

MOA Public Safety Advisory Commission Meeting – Special Session

September 9, 2020
Teams Video Conference

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present

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

Members Absent

Andalyn Pace

Reid: Would like to come up with 3-5 ideas that we'd like to move forward with, potentially creating committees to lead those. I think everyone's main goal is for more public input and action. Let's take some time for each commissioner to talk about their ideas briefly.

Chamard: Three main points. We need better insight to the public:

- Divide community councils and attend regularly
- Councils are typically not representative of the actual community, so we need to identify other ways to reach out to the communities.
- Would really like to do community survey which could be costly, online survey possibly?
- Not having the routine reports. Departments provide these reports to the Public Safety as a Whole a week prior to our meeting. Maybe we can get these reports and invite them for input as necessary.
- Relationship with the assembly needs to be established.

Kloster: Great point on reporting to the assembly. Is there a procedure in place, or should there be, to get information from the commission to the assembly? Possibly w/ standing time on agenda at Public Safety or provide report to the assembly quarterly to inform on what we are working on.

Chamard: Think we need to work towards being active in the process, where we approve action prior to the assembly seeing and approving it.

Reid: Great point to get written information from departments, have time to review, and ask for them to attend a meeting or answer questions if/when necessary.

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Edenshaw: Community survey work, now is the time, people want to be engaged right now. Make sure the work we are doing is a good reflection of our community.

Thinking of the 4-T's:

Task Force – review of policies & procedures

Transparency – in data, policies, and procedures

Training – cultural training and other levels of training

Tools – officers have access to resources to keep them safe

Often we as organizations and boards will immediately go to the solution without an understanding of the problem. Is there a lack of trust in the community, lack of access to resources? We don't have answers to this. Need to collect and rely on data to foster the engagement between AFD, APD and the community.

Fullmer – I didn't write anything as I didn't want to be redundant, but I echo a lot of the sentiments of others and am glad to be a part of the conversation.

Gilliam: Commission needs to move towards being active, not responsive to reports. We have a lot of talent on this commission and the Mayor isn't getting the benefit of that. We need to reach out to the community. When we are in the neighborhoods, people want to tell us their stories. We have to get into the root of the problem, in the communities, and look from the citizens perspective. Nuisance crimes make the lives miserable for people who live in the areas. We need to get out here and make a difference in the lives of the citizens.

Chamard: We still do in many respects have a very traditional police department. Policing and what police do have been studied scientifically for 50-60 years and in the academic community we have a really good idea of what works and what doesn't. These are the kinds of things that we need to hold a strong evidence-based voice. Example is studies on body cameras, finding that evidence shows that the cameras do not change the outcome of these events and may not be the best solution.

Apok: MOA COVID Response, APD Use of Force policy changes are coming up quickly and we should discuss before it goes before the Assembly. People who are unhoused and the money used for abatements. Potentially looking at toilet and wash facilities instead of spending money on abatement. Human and sex trafficking believe there's another municipal department working on that.

Chamard: Think these are good things to look at. I also sit on Anchorage Coalition of Homelessness, one of my specialties is homeless encampment and we need to be investigating whether abatement even works and pushes people into services or pushes them further into the woods. Also echo the human and sex trafficking. It's a huge problem and we need to be involved in this.

Edenshaw: We need to invite our communities into these discussions. We can put

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out ideas all day about how to move forward but at the end of the day we need to know how our community wants our help.

Kloster: Cultural awareness training for public officials. Agree with outreach to the community, would like to do a survey online.