

Commissioner's Present:

Janet Jackson, Chair, Brooke Burns, Emily Buster, Tammy Fournier-Alsaada, Dr. Chenelle Jones, Dr. Vlad Kogan, Andrea Morbitzer, Pastor Jason Ridley, Erin Synk, Oleatha Waugh, Mary Wehrle, Tiffany White

Commissioner's Absent:

LaShaun Carter, Ellen Moore Griffin, Matt McCrystal, Traci Shaw, Tiffany White, Dr. Reginald Wilkinson

Staff Present:

Denise Bauer, Sgt. Fred Brophy, Commander Bob Meader, Elon Simms, George Speaks, Kate Pishotti

WELCOME

Chair Janet Jackson welcomed the Columbus Community Safety Advisory Commission ("Safety Commission") to the meeting.

SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Chair Jackson asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the August 20, 2018 Safety Commission Meeting. **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

21st CENTURY POLICING

Dr. Jones described the history and evolution of policing, covering the various eras:

- Political Era
- Reform Era
- Community Era

In the community era, she noted one of the main strategies, proactive policing. Proactive policing is a strategic approach to policing that encompasses all strategies aimed to prevent and/or reduce crime, and are not reactive in terms of focusing primarily on uncovering ongoing crime, investigating, or responding to crimes once they have occurred. Dr. Jones then described different types of policing, their primary objectives and key approaches:

- Hot Spots Policing
 - Primary Objective: Prevent crime in micro geographic places
 - Intervention Type: Place-based Intervention

- Problem-Oriented Policing
 - Primary Objective: Solve recurring problems to prevent future crime
 - Intervention Type: Problem-solving Intervention

- Focused Deterrence/Stop-and-Frisk
 - Primary Objective: Prevent and deter specific crimes by targeting known offenders
 - Intervention Type: Person-focused Intervention

- Community Oriented Policing
 - Primary Objective: Enhance collective efficacy and community collaboration with police
 - Intervention Type: Community-based Intervention

Dr. Jones shared that we are now in the era of 21st Century Policing. On December 18, 2014, President Barack Obama issued an Executive Order creating an 11-member task force on 21st Century Policing. The task force was created in response to several incidents between law enforcement and the communities that they are charged to protect and serve. The mission of the task force: The Task Force shall, consistent with applicable law, identify best practices and otherwise make recommendations to the President on how policing practices can promote effective crime reduction while building public trust. The task force established Six Pillars:

1. Building Trust and Legitimacy
2. Policy and Oversight
3. Technology and Social Media
4. Community Policing and Crime Reduction
5. Training and Education
6. Officer Wellness and Safety

Dr. Jones then reviewed each pillar and recommendations, starting with Trust and Legitimacy noting that one of the things that the task force recognized is that there are different segments of the population have different and varying levels of trust with law enforcement across the country. Dr. Jones shared a national Gallup poll on confidence in police and shared the following data to illustrate that based on race and ethnicity, ideology, age and party identification, there are varying levels of confidence in the police.

	2012-2014	2015-2017
%	%	%

U.S. adults	55	54
Race and ethnicity		
Hispanics	59	45
Blacks	35	30
Whites	58	61
Ideology		
Liberals	51	39
Moderates	56	53
Conservatives	59	67
Age		
18-34	56	44
35-54	53	54
55 and older	58	63
Party ID		
Democrats and leaners	52	44
Republicans and leaners	64	69

Dr. Jones said the task force recognized that they are several historical issues that have contributed to the confidence in police and it is important to acknowledge it and understand that there may be some block and barriers and figure out a way to overcome them in terms of building trust. The task force learned that one of the main primary ways of building trust and legitimacy with communities is procedural justice. Procedural justice focuses on transparency, accountability, community and trust. The four principles of procedural justice are as follows:

1. Treating people with dignity and respect
2. Giving individuals “voice” during encounters
3. Being neutral and transparent in decision making
4. Conveying trustworthy motives

If law enforcement agencies focus on being procedurally just, this improves legitimacy and lives in the community. Dr. Jones then described procedural justice as both internal and external and shared how that impacts law enforcement agencies and how they police the communities. Internal procedural justice refers to how officers perceive their leaders and their superior officers with their agency. External procedural justice refers to transparency and refers to the positive interactions that happen between individuals and law enforcement while they are out on the streets. This translates into whether or not the community respects and trust law enforcement agencies. Dr. Jones then summarized the task force recommendations outlined on her PowerPoint presentation noting that many of the main recommendations focuses on officers really engaging in the community, understanding the history, adopting policies, being transparent in their behaviors and how they interact with the public. Dr. Jones then discussed the second pillar, Policy and Oversight sharing that 21st century policing really looks at use-of-force policies.

Dr. Jones described the sixth pillar, technology and social media, noting that law enforcement needs to be up to date on technology in terms of new social media platforms to improve and enhance the profession of policing. Dr. Jones noted that many of the studies concerning 21st Century policing is body worn cameras. She shared that one of the recommendations is to make it mandatory that body worn cameras are on when officers stop someone and what the consequences are when officers fail to turn on their body worn cameras, what does that do to the investigation and what does that do to trust and legitimacy.

Dr. Jones shared a study that looked at body worn cameras and reported the study showed that offices utilizing body worn cameras had an 87% reduction in use of incidents and a 59% increase in confidence in their jobs. She then reviewed the recommendations.

Discussion Points:

- Enforcing laws that police feel are unjust and the discretion of the officer to enforce such laws.
- Police power over communities policed the most and the need for police to recognize we are all human – officer should enforce the law with the people, not just on the people.
- Commissioner Morbitzer shared details of her police ride along and shared specific examples and recognition to the officer for what she felt was the definition of community policing. Discussion ensued about others Commissioners experiences that were less than positive and the need to recognize that and how in 21st Century Policing how do you address the negative experiences – is it the quality of training? In the State of Ohio, there are required hours of training that law enforcement agencies are required to have. 21st Century Policing looks at not just the hours of training, but the quality of the training.

PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING, CPD PRACTICES/APPLICATION

Sgt. Fred Brophy updated the Safety Commission on Problem Oriented Policing. Sgt. Brophy explained that when we look at traditional policing, we often times look at what is referred to the Standard Model of Policing. The Standard Model of Policing is centered around the rapid response of officers responding to crimes in progress or calls for service in order to get there as soon as possible and either apprehend the suspects or to initiate investigations. The problem with this model is there is no support that this reduces crime disorders in communities. Sgt.

Brophy then described Community Oriented Policing, sharing that it's not really a plan or a plan of action, but a concept and how do the police make that plan work and make that work within the communities. He shared he had the opportunity to supervise one of the three teams the City of Columbus fielded into three specific neighborhoods, including one in his zone, the Franklinton and the Hilltop. He was given the mandate to utilize his officers and they wanted this to be primarily bicycle patrol to focus on three areas: violent crime, drug trafficking and prostitution. He utilized his bicycle officers to engage with the community to identify what the citizens think are problems. Within one week, the officers had 37 specific crime complaints. Sgt. Brophy then looked at the policing graphic interfacing software to look at the crime mapping to identify exactly geographically where the biggest problems were within the Franklinton and Hilltop areas. The crime maps showed that the same places the citizens identified as problems were the same problematic areas shown on the crime maps. Sgt. Brophy shared that this is where problem oriented policing comes in to find a holistic solution to the problem to address the underlying cause of the crime disorder. The idea is to increase the overall sense of safety within the community and then utilize all city resources to focus on addressing the underlying problems. Sgt. Brophy provided a specific example of an epicenter of criminal activity, a local carry-out and how the police utilized problem oriented policing to remedy the situation. They identified there was a nexus between trafficking of guns and narcotics with a food truck located on the carry out's parking lot. The parking lot was overgrown with grass, it was littered and the street lights weren't working. They did very proactive policing within this area of crime and identified the individual responsible for most of the drug trafficking. They teamed up with the nuisance abatement group headed up by the city's attorney's office. They brought in code and liquor enforcement. They did an all-encompassing inspection of this carry out. Instead of closing this location down and pulling their liquor permit, which would have precipitated more disorder, they worked to get this particular location to be a functioning member of the community as a business. These efforts resulted in this particular area no longer showing up on the crime maps and the community is feeling safer.

Sgt. Brophy noted another area of problem oriented policing focuses on people who have the highest criminogenic propensities – the vast majorities of crimes are committed by individuals. Sgt. Brophy shared an example of a specific apartment complex and how his officers started work with both the property management company and the citizens that lived there. He noted it was a very troubled piece of property and that on the crime map, it was bright red. The officers talked to the property management company and the residents within these apartments. The apartment complex rents to low-rent individuals and much of the rent is subsidized, which brings a higher probability of the residents becoming crime victims. In talking to the property management company and residents, they learned that two particular individuals, who were not residents, were causing most of the issues. It was by talking to the community they were able to identify who to focus on and by working with the property management company, they were able to issue those two individuals trespass orders for the property. They were eventually arrested for trespassing and found in possession of weapons. The robberies at that particular apartment complex have lessened and work is being done to renegotiate the apartment

complexes contract with local housing agencies to provide more housing and new buildings now that they feel they have a good working relationship with the police to provide a safe environment to provide low income housing for people who are in need.

Discussion points:

- Commissioner Fournier-Alsaada raised several concerns regarding Community Policing comparing it to the theory of Broken Window Policing, citing several specific examples, survey’s and studies. She also raised concerns about the model explained by Sgt. Brophy causing gentrification.
- The use of the term “certain people” and how they are more conditioned to have a higher propensity to commit crime. Discussion ensued about what research exists to support that assertion. The Commission discussed the use of the term “certain people” can be perceived as racist and be offensive.

CPD UPDATES

Deputy Chief Becker shared that the Columbus Division of Police Department's Vice Unit has been placed under a review. The review will last four weeks and impact the unit's 20 officers and supervisors. The department's Vice Unit has been connected to two high profile incidents in recent months. Deputy Chief Becker indicated that once the review is completed, changes will be made within the vice unit. He shared efforts currently being made to reduce the rates of prostitution and homicides.

Discussion Points:

- Efforts of the Vice Unit with other task forces and community organizations in the community to help with women affected by prostitution.
- The perception of the term “prostitute” versus something such as “trafficking survivor”.
- Social services interventions for other types of felonies such as non-violent drug dealers

SUB-COMMITTEES

Chair Jackson reminded the Safety Commission of those who would serve as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the sub-committees.

Hiring:

- Chair: Andrea Morbitzer
- Vice Chair: LaShaun Carter

Training:

- Chair: Brooke Burns
- Vice Chair: Matthew McCrystal

21st Century Policing:

- Chair: Dr. Chenelle Jones
- Vice Chair: Traci Shaw

Hot Topics:

- Chair: Vlad Kogan

- Vice Chair: Dr. Reginald Wilkinson

Discussion Points:

Commissioner Fournier-Alsaada questioned how the committee chairs and vice chairs were appointed and whether they were appointed based on the individuals having expertise in the particular committee they were appointed to. Chair Jackson noted she made the decisions based on either an interest that had been expressed by the other Commissioners or backgrounds that she knew of that would make them the right person to lead.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.