

AURARIA CAMPUS POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

Date: March 11, 2022

Location: Tivoli 329 and via Zoom Conference

Call to Order: The March 11, 2021, meeting of the Auraria Campus Police Department Community Advisory Board (ACPD CAB) was called to order at 12:32 p.m. and quorum established.

In-person attendance: Cassy Cadwallader, Nahum Kisner, Alexis Nakabayashi, Rosanna Sweeney, Jessica Valdez, and Cody Phelps.

Zoom attendance: Marcia Walsh-Aziz, Lisa Tafoya, and Otavaia Davis.

Absent: Kim Myers, Queen Pompee, and Charles Musiba.

AHEC administrative support: ACPD Commander Jason Mollendor and Leora Joseph

Public attendance: None.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of February 25, 2022, ACPD CAB Meeting Minutes was motioned by Cassy Cadwallader, seconded by Cody Phelps, and passed unanimously without amendment.

Chairs' Reports: None.

Subcommittee Reports:

A. Policy and Procedural Review

Rosanna Sweeney informed the group that they have split up the policies and are currently conducting their reviews.

B. Community Outreach

Cassy Cadwallader informed the group that they had to cancel their meeting. The group plans to discuss a formal recommendation sheet and updates about UCD campus and Public Safety Building survey. Commander Jason Mollendor informed the group that ACPD plans to put out tables to promote the Public Safety Building survey as they are lacking responses. Leora Joseph added that they are planning to present food incentives to the various SGAs for participation in the Public Safety Building survey.

C. Marketing and Communications

Marcia Walsh-Aziz informed the group that she posted about the meeting and the deadline for the open position applications. Marcia is open to taking suggestions on better ways to promote our open positions.

Priority Areas/Information Items:

A. ACPD Update

ACPD Commander Jason Mollendor encouraged the group to host a table at Spring Fling. The group can choose to table alongside ACPD or separately.

ACPD is actively planning their petting zoo event which will potentially happen on the first week of May. ACPD will have a professional company come in and bring animals for students to interact with. ACPD is also working with counseling offices from all three institutions to attend to promote mental health. ACPD is also dealing with continuing staffing issues. Nahum Kisner asked about the effects of minimum staffing in these situations. ACPD Commander Mollendor stated that the staffing issues impact scheduling, overtime work, and trying to balance 24-hour coverage during these staffing shortages. ACPD is currently hiring for various positions: police officer, dispatcher, and NCO positions. ACPD CAB hopes to address these concerns during their next meetings.

Cody Phelps motioned to cancel the March 25, 2022, meeting due to Spring Break, and the motion passed unanimously.

Cassy Cadwallader informed the group that the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Community Coalition hosted their first event for Black History Month on February 25. Cassy wanted to let the group know that Chief Phibbs, Commander Mollendor, and a handful of other officers attended the event, some in uniform and others in civilian clothes. The DEICC appreciated ACPD's attendance and support at the event.

B. Vote to further work with Regan

Alexis Nakabayashi asked the group to vote on whether they would like to further work with Regan. Cassy Cadwallader motioned in favor, and Cody Phelps seconded. In response to questions about what the group wanted to further discuss with Regan, Alexis recalled the group wanting to learn more about facilitating difficult conversations. The group felt more comfortable figuring out the costs of working with Regan before voting. Cody Phelps motioned to table, Jessica Valdez seconded, and the tabling passed unanimously.

C. Discuss ACPD Brand and Equipment and Training (CAB 2022 Items)

ACPD Commander Jason Mollendor discussed the extent and impact of ACPD's brand. The uniform and equipment of ACPD impacts people's points of view and opinions. Commander Mollendor asked for the group's opinion on ACPD's uniform, are there elements of the uniform that could be changed to be more welcoming/inviting, if the patches need updating, and simply, if ACPD's uniform is outdated. As for equipment, Commander Mollendor voiced appreciation for the feedback concerning ballistic vests and are working on hosting an event where they can display and educate the public on their tools. Concerning training, ACPD participates in a handful of trainings to keep their officers informed and educated and wants ACPD CAB's feedback on other trainings that the group thinks could benefit ACPD as a whole. Alexis Nakabayashi asked about the design of the ACPD's patches. Commander Mollendor stated that an officer designed the patch about 10-12 years ago. ACPD's patch contains the department name, state and national flag, and the skyline of downtown Denver with the Tivoli in the middle. ACPD was looking to design a patch that would be representative of the department.

Lisa Tafoya voiced support for ACPD in involving trainings in the Spring Fling. Based on Lisa's experiences with students, she voiced that most student's voiced concern in officer's approach. Lisa recommended that ACPD should add the BWC to the Spring Fling training as well as policy issues concerning victims and how they would be protected. Lisa also voiced the thought of officer safety in making sure that officers are not targeted while they are wearing civilian clothes. Commander Mollendor voiced that majority of ACPD's interactions are with members outside of the community.

Cody Phelps noted that some community members will immediately recognize a police officer and become concerned. In consideration of uniform statutes, Cody asked if ACPD has considered a polo option which still holds all an officer's tools and safety equipment but appears more casual/less alarming. Commander Mollendor informed the group that ACPD has looked into these types of uniforms and currently has a summer uniform (black polo shirt with an embroidered badge and "Police" on the back as well as khaki pants). Commander Mollendor recognizes and understands students' concerns about ACPD's uniform, however, ACPD also wants to make sure that their uniforms drive away people who are on our campus to inflict harm. Lisa agreed that having police presence on campus drives certain ill-intended individuals away

from campus. Cody asked for statistics on police presence driving away crime as he does not want police presence to be the single reason why ACPD does not change their uniform. Cody voiced that other university campuses have changed their uniform, and students should be our main priority. Lisa voiced that during patrol there is statistically more deterrence of crime.

Otavaia Davis asked about what type of patrol deters crime. Otavaia also mentioned the psychological effects of police presence, especially on a campus.

Lisa agreed that our reaction toward a police officer is based on our experiences and what we know. Possibly, a uniform change for ACPD may change a student's experience and perception of police and enable community members to see a better side of policing. However, statistically, Lisa stated that police presence is the way to deter crime. Otavaia asked to see the statistics on both sides to ensure that each point of view and experience is heard.

Nahum Kisner voiced that community/campus engagement affects how we see police officers on campus. To Lisa's point, our experiences affect our perceptions, the group's role in changing the narrative with respect to history. ACPD should continue to build relationships and the consistency of which ACPD is doing outreach and having conversations will help to build a foundation and change the narrative and perception of campus police. Nahum recommended having students involved in choosing police uniforms with respect to codes and statutes. Cassy Cadwallader voiced support for Nahum's uniform suggestion and added that ACPD could offer this at future events. Cassy also inquired about certain changes to the uniform such as having "Police" be smaller on uniforms. Commander Mollendor recognized Cassy's recommendation and mentioned that there are certain standards which police uniforms must maintain. Lisa agreed with the subtleties of a uniform if it ensures officer safety.

Alexis Nakabayshi inquired about the vehicle aspect of the CAB 2022 items and whether ACPD is looking to rebrand their vehicles or purchase new ones. Commander Mollendor voiced that rebranding and purchasing vehicles are concerns for ACPD. ACPD tried the sustainability route through hybrid vehicles, electric motorcycles, and electric motors on ACPD's bicycles. Commander Mollendor asked the group about whether ACPD's vehicles are acceptable and whether ACPD is purchasing vehicles and transportation that best suits the campus and its needs. Lisa Tafoya inquired about ACPD's foot patrol. ACPD does foot patrols throughout their shift, and it is likely that we don't see them as they have around 30 buildings to go through. During foot patrols, officers must also be in close range of their vehicle in case of a call. Cody Phelps inquired about ACPD's NCOs (Neighborhood Community Officers). Commander Mollendor stated that the department is currently short on NCOs but typically had one per neighborhood (3), three assigned to the library, and the swing shift which allows NCOs to switch vehicles and information. ACPD also recently changed their logos on the vehicles to a simple design as it is easier to replace after an accident. Commander Mollendor mentioned that ACPD's hybrid cars break down constantly and are not sufficient for ACPD. In short, the vehicles have caused a significant number of difficulties to ACPD compared to gas cars. Commander Mollendor noted that the department is still open to more sustainable options.

Nahum Kisner added that he would be interested in officer input on branding for the uniforms and vehicles. Nahum voiced the importance of officer input in our conversation to ensure that both sides are in alignment and any recommendations the group makes is in consideration of officers' opinions.

Marcia Walsh-Aziz voiced the importance of making sure the group uses "*Auraria Campus*" so as not to be confused with Aurora.

Alexis inquired about how many officers we could have at our meetings to gain feedback as Nahum recommended or if we would need to obtain feedback on our own time. Commander Mollendor stated that the group could likely have a couple of officers attend our meetings. Nahum appreciated the idea and added that with respect to the staff shortage, the group is flexible in how we obtain feedback.

Alexis inquired about officer feedback on the Power, Privilege, and Oppression trainings. Commander Mollendor stated that the officers appreciated the training, however, some were bothered by incorrect information and felt attacked. Overall, the impression was good, but in the future, ACPD hopes to participate in trainings that are more inclusive. Otavaia commented that the intention of the Power,

Privilege, and Oppression trainings was to learn about the history of policing and its impact. Otavaia recognized how officers may have felt attacked, however, it is important to talk about the negative impacts and history of policing. Commander Mollendor noted that there are negative aspects and historical events related to policing, however, not all of it was negative. Lisa noted that many of us form our opinions based on our experiences and, as a woman of color and former officer, she can understand both perspectives. Cassy inquired about whether officers participate in trainings about the history of Auraria Campus. Cassy voiced that it is important for us to understand the impacts of our campus and the brand that we identify with. Cassy also asked about whether ACPD participates in trauma informed care and mental health first aid trainings. Commander Mollendor voiced that ACPD is typically involved in trauma informed care trainings, however, they have been delayed due to COVID and lack of training sessions available. ACPD usually participates in mental health first aid trainings on a yearly basis and quarterly at the most. Cassy added a sustainability training which is offered on campus.

Cody inquired about where ACPD sends officers for trainings. Commander Mollendor stated that ACPD typically sends officers to private academies since other agencies fill up their academies. ACPD typically sends their officers to Arapahoe Community College, Red Rocks, and Aurora Community College. The training facility typically depends on where the future officer lives and openings at academies. Cody also asked whether the trainings have been updated with the understanding that ACPD does not control the curriculum. Commander Mollendor stated that Colorado POST (Police Officer Standard Training), which governs the curriculum for police academies, has actively been updating their curriculum to ensure best practice.

Cody mentioned that AHEC is working with History of Colorado to host a memories project with displaced Aurarians. Hopefully, this project will give the campus fresh perspectives.

D. Land Acknowledgement

Cassy Cadwallader asked the group if they would like to implement a land acknowledgement as well as recommend that ACPD do the same. Alexis and Cody supported the idea and will implement a land acknowledgement into future agendas.

E. Membership Terms

Lisa Tafoya inquired about the Vice Chair position regarding our current members and membership. Based on CAB's bylaws, Cody Phelps stated that student terms will end this June/July and staff and faculty terms will end in 2023.

ACPD Commander Jason Mollendor recommended that the group address our membership concerns during the next meeting.

Cassy Cadwallader inquired about the application process. Marcia Walsh-Aziz stated that CAB receives the applications which are then sent to the designated Chancellor's office to choose.

F. Discuss ACPD Complaint Procedure Process

Alexis Nakabayashi asked the group wanted to have further discussion about this topic. ACPD Commander Jason Mollendor stated that ACPD has done extensive work on being more transparent about the process via CAB's recommendations and is open to any other questions or concerns from our group.

Otavaia Davis inquired about two past complaints about ACPD which CAB had received. Commander Mollendor voiced that CAB members are welcome to make a public records request to understand the elements of the investigations, however specifics are difficult to discuss. Lisa asked for clarification on the topic. Commander Mollendor stated that investigations are tricky due to false accusations and private employee situations.

Marcia Walsh-Aziz noted that CAB was planning to make a flow chart of ACPD's complaint procedure which Otavaia Davis offered to help with.

G. Further review of AHEC Strategic Plan

The board did not have any comments on this topic.

Action Items: None

Board Comments/Announcements: Board seeking Vice Chair.

Proposed Agenda Items for Future Meetings:

- By-law review and revision
- Body Worn Camera summit
- Request from Chief: Overview of current oversight of ACPD

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 P.M.