

Public Safety Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2018

Members in attendance: Russell Carey, Eric Estes, Chief Mark Porter, Yannick Alphonso-Gibbs, Benjamin Wilks, Eli Binder, Lydia Gulick, Peter Heywood, Katie Biello, Kirsten Wolfe, Joie Steele, James Green, Justin Pace, Lt. Bruce Holt, Kate Felder, Sgt. Kelly Mitchell, John Felton

Russell introduced himself to the group as new members have joined and explained the history of the committee. The committee was established ten years ago. When Then-President Simmons decided to arm officers, there was an arming oversight committee which grew into the Public Oversight Committee. Since then, we have developed a structure to produce good data. This committee offers an opportunity for all members to engage, request more clarity, to be reflective of the community, and to provide suggestions for improvement. Much of this data is reported publically as a part of effort to maintain transparency.

Russell requested approval of the minutes. Considered approved. Russell reviewed the agenda and opened the conversation about what DPS does regarding hostile intruder training in light of recent shootings. Chief Porter noted many policies are born out of current events. Russell encouraged the group to ask questions.

Chief Porter reviewed the crime statistics on campus. DPS looks at numbers for trends to forecast crime. This year, we are continuing to see a decrease in crime – particularly in robbery and larceny. There has been a steady decline in robbery and larceny in previous years. We still experience bike thefts – this is a trending crime in urban campuses. Sgt. Kelly Mitchell spearheaded a program to trade in cable locks for U locks. Kate Felder completed a map noting the location of bicycle racks on campus and mapped the thefts. We track and compare data in calendar and academic years.

From 2005 to 2008, reports of robberies were averaging from 19-21 annually. We added more cameras and forecasted trends to direct patrol which has been effective. We know that currently, theft comes from residence halls with doors being left unlocked. Definitions of crime are listed in this report – the difference between burglary and larceny – Chief Porter clarified the definitions. DPS strives to impress upon students how important it is to leave their belongings safely guarded.

Bicycles are the most popular mode of transportation on campus. We suspect thieves are selling bikes for parts or selling the whole bike itself. We offer property registration for recovery and a U-Lock exchange program for further security.

Lt. Bruce Holt reviewed the Professional Standards report which reviews citizens complains and data on field stops and motor vehicle stops. Chief Porter encourages the community to contact us with concerns. DPS shares stats on our website regarding complaints.

Joie Steele asked about the process in which a complaint is handled. Chief Porter reviewed the process. The goal is to ensure the complaint is timely and that the process is fair for both sides. Joie asked if there is a recourse if the complainant is unhappy with the result. The Chief sends a letter to follow up with Russell's office. Joie is concerned students not wanting to complain against police in the event police are the people who have mistreated them. Russell noted we do consistent community surveys and students are able to go to Campus Life. Joie says there is value in having external reviews of complaints. It is a

national conversation with police departments. Chief noted we have done our due diligence – we are in a structured Union environment but we have a commitment to the university which goes well beyond the members of the department. It is a similar process in campus law enforcement. Russell noted we are consistent with other bargaining units on campus.

Eli Binder asked what happens when a complaint is sustained. Chief Porter explained that it can mean retraining and discipline for the employee. We afford details to the complainant but keep the discipline private for the rights of the employee.

Chief Porter reviewed the definitions of field stops and motor vehicles stops. All stops are documented by the officer to note the validity of the reason for the stop. Russell noted the gender and race of people who were stopped are the impression of the officer. We track all potential trends with officer stops to ensure no bias. Peter Heywood asked about the times which are highest for stops. Chief Porter noted 7pm to 3am. Most motor vehicle stops end with a fine or warning when the driver is unregistered.

Joie asked if these include stops the Jewelry district – Lt. Holt noted they do. Russell noted we are currently paying for a detail around SSL to monitor foot traffic and motor vehicle traffic for congestion.

Sgt. Mitchell reviewed the Community Policing and Outreach Bureau report. The report includes engagement events, safety sessions, partnerships, security assessments, and Operation ID. Kelly shared details about our newer programs like **Be the Help Until the Help Arrives** and the **residential vulnerability assessments** for students living off campus. John Felton asked if we had considered asking students what programs they would be interested in. Currently DPS asks students to rate our programs but are interested in listening to students' interests. James Green asked if we speak with landlords directly when a vulnerability assessment find safety concerns. Russell noted we only have a limited interaction because of liability issues. Peter Heywood noted Brown has a lawyer available to UCS who can help students with landlord disputes. Eric Estes said Campus Life has resources for students living off campus.

Back to community policing, Joie noted opportunities to make already scheduled events more interactive with students and officers. Sgt. Mitchell asked the group to provide ideas about listening sessions.

Russell asked about campus safety with Jump bike sand scooters blocking entrances. Sgt. Mitchell noted we haven't had many problems with them but will continue to offer biking safety classes.

Chief Porter reviewed the department's efforts for DIAP. We have been able to attract more candidates to our hiring pools which has increased diversity within the department. Chief reviewed training initiatives. Eric Estes asked if students or staff could be involved in training. Lt. Holt wants officers to be comfortable and ask the hard questions outside of the public.

Joie has received requests from speakers and students to not have armed officers at their events and would like to discuss how to handle concerns from people from marginalized identities. Russell will add the topic to our next meeting.

Chief Porter educated the committee about how we prepare for hostile intruders on campus and the resources we utilize for training officers. Chief – we trained with URI police department last summer – with dispatchers and officers in dorm rooms. Students were involved in role playing. This summer, we

plan to work with PPD on our campus. We have equipped every cruiser with tactical bags – each cruiser has a shield and helmet for each officer responding. Peter Heywood asked if a shooting happened at a club downtown if PPD - would call DPS in for back up? Chief Porter can envision DPS being called if the incident is nearby campus or if an officer is passing by the incident. If there were a lot of Brown students present, we would engage quickly. John Felton asked if there were an active shooter situation, would it be beneficial to have an escape plan taught at orientation. John has classes with 300 people in a lecture hall – if it were to happen now, it would be chaos. Chief Porter can see a benefit in that and will speak with EHS to arrange evacuation trainings. Eric Estes would suggest training in a building like Friedman or in a residence hall. Russell cautioned if sharing that kind of information would needlessly scare students. Sgt. Mitchell suggested adding information on screens in buildings on campus like exit instructions in a movie theater.

John Felton suggested including that information in the behavior policies which all students must watch/read/sign off on?

Yannick Alphonso-Gibbs suggested using freshman orientation to get information out that way. Katie Biello asked if there is any evidence about if this kind of training works. Lt. Holt noted it is about awareness. In any large venue, you look ahead to be prepared – finding exits. Joie Steele asked if other Universities with open campuses have a process in place. Chief Porter noted the Run, Hide and Fight video on campus websites.

Russell thanked the group for attending. Meeting adjourned at 1:33PM.