

# **MOA Public Safety Advisory Commission Meeting**

January 20, 2021

Teams Video Conference

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Board Members Present**

Charlene Apok  
Sharon Chamard  
Emily Edenshaw  
Amber Fullmer  
Garry Gilliam  
Kendra Kloster

### **Members Absent**

Andalyn Pace

### **Representatives Present**

Batt Chief Brian Partch, AFD  
Lt. Gina Burington, APD  
Andrew Preis, OEM

**Call to order** Meeting called to order at approx. 6:07PM, quorum present.

### **Reports**

#### **APD, Lieutenant Gina Burington**

- See Attached Report

Edenshaw: Requested the APD report have “more meat” and updates on issues regarding police shootings and other “relevant current events”. Edenshaw expressed concern in learning about events and pressing issues from the media rather than directly from the APD. There are larger issues that have “bubbled” to the surface that are not address in the report.

Lt. Burington: As a general rule, release of information has to be consistent, therefore, no additional information can be shared other than what is released to the public. Most of the (current) cases continue to be under investigation.

Apok: Expressed thanks to APD for receiving the report in advance. Apok echoed similar concerns as Edenshaw such as public safety and civil unrest, especially today with the (Presidential) inauguration and other things that have happened recently in Anchorage (mentioned the Dimond Center).

Apok stated they are getting a lot of questions about what the PSAC is doing in regarding to these concerns. Apok commented that if the PSAC is no different than the public in getting information; there’s question as to what the established relationship of the PSAC is with emergency services.

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Apok wanted to “push back a little bit” on APD to provide more information to the PSAC. Apok stated that the reason PSAC Commissioners are in these positions is because they have more information than can be provided to the general public; not just hearing it through the news.

Lt. Burington: If there is another process or mechanism for notifications such as what the PSAC is requesting, that discussion will occur with APD Chiefs. If there are specific questions the Commissioners have in advance of the meeting, or throughout the month, these topics could be addressed to the best of her ability.

Kloster: Offered to assist with communication offline about organization of emails and correspondence in making sure responses are getting compiled and sent out appropriately.

Regarding APD training, this item was listed under “old business”; however, wanted to question if topic should be addressed this evening, or tabled.

Edenshaw: Requested that APD training be placed on a future agenda for further discussion. Expressed concern regarding the training that APD officers are receiving, referring to it as “appalling” and would like to table the discussion for a future date to provide time for Lt. Burington to get with the Chiefs and for Edenshaw, Kloster, and Lt. Burington to meet so APD has a clear understanding of what PSAC is requesting. Requested input from other Commissioners.

Fullmer: In agreement with the plan.

Chamard: Agreed.

Lt. Burington: Requested a copy of the (training) video in which Edenshaw and Kloster made reference.

Edenshaw: Referencing the Russian Jack shooting a request was made to Deputy Chief McCoy at APD regarding the audio availability. The request was denied due to the case being under investigation. If the case is not currently under investigation, Edenshaw is curious about the incident.

Lt. Burington: Will follow-up with Deputy Chief McCoy regarding release of audio if appropriate.

Edenshaw: Requested a process for APD to inform and update PSAC regarding cases due to the inquiries that they are receiving via Facebook, emails, etc.

Apok: Requested more information about legislative being drafted regarding changes to the Police Standards Council and wanted to know what APD and other law enforcement agencies perspectives are. Requested an update on body cameras.

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Edenshaw: Since agenda was not approved, request to move public comment up to allow time for agencies to address comments/concerns from citizens.

Chamard: In agreement.

Kloster: Requested that items (updates, questions, etc.) discussed off-line in email be placed on the agenda and shared with the public; in an effort to be open and transparent regarding the nature and functions of the PSAC.

Gilliam: Asked if the agenda will be placed on the website?

Kloster: The intention is to have agendas prepared one-week in advance and placed on website and sent out to group. The minutes need to be uploaded to the website as well. Kloster will get with PSAC Liaison Hack offline.

Hack: PSAC Commissioners will receive an email invite for the recurring meeting. Hack will be coordinating with the Municipality to gain access to update the website with PSAC minutes, current call in number for meeting, and agenda.

### **Public Testimony:**

Melahn Paket (Guest – unknown spelling: 4.5-minutes): Stated that there are advocates within the community and statewide motoring the Police Standards Council. The chair of this Council (referring to the Police Standards Council) was Chief Doll. Referenced the topic of police department commendations and complaints. Encouraged Commissioners to review the proposed bills by Senator Grey-Jackson and to review websites of police departments within the area.

Brianna Marshall (Guest): Question: Police officers experience a great deal of trauma and often suffer compound trauma. When they get into a situation they're not present; and react often out of a trauma response. Is there trauma care to enhance public safety?

Lt. Burington: Looking at a culture shift at APD and transitioning to a peer support model; APD is aware of issue and taking steps to address it.

Michael Patterson (Guest: 6-minutes): Inquired as to the timeline for restructuring the commission and curious as to what that looks like. He has attempted several times to attend these meetings. The link on the municipal website has not functioned in the past. Archived meetings on the municipal website are nonexistent.

Expressed disappointment that PSAC is not advised by APD of events prior to the public. Thus, the public and PSAC are receiving the APD narrative. Stated that according to the Anchorage Assembly this Commission is the place to go to talk about transparency and accountability. Suggested that the Commission go directly to the

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Assembly and Mayor to discuss what they would like from APD rather than to the APD Police Chiefs. Excited for the restructuring of the Commission and would encourage the Commission to advise the Assembly that there needs to be transparency and accountability with the Police Department.

Fullmer: Provided historical background regarding meeting dates and time of the Commission.

Kloster: Thanked citizen for comments and stated the goal of the commission is to “dig deeper into some of these issues”. Requested for a little breathing room and some time for the Commission.

Edenshaw: Echoed the response of Fullmer and Kloster. Opened discussion for comment to other Commissioners.

Chamard: The role of this Commission is not to be a citizen oversight committee for APD, as this Commission is not a citizen review board. In reference to receiving information not publicly available, it is important to remember this Commission meets in public. Unless we change this format, expecting that this Commission will receive information from APD that has not been released to the public is an unreasonable request. That is not to say there are not important issues and ones that need addressed, however, it is not this body to address these issues. We can restructure, but then it would not longer be the Public Safety Advisory Commission.

Gilliam: Agreed with comments stated by Chamard. The current Municipal charter prohibits this Commission from getting involved in operations and with employee complaints, reviews, etc. There are other avenues for those concerns. This Commission’s function is to report public safety issued directly to the Mayor. The PSAC really must adhere to what the charter states. If there is a change to what this Commission does, then we need to get advice from the Municipal attorney.

Melahn Paket (Guest): Request that if a public official, such as the Chief of Police serves on a committee, or as a Chair, such as APD Police Chief Justin Doll, serving as the Chair of the Police Standards Council, this ought to be reflected on their profile.

Apok: Clarifying her statement that she’s not wanting information not given to the public, just would like to see a mechanism or process to receive information without doing a public record request, or having to find out from the news in order to make more informed decisions.

Public Comment Concluded

### **AFD, Batt Chief Brian Partch**

- Mobile Crisis Response Team: A health care community team incorporating paramedics and clinicians is in the process of design, procuring office space,

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vehicles, and structure/venue; as well as determining how they're going to operate. 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter item.

- Communication System: Upgrading systems in stations, facilities, and rooms to a quicker response system.
- 23 New Firefighters: Fire academy started January 14, 2021 and will consist of three months training.
- Federal Grant Funding - Marine Firefighting: After years in the making, this training is finally coming to fruition with a marine firefighting course at the Port of Anchorage.
- COVID-19 Vaccine: 77- 80% of AFD personnel has been vaccinated at this time.
- Questions:
  - Chamard: Made the comment that no one at APD has been vaccinated. Officers are 1<sup>st</sup> responders as well; inquired why these front liners have not been vaccinated.
    - AFD Response: AFD included in phase 1A. Unable to speak for APD.
  - Edenshaw: Is there a partnership between AFD, rural Alaska, and volunteer fire departments.
    - AFD Response: AFD works closely with the State of Alaska. Example: A smaller agency received funding to come to Anchorage. They utilized AFD's Training Center and AFD provided the instructors. State of Alaska fire services offices are in the AFD Training Center.
- 2020 Calls
  - EMS/Fire: 36,700 (approx.)
  - TOTAL: 50,000 (approx.)
    - EMS: 24,000 (approx.)
    - FIRE: 12,000 – 13,000 (approx.)
    - OTHER/MISC: 12,000 (approx.)
- Commissioners expressed interest in Mobile Crisis Response Team and how that team will be progressing in the future.

### OEM, Andrew Preis

- Apologized for not being at December 2020 meeting.
- Activated as the EOC for the past 322-days.
  - Response wing for disasters.
  - Acts as the local version of FEMA.
  - In support of and carries out operational function for the Anchorage Health Department, looking to transition the Health Department to take a more of a lead role.
- Emergency orders recently extended into April 2021.

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- Housing:
  - Support congregate housing for the homeless population; the Sullivan Arena has been converted to a congregate site.
  - To keep from exceeding capacity, the Fairview Recreational Center has acted as an overflow.
  - Local hotels are being used as non-congregate site (single rooms).
  - Guest house on 5<sup>th</sup> avenue used for isolation and quarantine.
- Sampling, known as COVID-19 Testing:
  - Providence Hospital has acted as sample site on behalf of the Municipality of Anchorage.
  - Visit Healthcare, a contractor, also has multiple drive-up testing sites.
  - There is partnership with the Anchorage School District as well with Visit Healthcare to offer drive-up sites for testing.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):
  - Face Coverings: Several contributions of face coverings were provided by The Maritime Association. Distributed 300,000 face coverings to strategic Municipal Department such as the Transit Department. Also provided to nonprofits and community-based organization to distribute to those in need or don't have access.
  - The EOC acts as a single point ordering system to medical providers for N95 masks, nitril medical grade gloves, and isolation gowns. These items are received from the federal stockpile and housed in their warehouse.
- COVID-19 Vaccine Efforts:
  - To support the Anchorage Health Department in distributing the vaccine from federal, to state, to local government levels and monitoring the ever-changing requirements.
  - Point of Distribution (POD) for vaccine.
- Referred to [Municipal website](#) for COVID-19 information.
- Questions
  - Apok: Asked about the effectiveness of the vaccine at the local level.
    - OEM Response: The efficacy of the vaccination efforts will be a longer-term study. The missing agency from these meetings is the Health Department. They are the 4<sup>th</sup> leg in the public safety component stool. Unknown who, at either local or state level, would doing these studies and better able to answer these questions. Leadership information for the Health Department will be shared with PSAC.

**Minutes:** Minutes from December 2020 will be provided at the February 2021 meeting for approval.

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### Old Business:

Not discussed due to time.

### New Business:

Not discussed due to time.

**Next meeting:** February 17, 2021, 6:00PM

**Adjournment:** 7:35PM

### APD REPORT: ATTACHMENT

PSAC report

1-20-2021 Meeting date

Prepared by Lt. Gina Burington, Anchorage Police Department

**100 years** – 2021 marks the Anchorage Police Department's 100 years of service to the city of Anchorage. We will be celebrating in different ways throughout the year.

**COVID** – We are continuing to manage exposure and cases among employees. Staffing has been maintained at an acceptable level. APD has not yet begun vaccinating any employees, including first responder patrol officers. It is currently unknown when vaccinations will begin.

**New CAP Sergeant** – Sgt. Ken Bushue was selected as the new CAP 1 Sergeant. His start date is February 8th.

**Crime Stats** – As we discussed last month, here is a link to published stats:

<http://www.muni.org/departments/police/stats/pages/default.aspx>

4<sup>th</sup> quarter stats aren't yet ready to send. If I get them before the meeting, I will forward them.

**Civil Unrest** – With the recent events in Washington DC, everyone is on heightened alert. We have taken a number of steps to insure that we are informed and prepared to the best of our ability. It would be inappropriate for me to discuss specific plans or tactics, but I will share some general outlines.

All employees have been encouraged to be alert to any information or observations they may come across in either their personal or professional life. We created a single internal mechanism to report anything to our Crime Analysis Unit.

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We actively monitor internet sources to identify any gatherings or events that could be a threat to public safety. When located, we compile as much information as possible and craft an appropriate response plan.

We receive reports of threats or other concerning social media posts. We thoroughly research those reports and determine their disposition. Many are filed with our intelligence information. Those that appear criminal in nature are assigned and investigated.

**Meeting info** - I will be on leave next week, but I'll be joining you remotely. If you have any questions you can still email me in advance of the meeting: