were discussed at which meetings could be answered by the Committee members, or Council Assistant.

Committee member Hiller referenced the Independent Police Auditor as an example of not knowing the current status of the office, or where to find that information. Chairwoman Ortiz confirmed that his contact information could still be found on the City's website, under the City Manager's office webpage and the Topeka Police Department webpage.

Committee member Padilla inquired with Chief Wheelles about the various ways citizen complaints or comments could be voiced to the Department, and asked if concerned citizens would also be able to contact the Independent Police Auditor directly if they felt it was necessary. Chief Wheelles confirmed.

Chairwoman Ortiz stated she received a report from the Independent Police Auditor about a recent concern that a citizen had, who had gone straight to him. She felt the report addressed the concern and that he had been helpful to the citizen with receiving the concern.

Chairwoman Ortiz noted the Recommendations will be presented before the Governing Body at their July 5, 2022 meeting, and that public comment would be allowed. [Individuals wanting to speak at the Governing Body meeting will need to contact the City Clerk's office by 5:00pm on July 5th. More information can be found online at <https://www.topeka.org/cityclerk/sign-up-to-speak-at-a-governing-body-meeting/> or by calling 785-368-3940].

4) Other Items

No additional items.

5) Adjourn

Chairwoman Ortiz adjourned the meeting at 1:25pm .

Meeting recording can be found at: <https://youtu.be/dCQQmWEQjT4>