



Greensboro Criminal Justice Advisory Commission
Monitor. Review. Analyze. Educate. Advise. Report.

The Greensboro Criminal Justice Advisory Commission held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2020 virtually via Zoom GCJAC Chair, Jaye Webb presiding

Commissioners Present: Webb, K. Brown, Phillips, Jalloh & Friedland, Q. Brown & O'Brien

Commissioners Absent: C. Brown & Nazim

Staff Present: Trey Davis, Assistant City Manager, Latisha McNeil, Criminal Justice Administrator, Chief Brian James & Lt. Doug Tabler, Greensboro Police Department Professional Standards

Visitors: Several community members and Councilpersons

Legal Department present: Rosetta Davison, City Attorney & Andrea Harrell, Police attorney

I. Call to Order:

Chair Webb called the meeting to order at 6:32pm

II. Moment of Silence:

The meeting opened with a moment of silence.

III. Opening

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Criminal Justice Advisory Commission was called to order at 6:32pm on 10/15/20 in Zoom by Jaye Webb.

IV. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

V. Updates from Police Chief Brian James

Chief James spoke to the commission about the updates to policy and changes that he has made since being sworn into office in February 2020

- June 8th, GPD made a policy to ban chokeholds/strangleholds.
- GPD continues to do de-escalation training during the academy and in-service training for all officers
- February 10th, GPD created a policy to ban shooting at moving vehicles. And when feasible, officers are to warn a person before using any force.
- In June 2020, GPD reaffirmed its policy, making it mandatory for officers to intervene when they see other officers using excessive force.
- Updates to the Use of Force Options are covered extensively in the academy.
- The GPD academy is 980 hours. The state requirement is 640 hours. Extra time is spent on communications and determining the appropriate use of force.
- If force is necessary, officers will use the minimal amount of force necessary. Anything above that will be considered excessive.
- GPD will be starting a crisis intervention team to respond to calls regarding behavioral health crisis. These officers will receive additional training and will respond with City employed clinicians. No additional funding was provided to GPD but looked at how much time was spent on behavioral health calls.
- Implicit Bias training is giving to every GPD employee. It is taught to new officers in the academy along with racial equity training.
- GPD has sent officers through the racial equity training provided by the Racial Equity Institute (REI). Starting Early 2021, the goal is to have all GPD employees receive the Groundwater training through REI.
- GPD hired a community resource coordinator to help to link people with services in the community. To create a way for officers to refer to community services.
- GPD is accredited by Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) and will be up for review in 2021.

Chair Webb thanked the Chief for his time and talked about the commission's importance, establishing a relationship with the department. He asked if the Chief would be willing to come and speak to the GCJAC quarterly and provide updates. Chief James agreed to come quarterly and extended an invitation to the commission to reach out to him if they have questions. Commission Friedland asked for clarification on the crisis intervention team. Chief James described the structure of the program.

Commission Q. Brown asked if training hours could be increased in the academy to 1500 or 2000 hours. Chief James stated that once officers get out to the academy, they have an additional three months of field training with is the equivalent of about 1600 hours of comprehensive training before new officers can begin responding to calls. Officers are employed with the city for almost a year before they answer the first call.

VI. Subcommittee Reports

Commissioner F. Jalloh presented the education subcommittee report. The next GCJAC forum on Understanding the Complaint Process for October 29, 2020, at 6 pm. A flyer was sent to the group to distribute among the community. All are encouraged to attend.

Commissioner K. Brown presented the policy subcommittee report. The policy subcommittee recommendation on hemp v/s marijuana was presented to the group. Commissioner Phillips asked that the wording on the last line of the recommendation up changed to read. "Due to the indistinguishable nature of hemp and marijuana, the GCJAC is recommending that marijuana be deprioritized and to immediately cease possession charges for marijuana. Unless possession for marijuana can be determined by other means." A copy of the resolution will be sent to the police chief and City Council. The body unanimously approved the motion to move forward with the recommendation with the approved wording added.

VI. Additional Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Q. Brown asked about the conversation format when the Chief comes to speak to the group. He wanted to know if it is an opportunity to ask the chief questions or is just a time where he gives the body his updates. Chair Webb stated that the Chief was asked to come to this particular meeting to provide updates. He also said that there would be times when the body will have the opportunity to ask more questions and have a dialog with the Chief, but the Chief could accommodate the group for a 15-minute overview for this meeting today.

Commissioner Q. Brown went on to talk about concerns he has about the amount of time that officers are giving in training and suggested that this could be something that the group looks into further. Commissioner K. Brown advised that discussions came up about training and understanding the training structure as the next steps and possible recommendations at the last policy subcommittee meeting. The committee is committed to taking a deeper drive-in looking at those policies. The group also spoke about the murder rate in the City and examining ways to address that issue.

Commissioner K. Brown asked if the Chief's discussions would be in a town hall format during the regular GCJAC meeting times. Commissioner Phillips stated that he felt that the town halls should be held separate from the GCJAC monthly meetings.

VII. Visitor Comments

Community member Jania Austin spoke about her time working for the Phoenix Police Department on the Crisis Intervention Team. She talked about the amount of time that police officers would spend on calls dealing with mental health that the city should have a mental health professional who responds to those calls. She suggested a 24/7 mental health response team. Assistant City Manager Davis spoke about the mental health response team and clarified for the group. The team will be a co-response model where

mental health clinicians are responding with police officers. Mr. Davis went on to talk about the current behavioral response program with the S.E.L Group, stating that they have been running since March 2020 and have responded to hundreds of calls. Commissioner Friedland noted that the commission should continue to follow-up on the response teams, and they could look at what other cities are doing for their response teams.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm. The next general meeting will be at 6.30pm on November 19, 2020 in Zoom.