

Connecticut General Assembly

Police Transparency & Accountability Task Force

Daryl McGraw, Co-Chairperson



c/o Judiciary Committee, Room 2500
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Ct 06106

Minutes

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

1:00 p.m., via Zoom

Attendees: Jonathan Slifka (Fill in for Chair McGraw), Ken Barone, Andrew Clark, Chief William Wright, Chief Jack Drumm, Renee LaMark Muir, Meghan Peterson, John Szewczyk, Maureen Lopes, Shafiq Abdussabur, Henri Alphonse Mendoza, Richard Colangelo, Michelle Montano, Scott DeVico, Anne Li Kringen, Makenzie Ozycz, Marc Pelka

I. Convene meeting and welcome

a. Chair Slifka convened the meeting at 1:06 pm.

II. Review and acceptance of minutes from the 9/21/21 meeting

a. The minutes from 9/21/21 were approved via voice note.

III. Old Business

a. IPIDC recommendation report

Dr. Meghan Peterson updated that there have been additions to the social worker feasibility recommendations, they are indicated on the document in bolded blue for reference. The additional material provides a breakdown by category of the yes, no, and maybes of the police departments that have stated whether social workers are feasible based on a variety of different reasons. Ken Barone added that this is a follow up from the last meeting, and unless there are objections to the changes, the recommendation should be considered for a vote today. Chair Slifka asked for a motion to approve the report. Chief Wright made a motion and Shafiq Abdussabur seconded the motion. Chair Slifka called for a rollcall vote, 5 yes, 0 no, 5 absent members. The motion is approved.

b. Bail fugitive recovery report

Ken Barone provided an overview on the recommendation from the Logistics Subcommittee. The subcommittee did not recommend any changes to the current bail recovery system. Chair Slifka called for any questions or discussions. Shafiq questioned if there was a conversation around use of force surrounding the regulation of weapons, and despite it being out of scope of the Task Force, should these issues still be discussed and mentioned for fear of use of force of a bail officer in the future. Shafiq added that this still may pose a threat for public safety. Chief Drumm responded that there should be caveats for people

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enforcing bail due to assault happening in their methods, that note should be made and the same standards that are put forward for other law enforcement should be equally enforced. Shafiq added that this should go for anyone given fire arm privilege in the sense of a career involving public safety and protection. Ken responded that there were some of these conversations that occurred within the Subcommittee but ultimately this could be an entire Task Force in and of itself, and a paragraph was added about the bail industry being unregulated, it was pointed out within the rationale, but no recommendation was given as the issue was larger than the subcommittee's purposes. Shafiq responded that he would be willing to do more work on that within the subcommittee. Ken Barone recommended that the report be tables until the next meeting, giving time to highlight recommendations from this Task Force and looking at SB575. Chair Slifka marked this item for further discussion at the next meeting given no objections from the Task Force.

IV. Subcommittee Updates

a. Improving Police Interactions with Disability Community

Andrew Clark shared two recommendations with the task force. The first recommendation was regarding the national 988 system. The subcommittee recommended that the state look at the 988-crisis hotline that addresses suicide prevention. The second recommendation was regarding LCSW's, which would include LCSW be included to be able to do the behavioral health assessment of a police officer per the new law. There were discussions on the logistics of adding this and having access to more individuals would allow PDs to do this in a timely manner at cost. There were no objections on the subcommittee level before agreeing to bring it to the full Task Force. Chair Slifka marked this recommendation for voting at the next meeting.

b. Public Awareness

Andrew Clark, filling in for Chair McGraw, updated that they did not have a meeting last month due to attendance issues but there is an upcoming meeting in the following weeks to further discuss dialogues and potential additions to the recommendations that the Task Force has passed. There were no questions regarding this update from the Task Force.

c. Logistics

Ken Barone, filling in for Chair Hall, updated that the logistics subcommittee has two recommendations to review today that will be up for a vote at the next meeting. The first rec is regarding Civilian Interview Panels, instituting them as part of the police officer hiring process not as a mandate but as a consideration for the public to have an input on the hiring process. The panel would meet and interview the finalists before hiring decisions are made.

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The second recommendation includes that where feasible and allowable, CIPs also be used to help evaluate officers being put up for command staff level promotions.

Ken updated on the recommendation surrounding no-knock warrants. The subcommittee created a recommendation that says the Police Accountability Task Force supports the new law 21-33, and does not make any further recommendations. There were no further questions or comments, Chair Slifka marked the recommendation for voting at next months meeting.

V. General Discussion

There was no general discussion.

VI. Announcement of time and date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

Chair Slifka adjourned the meeting at 2:03 pm.