



Greensboro Criminal Justice Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2019

The Greensboro Criminal Justice Advisory Commission (GCJAC) convened its monthly meeting at 6:00pm on the above date in the Nussbaum Room at Central Library. Chair David Sevier presided over the meeting.

**Commissioners Present:** Sevier, Phillips, Gethers-Clark, Webb, Nazim, Friedland & Jalloh

**PCRB Members present:** K. Brown, Q. Brown & O'Brien

**Staff Present:** Asst. City Manager Barbara Harris, Criminal Justice Administrator Latisha McNeil & Office of Equity & Inclusion Coordinator Vonda Wingate

**Legal Department present:** City Attorney's Rosetta Davidson & Andrea Harrell

**Observers & Visitors:** Councilmember Michelle Kennedy, Greensboro Police Chief Wayne Scott & Captain Teresa Biffle

**I. Call to Order:**

Chair Sevier called the meeting to order at 6:03pm

**II. Moment of Silence:**

The meeting opened with a moment of silence

**III. Meeting Minutes:**

Chair Sevier called for a motion to approve November 15, 2018 minutes as submitted. All present voted to approve the minutes (Ayes: Sevier, Phillips, Gethers-Clark, Webb, Nazim, Friedland, Jalloh, K. Brown, Q. Brown & O'Brien, Nays: None)

**IV. Reading of the GCJAC Resolution**

Chair Sevier read the City GCJAC Resolution, explaining the purpose of the commission was to Monitor, Review, Analyze, Educate, Advise & Report issues across the justice continuum.

**V. Request from Greensboro Police Department**

Chief Scott spoke to the commission requesting participation on an exploratory committee to determine best restraint mechanisms for individuals who have to be taken into police custody. Chief Scott stated that the Department has been tasked to identify best practices and are seeking community assistance.



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Commissioners discussed the request and whether to assist in the study. Members also asked if an additional focus on broader “use of force” issues should be addressed.

Councilperson Kennedy advised that Council is looking at ways to deal with mental health and policing and is investigating how licensed mental health professionals can respond if calls appear to be mental health related. Council hopes to run a pilot program downtown and then assess expanding to the rest of the city.

The commission decided to participate in the GPD study. Commissioners Phillips, Nazim, Web & PCRB Committee member Q. Brown agreed to serve.

The commission discussed studying policing strategies involving compassion and humanity and Commissioner Friedland proposed using a Design Thinking Process approach (Empathize, Define, Ideate, Prototype & Test). Chair Sevier asked Commissioner Friedland to organize the focus of a study committee to investigate options in “use of force” situations.

### **VI. Confidentiality**

PCRB member K. Brown raised a question regarding how confidentiality agreements can interfere in Commissioners ability to assist in a study.

Councilmember Kennedy responded that GCJAC/ PCRB confidentiality restrictions relate primarily to employee personnel records and not general issues. She also stated that Council can remove individuals from boards or commissions at any time for appropriate reasons. She discussed requirements for serving such as attending meetings and mandatory trainings.

### **V. Discussion on GCJAC focus**

Chair Sevier spoke about last year’s GCJAC successful seminar on “Rights, Responsibilities and the Constitution” and how it was well received by the community. He then mentioned the many requests for a follow-up community seminar. Commissioner Friedland agreed to lead a Part II, explaining that it would focus on primarily on the 5<sup>th</sup> amendment. Commissioners suggested other future topic options.

### **VII. Education in schools**

Commissioners discussed going into schools to address rights and responsibilities of individuals and Commissioner Friedland mentioned a course he leads on Street Law. He also presented a draft of a booklet entitled Know Your Rights. It will be reviewed and updated by the Commission for future use.

Committee member K. Brown voiced concern about going into the school too early as it may be perceived negatively. She suggested identifying the needs of the school before planning programs.

Commissioner Nazim spoke about school SRO’s as resources, as well as educators, school counselors and administrators.

Chair Sevier asked Commissioner Nazim and PCRB member K. Brown to work together on developing an approach that can be discussed at a future meeting.



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Commissioner Jalloh spoke of the importance of diversity in the Commission's outreach across different communities. She indicated the international community is generally more willing to speak with someone who is from their community

Commissioner Friedland advised that the GCJAC should not only look at engaging the community but also work to engage the police in discussions and dialog across the city.

Committee member Q. Brown asked for clarification on the roles of the PCRB and the GCJAC. Commissioner Phillips explained that the PCRB is to address whether specific complaints represent issues about city regulations, whereas the GCJAC has a broader scope to review law enforcement policies, monitor trends in case dispositions and to engage in educational programs.

### **VIII. City IDs**

Vonda indicated that Council approved that Commissioners and PCRB members get a city ID for access into city hall.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:25pm