

## **Missoula City Council Committee of the Whole Minutes**

**June 10, 2020**

**11:00 AM**

**Virtual Meeting: Live Stream and On Demand: <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/webcasts>**

**Watch Live on Cable TV Channel 190**

**YouTube Live Stream and On Demand:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5fnfMPFGSk8Gwq6F5UoqGg>**

**Live call in phone numbers: 1 (253) 215-8782 1 (888) 475-4499 (landlines only) Meeting ID: 960 049 3694**

**Members present: Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, John P. Contos, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Jesse Ramos, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, Heidi West**

## **2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **2.1 Police Department Update with Police Chief White**

Mayor Engen - Introduced Police Chief White who was hired after a thoughtful process. The Missoula community was involved in the selection. He has a level of professionalism and respect for this community. In his 3 months on the job the Mayor and Chief have discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the Missoula Police Department.

Police Chief Jaeson White - Has been in law enforcement for 31 years. Peace officer is a noble calling. Take an oath to be there in people's time of need. He believes in community policing.

Enhanced training opportunities. Starting a mini academy, length of 3 weeks, mix of class room and practical experience for new officers coming to the Missoula Police department.

Will need to enhance our training budget in order to do additional training.

Goal is to be transparent to the public for better communication.

Missoula experience .3% use of force in 2019, national standard is 2%.

All officers are required to report use of force. Their supervisors also have to write a report. Both of these are forwarded up the chain of command.

Already rescheduled use of force training for the entire staff.

Gave details of when body cameras are required to be active.

Will be asking for additional funds for additional cameras so that Police Department will be able to have all officers on shift cameras.

von Lossberg - Stacie Anderson is the Chair and Julie Merritt is the Vice Chair for the Public Safety and Health Committee. I will also be taking comment from those who have joined us.

Anderson - Thank you everyone for joining us. Body cameras, currently 40, how do they get allocated per shift?

Chief White - Based on patrol function, active patrol first, school resource would not.

Anderson - Asked to explain about archiving data.

Chief White - Depending on type of incident determines length of storage. Automatically uploaded at the end of shift by wi-fi.

Anderson - What is the process for updating the use of force?

Chief White - Wanted to make the policy clearer and easier for officers to follow. Duty to intervene, ethical code, but it wasn't stated as such. Policy was lawful to begin with, we simply made it more clear.

Merritt - Asked if the Chief could publish the statistics to the Council as well as the public. She also asked if he could clarify when the Open Carry crosses the line to intimidation.

Chief White - Open carry is not illegal in Montana. There has to be overt acts or threat to meet intimidation. If that occurs, we would intervene.

Ka'au Ahina, Pacific Islander group leader - asked all groups to introduce themselves. The majority of the people in the groups here today are from out of state and are students. I would like information on the implicit bias training is given at the state training facility. Asked how much the training focus on race.

von Lossberg - Can the students from the campus groups introduce their selves?

Natasha Kalonde - Former President of the Black Student Union.

Bell - Treasurer of Black Student Union.

Elijah Fisher - Member of Black Student Union.

Isaac Laa - Treasurer for Pacific Islander Club.

Alexia Smith - Vice President Pacific Islanders Club.

Camila Kanaka - President Pacific Islanders Club.

Valeria Miranda - Latinx Student Union.

Christine Riesgo - Latinx Student Union.

Wilena Old Person - Native American Student Group.

Joseph Grady - Student advisory with Montana 10.

Chief White - Implicit bias training is provided at academy. strong part of it, but not exclusively.

Ka'au Ahina - Is there any more advance training coming up in addition to regular training?

Chief White - That is our goal.

Christine Riesgo - How much of your current implicit bias training focuses on race?

Chief White - That is a key component.

Jones - I think a big part of our jobs as City Council members is a conduit of communication. To the student groups, please reach out to us.

Ramos - I am a big supporter of the police department. Chief White, I think you were a good hire. How did police body cams play into the shooting last year and how could that situation been better dealt with?

Chief White - I do not have much knowledge of that situation as I was not here when it happened.

Ramos - Will you commit to work with the City Council on legislation?

Chief White - Yes.

Sherrill - Asked how the department deals with officer mental health care and if use of body cameras is part of the officer's annual review.

Chief White - In regards to mental health, we have post incident care, peer support, EAP, and Chaplin.

Community member - There are a few of us listening in and we were unsatisfied with your response about the militia. I have been harassed by them. I have had to come up with my own policing system because I have never felt protected by you.

Sherrill - I heard most of your answer, Chief White. About body cameras.... are they always turned on?

Chief White - The use of body cams is not tied to officer review. We will address inconsistencies of use.

Harp - There is a formality to our meetings that is not conducive to open dialogue. I ask that you wait until President von Lossberg can open the meeting up for comment again. Back to my question, what percentage of the overall training is race sensitivity?

Chief White - 4 hours out of 800 hours.

Harp - That is not coming close to what our law enforcement needs. There is funding available. Creating and using a mobile crisis team our community can benefit from?

Chief White - We currently have a grant to start a CIT training program with a non-peace officer that will include the police department. There is another grant opportunity for a mobile crisis team - we are looking into that.

West - Address the policies on strangleholds, issue warnings, exhaust all options before shooting, discourage shooting moving vehicle, etc.

Chief White - The ban on choke holds, that is not part of our use of force continuum. Deescalation is emphasized. Officers have to issue a warning before using force.

Becerra - The path to change starts with dialog. Police commission comprised of three members, what are their backgrounds and can this commission be expanded.

von Lossberg - I'm going to ask that we discuss this in a follow-up meeting.

x6294 Caroline Lauer - I would encourage us as we move into the budget that we move towards decriminalizing health issues and addressing housing.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

12:21 PM