

Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission

Communications Subcommittee

June 8, 2015 7:30 p.m.

Fairfax County Government Center, conference room 7

Notetaker: TBD

1. Approval of minutes from the May 26 meeting
2. Best practices: communications, public release of information, engagement.
 - Other jurisdictions
 - Guest speaker: Prince George's Police Department PIO Julie Parker
 - Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs presentation on other communities, including:
 - Los Angeles, CA
 - Grand Forks, ND
 - Mountain View, CA
 - Dallas, TX
 - Omaha, NE
 - Conway, AR
 - Tucson, AZ
 - Columbia, MO
 - Arlington, VA
 - Alexandria, VA
3. Report-outs on the communications aspects of various reports
 - a. DOJ report on Cleveland (Tom Ryan)
 - b. DOJ report on Ferguson (Jose Santos)
 - c. DOJ report on Philadelphia (Mary Kimm)
 - d. Final report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing (Darryl Drevna's hard copy memo was distributed at the May 26 meeting)
 - e. Report of the U.S. Conference of Mayors on "Strengthening Police-Community Relations in America's Cities (Eric Clingan)
4. Discuss how FCPD communicates with diverse communities, whether information released is culturally appropriate, how FCPD can eradicate any perceived biases in communications, how FCPD can change any negative perceptions, narratives and visuals and ensure a culture of public trust.
5. Review and add to this list of possible recommendations (with the goal to whittle these to half a dozen in our final report)
 - Calls for service involving individuals with mental illness should be reported in terms of numbers so that the public understands the scope of the problem. Mental health calls should also be reported on the daily blog.
 - PIO staff should be assigned to each district station.

- More information released with some substance or detail to the release concerning incidents that occur in neighborhoods that are not critical in nature. More effort should be devoted to getting the day to day information of police activity out to the public.
- Quarterly crime reports should be posted for the community to view.
- The department needs to develop a policy statement regarding release of information for critical events. This would include the relationship with OPA and the hand off to them in certain situations.
- The department should develop a cold case PIO practice of releasing information on cases that are no longer active or closed.
- More specificity and detail in crime stats and information that is released by the district stations.
- Align Fairfax County with release of information practices and laws that govern most states.
- Stop the current blanket approach to FOIA requests.
- Endorse the recommendations of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing Final Report that are related to communications, which call for establishing a culture of transparency and accountability to build public trust and legitimacy through such actions as making all department policies available for public review, clearly stating what types of information will be released, when and in what situation after serious incidents and communicating swiftly, openly and neutrally while respecting areas where the law requires confidentiality.

6. Questions to ponder as we move forward with our workplan

- Should FCPD prioritize a realignment of resources to take the steps necessary to ensure more transparency?
- Does FCPD have a continuous process of information declassification, to help ensure proactive information release for cases that are no longer active or closed?
- How can critical incidents be treated differently to trigger more information dissemination?
- The President's task force noted in its final report that rules and policies will fail if they conflict with the existing culture. FCPD will probably review and revise general orders and SOPs in response to the commission's recommendations. How best can FCPD culture be changed so that the improved and enlightened policies will be successfully implemented?
- The current general order on the release of information overemphasizes the media. FCPD is not dependent on the media but can use its own platforms and tools to share information directly with the public. Will the new improved general orders acknowledge today's communications paradigm by promoting more community engagement and direct information dissemination to the community?