SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

College Police Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes for May 12, 2023
11:00 am – 12:00 pm, Zoom

Committee Members Present: John Parker, Joel Peterson, Daniel Brislin, Kimberly Tapia, Jack Beresford, Nadia Sayeh, Darius Spearman, Caitlin Tiffany, John Bromma, Kimberly Palek, Anna Liza Manzo, Neill Kovrig, Joseph Ramos, Aaron Burgess, Nancy Schumaker, Patrick Velasquez

Committee Members Absent: David Mehlhoff, Kevin Branson, Phoebe Truong, Gerald Brown

Meeting commenced 11:03 am

John Parker asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented, approved with unanimous consent.

John Parker asked for a motion to approve the minutes from April 20, 2023, approved with unanimous consent as distributed.

John Parker stated that the new agenda item "Updates on notable police investigations, incident calls and trainings" was added to this meeting and would now be a standing item presented by Chief Ramos. Chief Ramos shared that he will provide information from the prior month during each meeting going forward. He shared there were 400 calls for service over the past three weeks. In addition to disturbances, these calls also included intrusion alarms and security checks. Notable incidents include: an ongoing investigation of a series of indecent exposures at Mesa College; SDCCD Police Officers discovered a non-responsive individual that overdosed on the Cesar Chavez campus but was administered life saving measures and ultimately survived after being transported to a medical facility; and, a suicidal call to a campus Student Health Center that ended safely with the subject detained and weapons seized. Vice Chancellor Peterson thanked Chief Ramos for his report and added that he also shares College Police report highlights with the Chancellor's Cabinet and Board of Trustees.

Vice Chancellor Peterson provided an update on the on-campus officer attire pilot program. The proposal has been received by a third-party consultant to conduct an independent survey and is in the requisition process so it can then be presented to the Board for approval. The consultant will first review the previous survey conducted and then will develop the new survey. The proposed draft survey can then be presented to this committee for review and feedback confidentially to maintain integrity. Darius expressed his concerns regarding uniforms and their usefulness in terms of command presence. He is concerned that they can be too effective in the same regard by students that are too fearful to come to the campus. He emphasized the importance of capturing the data from students who have previously left from a campus and why. Vice Chancellor Peterson acknowledged that he wants to include this in the survey so we can have the data to better understand if students are too afraid or if they were negatively impacted by the existing uniforms; but, also wants to capture the potential danger if people do not recognize law enforcement.

Chief Ramos read the "Conducted Energy Device" Policy Part 2 draft (Use of the Taser Device), the second of three sections of the standard policy and procedure that will be presented with the tasers. The draft outlined the following: circumstances that the device may be used during, verbal and visual warnings preceding application of use, special deployment considerations where the device should generally be avoided, considerable target areas of application, and considerations if the first application was ineffective. After reading Part 2 of the draft, Chief Ramos addressed the following questions:

- Is there a clear in-action sequence regarding use of tasers and/or pepper spray? *There is not a specified protocol for use of either; it would be determined by the situation and proximity to the subject.*
- How often is pepper spray used? *Not very often at all, rarely, but it is documented; it is mandatory to list what forces were used during every arrest.*

Chief Ramos expressed his concerns that if we go further away from wearing identifying uniforms and looking like police with authority to use the tools they have; it could potentially lead to a higher use of pepper spray or tasers. He said one of the reasons they have not had a high historical use of pepper spray is because people recognize the police by their uniform including those struggling with a mental illness. Dan reiterated that one of the primary questions asked in court is what the police were wearing and if it was unequivocally clear that they were a peace officer.

Vice Chancellor Peterson did not have any substantial updates regarding the mental health professional job description. At this time, the consensus is that the position should not be employed within the police department but that the police department would be the primary client of services. Kimberly shared that the working group met and compiled enough information to have a starting point now that they have collected feedback from everyone. She shared that they are reviewing statistical data looking for primary calls for service that include obvious mental health requests such as suicide threats or attempts versus calls that were not originally triaged as mental health but ultimately resulted in somebody being transported to county mental health. She gave the example that if dispatch receives a call from a campus that somebody is trespassing or causing a disturbance and officers respond but the subject is need of mental health services, the call is identified as a trespassing or disturbance in the report when it could have been identified as a mental health call. There may be situations that do not require an officer to respond but rather a crisis clinician. They are also considering mental health support services a clinician can provide to victims, witnesses, bystanders and officers following a traumatic event. Nancy asked if there is a way to also capture refusal of services. Kimberly stated yes, this should be considered critical information in addition to capturing those who accept services so she will ensure it is included in the critical data documentation.

Vice Chancellor Peterson extended his appreciation to all of the members of this committee for their insights and expertise shared. He was asked if this advisory committee will continue now that the Chancellor who formed the group has left the district. He responded that as he currently understands, this committee will continue to work with the interim Acting Chancellor until a new permanent Chancellor is hired. He additionally shared that he and Chief Ramos will be presenting during an upcoming workshop for the Board of Trustees and Chancellor's Cabinet that will include reimagining policing and the topics covered by this committee. They will cover policies and procedures that have been changed, implemented, what kind of cultural steps are being put in place, and how it will all benefit all members of the community that the police service for the district. The presentation will be accessible to the public on the Board's website.

John Parker echoed Vice Chancellor Peterson's appreciation to the committee for their ongoing time and commitment.

The next meeting is June 8, 2023 at 1:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 11:56 am