



Cambridge Peace Commission

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes of the Peace Commission Meeting, October 21, 2015

Commission Members Present: Co-Chairs Frank Connelly and Larry Kim, Commission Members Aboma Dirbaba, Gladys Friedler, Elechi Kadete, Lijun Li, John Ratliff, and Regina Yang

City Staff Present: Executive Director Brian Corr and Administrative Coordinator Crystal Rosa

Commission Members Absent: Georges Atallah and James Eliscar

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

The Commission Members and City Staff introduced themselves to Deputy Superintendent Christine Elow.

Introduction to Staff and Commission Work

Approval of Minutes

Commission Member Ratliff moved to approve the minutes and Commission Member Kim seconded the motion. The approval was unanimous with edits to be completed.

Presentation by Dep. Supt Christine Elow

Dep. Supt Elow opened by providing the Commission with an update regarding crime in Cambridge.

Dep. Supt Elow presented on CPDs developments since Commissioner Haas began his service in 2007. CPD developed a Juvenile Unit which focused on preventing and keeping kids out of the criminal justice system, instead of the tradition of making arrests or letting them go.

Dep. Supt Elow explained how CPD officers are connected with local universities to unify information sharing during incidents. Additionally, Harvard and MIT PDs are trained at CPD academy.

Dep. Supt Elow further explained how CPD has sought to operationalize theories of legitimacy and procedural justice. According to Dep. Supt Elow, CPD outreach officers work with vulnerable populations similar to case managers and have formalized relationships with other service providers. CPD is a part of a multidisciplinary team that includes: ambulance workers, healthcare for homeless, Youth on Fire, and other social workers. CPD has established a role in the community by reaching out and connecting people with services to solving problems.

CPD officers are trained in mental health first aid, training courses on policing the teenage brain, adverse childhood experience, conflict management, mediation, and tactical withdrawal.

CPD has developed a program called Focused Deterrence in collaboration with the cities of Somerville and Everett where they create community sessions where they notify violent

offenders of the consequences of their actions and provide priority social services for those who want a change, encouraging repeat offenders onto a productive path. Based on data collected examining 200,000 most frequent contacts, CPD has found that 10% of offenders produce 70% of the social harm.

CPD has expanded on the Middlesex County diversion program for Cambridge youth by creating restorative justice trainings in an attempt to restore the social harm in the community.

CPD has also created Safety Net, a youth diversion program, which lays the foundation for prevention and early intervention.

Meeting Schedule, Next Steps, and Wrap Up

- Co-Chair Connelly encourage the Commission to actively consider City programs or departments they would want to invite to educate the Commission on their work. The Commission were asked to staff with their suggestions.
- Executive Director Corr reminded the Commission of the Boards and Commissions reception held October 28, 2015.

The next meeting of the Peace Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 18, at 51 Inman St. in the Second Floor Conference Room.