



City of Santa Rosa

City Hall, Council Chamber
100 Santa Rosa Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Public Safety Subcommittee Regular Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, February 8, 2021

1:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Fleming called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Present: 3 - Victoria Fleming, Natalie Rogers and Tom Schwedhelm

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Fleming announced Vice Mayor Rogers will be leaving the meeting at 3:00 pm and she would be leaving at 3:30 pm. Chair Fleming reordered the agenda to take Item 5.2 first.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Samra spoke and wanted to know why we didn't renew the contract. Questioned why is it in the Police budget, feels like a lack of transparency. Have a group of auditors or community board to check on the auditor.

Evan spoke and re-emphasize points stated previously. Make a larger effort, like IOLERO or a citizen oversight committee.

Susan spoke and stated that the last auditor was let go due to council being called out for homelessness. The auditor reached out to the community. We need community oversight/board.

Leigh spoke to rights being violated are wrong - we need the oversight.

Cecilia spoke and stated her strong support for oversight committee/auditor. Not ok for police to use their power to control people.

Aletha spoke that funding should not be linked to police; take funding from police to take care of auditor/community board/CAHOOTS.

Libs spoke to the item and asked that it is more honest to have a community board, no conflict of interest. Don't have to reinvent the wheel. Commit to alternative processes.

Kelsey spoke and feels that the vacant auditor position is alarming. Need clarity - what to do differently?

Jerry spoke to the item. He is the founder of IOLERO, Chair of human rights for the county. Are any members of Police department white supremacists? Should report to Council. Add a community advisory committee.

Michael spoke and we need community oversight, with protestors especially this past summer. Keep funding independent of Police.

Noah spoke to conflict of interest - need a community with real power of oversight.

Melissa shares sentiment of other speakers, fill the position, have a board oversight, full separation between Police and auditor.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NONE

5. NEW BUSINESS

- 5.1** POLICE AUDITOR (* This item was continued from the January 27, 2021 meeting.)

Staff and the City Manager will provide an update on the Police Auditor. The update will include the prior position and scope of work and the current status of the position.

Attachments: [Correspondence \(Uploaded 1/26/2021\)](#)
[Presentation](#)

Police Chief Navarro presented the item and answered questions from subcommittee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Samra spoke on auditor position.

Briane supports Chief Navarro and staff. Makes her sad that this is a constant topic of conversation.

Melissa spoke to the homelessness situation.

Evan spoke about professional standards should state the need for auditor. Need community oversight, should not be politicized. Best interest to get it right.

Libs spoke and echoes previous callers. How do you expect us to support you, people are dying on the streets, they are our community and we need to take care of everyone. police clearing camps is not helping.

Kimmy spoke to the need for transparency and trust in our police. Second class people are treated same as homeless.

Greg thanked Captain Litchfield. What is the path forward? Does not fault police.

Susan asked that we all try to listen to people that may have had another experience than you.

5.2 THIN BLUE LINE SOCIAL MEDIA POST (* This item was continued from the January 27, 2021 meeting.)

Discussion about social media post.

Attachments: [Correspondence \(Uploaded 1/26/2021\)](#)
 [Late Correspondence \(Uploaded 1/26/2021\)](#)
 [Late Correspondence \(Uploaded 2/8/21\)](#)

Police Chief Navarro introduced the item and answered questions from the Subcommittee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Melissa spoke and likes the Chief's comments after flag removed,

you are wise! Thank you. No bad experiences.

Evan spoke and asked to frame things so people don't misunderstand. We need a lot of improvement.

Susan spoke there is disagreement in what thin blue line means. Racist to some. Listen to those who have not had good experience with police.

Michael spoke and asked that we do not use this flag at all. Shocked that police don't know the flag is hurtful and no accountability to those that are in black or other community.

Samra spoke and does not seem like Navarro shuns the flag, it is racism. Used by those that oppose BLM and other movements.

Alegra spoke and asked that we do not fly the racist flag.

Noah spoke that the symbol of the flag is the same as a nazi flag or anything else.

Leslie spoke and appreciates the comments of previous callers and subcommittee from last week's Council meeting. Topic is emotional. Need policy on social media.

Pamela spoke and is concerned when saw blue line banner. Symbols matter. Why posted on MLK weekend. it is not us vs. them!

Dimetra spoke and this blue line means law enforcement are racists, white supremacists. Do not use this flag, it insults everyone.

Kimmie spoke highlighting the racism, cheering against homelessness and drug use. Humanize.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - NONE

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Fleming adjourned the meeting at 4:06 pm.

Approved on: August 11, 2021

Elizabeth Licursi, Recording Secretary