

MINUTES
Police Advisory Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 22, 2022
5:00 – 6:30 PM
City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room
DRAFT

Board Members Present: Melinda White, Chair; Jamie Pinkam, Vice Chair; Kris Lukens; John Nicholls; Winnie Wilkinson.

Board Members Absent: Danielle Mitchell; Tom Benton.

City Staff Present: Chief Maurice Lamothe, St. Albans Police Department; Carl Watkins, Minute Taker.

Members of the Public Present: Samantha Webber, Embedded Crisis Worker - SAPD; Heather Getty; Stefanie Comstock; Maurice Lamothe; Marcus Neabar;

1. Call to order

M. White called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM.

2. Agenda Introduction & Review

None.

3. Open Brief Public Comment on Agenda Items (limit 2 min. per person)

None.

4. Mission Review

J. Pinkam reviewed the mission of the PAB.

Mission: To offer advice to the St. Albans Police Department for the successful implementation of 21st Century Policing strategies and to assist the Police Department in following the established "Road Map" as amended by the City Council

5. Consider approval of February Meeting Minutes

The approval of the minutes was tabled until next month.

6. Board Structure

M. White proposed switching to Vice Chair while J. Pinkam replace as Chair due to on call status and other factors.

Motion by W. Wilkinson to approve J. Pinkam as Chair and M. White as Vice Chair affective at next month's meeting. Second by J. Nichols

Motion approved all in favor

Approved 05:11pm

7. Frequency of PAB Meeting

M. White proposed keeping all meetings on the calendar but removing if they are not deemed necessary. This will keep the agenda full. Adjustments may be made for time of year if needed.

8. SAPD Support for Worthy Cause

J. Nichols suggested that the board may be able to assist with developing best practices for the department to use in vetting causes to support. M. Lamothe stated there were none currently and they are working on regulating the fund process. M. Lamothe noted some of the goals included moving to a patch each month and donating those funds, with 1 – 2 months a year those finances stay locally. The funding policy would be more about auditing the funds than standardizing, with BEI assisting with vetting the patches. J. Pinkam suggested an action item of releasing communication about the patch program in the future and proposing a calendar. M. Lamothe is also open to suggestions for causes to represent for certain months, as not all of them currently have one assigned to them.

W. Wilkinson brought a community members idea of letting the awareness group being represented design the patch in a sort of contest and then someone who can make them locally facilitate the creation. That idea was received well, with M. Lamothe noting some of the logistics needed to accomplish the task in a timely manner.

9. Embedded Crisis Worker

S. Weber asked for clarification on which data should be captured. M. White offered data such as volume of interactions, quantity of individuals (nonrepeating), repetitive encounters, and how many referrals. S. Weber noted there were 65 calls period Jan. 1st – April 23rd with 22 of those involving an NCS client. Out of those clients, there were 32 follow-up contacts. S. Weber noted PD internally has asked adding trainings on topics such as Autism, LGBTQIA (regarding language), and borderline personality disorder. W. Wilkinson asked if there was an anticipated date for the LGBTQIA training and how the needs were being met in it's interim. S. Weber responded stating the dates were fluid and the order will be assessed based on urgency of the topic. M. Lamothe reminded that there are currently trainings in place to teach these topics, however this is an opportunity to add an in-person portion to ask and answer specific questions. J. Pinkam offered a set of guidelines for dealing with the LGBTQIA community for PD suggested by the BEI board. This might also help with policy writing.

It was noted how difficult it is to acquire data for avoidance. S. Weber gave examples of positive interactions which could be seen as avoidance of a worse situation.

10. Data

J. Pinkam went over some of the results from the PAB survey. It was stated that the results are being placed in spreadsheet with the intent of having a graph associated with each question. J. Pinkam mentioned edits such as creating a computerized form to input the data in real time and including space form information such as contact information. This was anonymous but some people did include their contact information. One question to look deeper into was regarding a positive connection between law enforcement and the community which a positive interaction was viewed differently by the participants.

11. Policy & Procedure

- Social Media Policy Update
J. Pinkam noted this should be removed from the PAB list and presented to city council. The concern is that, whether there is a policy or not, the question should be answered.
- Duty to Intervene/ Duty to Report
M. Lamothe stated the Duty to Intervene is a redo of the policy with no new structural changes. The administrative changes are modifying from a 1-year policy to a 3-year policy and the change of address for the new location. Regarding self-activation, officers are held to all current policies.
- Confinement Policy & Procedure Holding Area
J. Pinkam noted while there are no clear issues with the language, there might be opportunity for changes around language for transgender personnel. M. Lamothe noted that with the new holding area, there is a need for more processes.
- Booking Log
M. Lamothe explained this is the documentation of performing the 30-minute check designated by statute.
- M. Lamothe is also open to suggestions for causes to represent for certain months, as not all of them currently have one assigned to them.

W. Wilkinson made a motion to move to the next steps in the policy and procedures process.

Second by J. Nichols.

Motion made with all in favor

Approved 06:19pm

12. Update – Data Posed on SAPD Website

It was requested during the February meeting for M. Lamothe to bring data regarding complaints against officers and use of force.

M. Lamothe presented

During the period of January 1 – April 1

3 Complaints against Officers

1. Externally reported and found not substantiated
2. Internally reported and found substantiated
3. Internally reported and found substantiated

7 Use of Force Incidents

5 minimum force hands on incidents

1 firearm incident - not discharged

1 taser incident – deployed

J. Pinkam asked if these numbers were held up against the total number of interactions and if that information could be brought before the PAB quarterly.

S. Weber noted the goal is to give the individual the opportunity to comply prior to use of force. It was noted, after reviewing the incidents, that it was encouraging to see the situations were handled in a manner where all options were exhausted prior to use of force.

13. Public Comment

H. Getty commented about the use of Survey Monkey for S. Weber to measure outcomes of each interaction. S. Weber noted there were some surveys already being used, but they were very broad in the information that they gathered, and a specific survey would have to be created to gather the information needed for the PAB.

M. Neabar commented on the personability of M. Lamothe, appreciation of the sacrifice of officers, and the suggestion of more community involvement and direct conversations with officers.

14. Adjourn

Motion made by W. Wilkinson to adjourn. Second by J. Nichols
Motion approved with all in favor
Adjourned at 06:47pm

DRAFT