



MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY & COMMUNITY RELATIONS BOARD – SPECIAL COMBINED REGULAR & QUARTERLY SESSION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2024. 6:00 PM.

The Public Safety & Community Relations Board convened in regular session in the Government Center Boardroom at 6:00 PM, on DECEMBER 11, 2024. Chairperson MCFARLAND called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Ashley Farmer	Board Chair	Present
William Bennett	Board Member	Absent
Rachel McFarland	Board Member	Present
Surena Fish	Board Member	Present
Arthur Taylor	Board Member	Present
Tylian Smith	Board Member	Present
Sean Murphy	Board Member	Present

Staff Advisors Present:

Michael Hurt, Staff Liaison; Chad Wamsley, Asst. Chief of Police

Public Comment

No emailed public comment was received. Public comment was provided in-person by the following individuals: (1) Erica Larkin. Ms. Larkin asked the board about their review of the 2023 police complaints received during the October 2024 PSCRB meeting. She was concerned that about a filed complaint that did not come to the attention of the PSCRB for review.

Approval of Minutes

The following item was presented:

Item 4.A. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the October 23, 2024, Regular Public Safety & Community Relations Board Meeting.

Chairperson McFarland called for a motion to approve the Item as presented. Moved by Board Member Taylor. Seconded by Board Member Fish. Chairperson McFarland called roll:

AYES: Board Member Fish, Board Member Murphy, Board Member Taylor, Board Member Smith, Farmer, and Chairperson McFarland. Motion carried.

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 5.A. Presentation and Discussion by the Bloomington Police Department (BPD) on an update of complaints received. (Recommended Motion: None, presentation and discussion only.)

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Assistant Chief Wamsley stated there were 26 complaints for 2024. One of the complaints was handled at the time it was turned in after an explanation was provided. The other complaint was a mental health issue that was turned over to the Illinois State Police (ISP). We have had no other complaints in December. We currently have four that are pending. Three of them that we are still working on, and one is suspended right now due a civil case and an ongoing criminal case. Allegations made in these complaints include dissatisfied with service, unlawful search and seizure, harassment, discrimination disparaging remarks violation of policy procedure, unlawful use of force, violation of law, attention to duty, and excessive force. No complaints asking for PSCRB review. In November 2023 there were 5534 calls for service. In November 2024 there were 5385 calls for service.

Item 5.B Presentation and Discussion by the Bloomington Police Department (BPD) on an update of complaints received. (Recommended Motion: None, presentation and discussion only.)

Chief Wamsley stated there were 11 use of force incidents in November, where force was used or displayed. Three of these incidents involved 2 or more officers. 2 taser incidents; one display and one deployment on a white male. 99.8% of were calls handled without displays or use of force.

Item 5.C Presentation and Discussion by the Bloomington Police Department (BPD) on general department updates. (Recommended Motion: None, Presentation only.)

Chief Wamsley stated that we are at 129 out of 133 allotted officers for the department. Just hired 2 laterals of December 2nd. There are currently 5 cadets in the academy who will graduate this month. On December 30th, we will hire 4 more new officers who will report to the academy on January 5, 2025. Currently, we are at full staff.

Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) Updates: We had a local bank ATM that was compromised mechanically through malware software, with suspects moving tens of thousands of dollars. Utilized ALPR to locate the suspects vehicles. They are an organized crime group out of Venezuela. They have done similar crimes Urbana-Champaign, Mohamet, Springfield, Mt. Vernon and Peoria. Without these ALPRs and not be able to start connecting all these crimes together. We investigated a missing person from our city, finding him in his vehicle and Gary Indiana. We located him using ALPR. We used a combination of ALPRs and traffic safety cameras to locate a hit and run with injury. We found the suspect and the suspect vehicle. Board member Taylor asked if there was any recorded data that would quantify the impact that ALPRs have had on the department's performance. Based on the large number of inquiries from other cities regarding Bloomington's use of the ALPR, Chief Wamsley stated they are considering doing a presentation at the next Chief's Conference. Several board members were also interested in such a presentation by the department's Jack McQueen.

Old Business

No Old Business was discussed.

New Business

Concerning the City Council's request that the PSCRB revisit the wording of their ordinance amendment and consider increasing the size of the board from 9 to 11 members thereby retaining 2 seats exclusively for youth board members. The Board members stated they do not want to increase the size of the board but have the flexibility to fill 2 of the current 9 seats with either youth or adult board members. The Board members cited past difficulties, despite their combined efforts, in getting young people interested in joining the PSCRB. The Board members also stated the difficulty in getting a quorum with the current 9 member board, and increasing the board size to 11 members would only exacerbate the problem. And while the board would appreciate the diversity of thought, in getting young people involved in the community, the inability to fill the 2 seats ties our hands and hinders the board's ability to move issues forward and keep a pace on the board.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date

January 22, 2025 at 3:30 pm.

Adjournment

Board Member Murphy made a motion, seconded by Board Member Taylor, to adjourn.

Motion carried (viva voce).

The Meeting Adjourned at 6:45 PM.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON


Rachel McFarland, Chairperson

ATTEST


Michael Hurt, Staff Liaison