CHARLOTTESVILLE POLICE OVERSIGHT BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Date: October 10, 2024

Scheduled Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: City Space

Board Members Attending: William Mendez (Chair), Jeffrey Fracher (Vice Chair), George Dillard, Cameron McBride, Al Pola (Virtual), Lakeshia Washington (Virtual).

Board Members Not Attending:

Guests: Council Member Michael Payne – Charlottesville City Council, Deputy City Attorney April Wimberly – Charlottesville City Attorney's Office, Deputy City Manager Eden Ratliff.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM

Announcements: None

Approval of Agenda: Chair Mendez called for unanimous approval of the agenda. Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes: Chair Mendez called for the unanimous approval of the July 11, 2024, minutes, hearing no objections, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Chair Mendez provided a brief overview of the Flock Automated License Plate Reader Pilot Program.

Executive Director's Report: PCOB Management Analyst James Walker provided a brief overview of the number of complaints received by both the PCOB and the Charlottesville Police Department's Internal Affairs Unit and their status. Mr. Walker informed the Board that effective October of 2024, the Management Analyst will be providing the Board with a monthly report (in document form) that will be posted on the PCOB's webpage for public consumption.

Mr. Walker advised the Board that he was in the process of updating the PCOB's webpage and discussed that he was in the process of creating an annual report for 2023 and was asking for the Board's cooperating with providing their bios, headshots, and brief statements about the Board's work.
Chair Mendez acknowledged that the Board has neglected to provide the required reports to the City Council.

Recruitment of Independent Legal Counsel: Chair Mendez synopsized the challenge the Board has been facing concerning the absence of legal counsel to represent the Board. Deputy City Attorney April Wimberly recommended that the Board approach the recruitment of new counsel via an RFI (Request for Information) or Requests for Statements of Interest. Neither of these processes should be construed as a formal solicitation or guarantee that the City of Charlottesville will be contracting their services.

Amendments to Enabling Ordinance: Chair Mendez explained that the creation of the ordinance was the product of a committee, each member of which contributed their drafts that would ultimately become part of the final product. As such, the Chair acknowledged that the ordinance contains language that is problematic. The ordinance contains language that is incorrect, contradictory, prevents the executive director from engaging in specific oversight activities and requires clarification as it pertains to the powers and duties of the executive director, the Board, as well as duties shared by both.

The Chair suggested beginning with making recommendations to revise Section 2-453 concerning Membership, as the City Council and the City Manager's Office have expressed that changes to this section of the ordinance are a priority.

Board Member Cameron McBride made a motion that the Board adopt the wording presented by Chair Mendez as the Board's official recommended revisions to 2-453(b). Failing to obtain a second, as well as failing to obtain consensus from the Board, the motion was tabled.

Councilor Payne explained that if the Board needs more time to prepare their recommendations for the revisions to 2-453 that the Council would follow their lead. However, it should be with the understanding that the Board vacancies will continue to be unfilled.

Board Member George Dillard highlighted that the Board's participation in community fairs is not an effective tool for recruiting potential Board member applicants. The Board must go out into the community and meet the people where they are.

Public Comments: Jeff Fogel, Esq. commented on the proposed revision to 2-453 by the City Council to include residents of the County. Mr. Fogel suggested that a member of the Board and / or the Executive Director should be allowed to actively participate in the interview process of applicants for the PCOB Board. Mr. Fogel also commented that the City Council has neglected the PCOB.

Adjournment: Chair Mendez called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion to adjourn made by Vice-Chair Fracher. Hearing no objections the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 8:04 PM.