



City of Santa Rosa

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

Public Safety Subcommittee Regular Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, August 11, 2021

9:00 AM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Fleming called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

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

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 February 8, 2021

Attachments: [February 8, 2021](#)

Approved as submitted.

3.2 January 27, 2021

Attachments: [January 27, 2021](#)

Approved as submitted.

3.3 November 23, 2020

Attachments: [November 23, 2020](#)

Approved as submitted with Vice Mayor Rogers abstaining.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Roger Montgomery spoke on the mental health program.

Duane De Witt submitted comment on behavior of public at Southwest Community Park, specifically vendors, and drinking in the park.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 POLICE AUDITOR UPDATE

Staff will provide an updated on the Police Auditor contract.

Attachments: [Presentation for items 5.1-5.5](#)

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Allegra Wilson spoke on the public ability to participate in the selection process and that the position be able to take action and "have some teeth" once in place.

Melissa concurred with previous comment and asked questions regarding the auditor request for proposal, and expressed concerns about the length of time without an auditor in place.

Claudia Nordby spoke asking regarding the amount of applicants, why there were so few applicants, and when will the position be filled?

This item was received and filed.

5.2 MENTAL HEALTH RESPONSE PROGRAM

Staff will provide an update on the development of a model and timeline for the City of Santa Rosa's response to mental illness and homelessness outreach.

Captain John Cregan presented and answered questions from the subcommittee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Claudia Nordby spoke in support of the work of Captain Cregan and team on the work related to the mental health response program.

Katrin Ciaffa spoke in support of all the efforts related to the mental health response team, and asked that the Subcommittee consider staff on the response team should include a peer support specialist with lived mental health experience, be racially and ethnically diversity, and that de-escalation tactics be practiced if law enforcement is involved on calls where there is a perceived threat of

violence.

Roger Montgomery spoke on his personal experience related to mental health and homelessness and would be happy to offer insights upon request.

Melissa spoke in support of the mental health response program, collaboration across agencies in the County, and concurred with Katrin's comment around de-escalation practices during calls where there is a perceived threat of violence, and in support of the voice of the previous commenter.

Kimi Barbosa spoke in support of the mental health response program and feels hopeful that compassionate care will be received by our community, and shared her experiences with crisis response, the importance of culturally mindful practices to responses and having a diverse staff including that of lived mental health and addiction experience, and the need for extra support for focus on youth responses.

Allegra spoke in support of the mental health program, the importance of diversity in care and mental health competency in staff.

Matt Bogue spoke in support of the mental health response program, and it makes him proud that we have a forward thinking police department.

Alexis Borelli spoke in support of the mental health response program and echoed much of what Allegra stated, the excitement and need of a program like this in our community.

Noa spoke in support of the mental health response program, and asked that when forming this team consider: the importance of a team and group reflective of the diversity of our community like language justice and cultural competency, including the disabled, mentally ill and neuro-divergent communities; recognizing

institutional bias; working with those with lived experience and taking their needs seriously.

Lee spoke in support of the mental health response program, the importance of including those with lived experience and scholarly expertise as part of the team for greater understanding, and wider representation of those with neuro-diversities to help the overall program.

This item was received and filed.

5.3 CHIEF'S COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR TEAM (C-CAT)

Staff will provide an update on the initial implementation and seeks Subcommittee feedback on how to make the program successful.

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

No public comment was provided.

This item was received and filed.

5.4 POLICY DISCUSSION - POLICY 706

Staff will provide an update on a new policy for a Public Address System (Policy 706). Staff will provide information on the process for selecting the equipment and discuss revisions based on community and Council feedback.

Captain John Cregan presented and answered questions from the subcommittee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lee spoke and stated that the previous concerns around the the LRAD system seem to have been addressed in the new system and the development of this policy.

Allegra spoke echoing what Lee just said, and expressed that the community is feeling heard around the LRAD system, and appreciated not weaponizing the system.

Anon spoke in opposition to the purchase of this device and that this has not built trust within the community and nothing has been quelled in this explanation and wants the device removed.

Kimi Barbosa spoke and expressed appreciation that this conversation that their feedback was heard, and Captain Cregan made great efforts to implement the new policy reflecting community feedback.

Matt Bogue spoke in support of Captain Cregan's efforts and how the system will be used, and appreciated the video demonstration of the various options that were being considered.

This item was received and filed.

5.5 PRIORITIZATION FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Staff is seeking feedback from Subcommittee members on future agenda items for upcoming meetings.

Council Member Schwedhelm would like this subcommittee to discuss the financial impacts of Measure O, and hear the pros and cons on the operational impacts related to the potential extension of the sales tax measure.

Chair Fleming suggested that once the mental health response program has been implemented and footing found, that this subcommittee consider expanding the program to relieve officers of calls related to homelessness and quality of life calls.

No public comment was provided.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Fleming adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Approved on: December 8, 2021

Liz A Licursi
Recording Secretary