



Health & Human Services and Public Safety Committee Minutes

Monday, January 22, 2018, 5:30pm, Council Chambers, City Hall

Committee Attendance:

Councilor Belinda Ray, Chair (District 1), Brian Batson (District 3), Pious Ali (At-Large)

City Staff: Mayor, Ethan Strimling; Director of Health and Human Services, Dawn Stiles; Police Chief, Michael Sauschuck; Fire Chief David Jackson; Corporation Counsel, Anne Torregrossa; Director of Public Assembly Facilities, Andy Downs; Director of Public Health, Dr. Kolawole Bankole; Substance Use Prevention Program Coordinator, Bridget Rauscher

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Meeting Called to Order and Minutes Reviewed:

Meeting was called to order at approximately 5:30PM.

Councilor Batson moved to accept minutes from previous meeting. The motion was seconded with all in favor.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Civil Service Ordinance Updates

Police Chief Sauschuck and Fire Chief Jackson gave an overview of the updates to the Civil Service Ordinance:

- What the ordinance prescribes and what is done have grown further apart over the years and the update will modernize the ordinance in line with current procedure
- Replace restrictive overly specific language with references to accepted best practices and standards; the Ordinance will not need to be updated when specific exams or standards in the field change.
- Emergency Medical Services' Medical Crisis Unit (MedCu) used to be a part of Public Health but was integrated with Fire; proposed changes would reflect this and its cross-training requirement.

Councilor Batson asked why a requirement for good moral character was stricken from Police hiring. Chief Sauschuck responded that it is difficult to define and was covered by other requirements. Councilor Batson asked if the ordinance would affect the Fire union contract process. Chief Jackson clarified that the union does not have input on hiring processes. Councilor Ali asked if there is a uniform set of questions used in the polygraph exam requirement. Chief Sauschuck explained the exam is uniform and are done with an outside contractor.

Chair Ray asked how the language around citizenship for who files complaints to the citizen complaint subcommittee defines citizenship. Chief Sauschuck clarified that it is internal language which does not describe a US citizenship requirement. After review with Anne Torregrossa, Chair Ray requested the language be changed to reflect that no US nor municipal citizenship requirement exist to file complaints. Chair Ray asked how often public comments are made at the PCRS. Anne responded that public comment is held before every meeting. Chair



Ray asked if the Internal Affairs statistics were public; Anne responded that the IA annual report is public information but any incident that went back for further review would change to a confidential personnel matter.

Councilor Ali and Mayor Strimling asked what happens when complainants disagree with subcommittee recommendations. Chief Sauschuck and Anne explained that the subcommittee focuses on if Internal Affairs is doing its job and if they are being fair; that the internal discipline process is separate from civil liability.

Mayor Strimling asked if there is anything in the Police hiring process that address inherent bias. Chief Sauschuck explained that the text results are screened for bias and that the RFP requires the testing company actively address bias. Mayor Strimling asked why disqualifying criminal convictions were cut out but the document later refers to disqualifying criminal convictions. Anne described that HR best practices is to narrowly draft Fire requirements to disqualifying criminal convictions related to job duties.

Mayor Strimling asked about the 10 year moratorium from one's complaint or police service for eligibility to the subcommittee. Chief Sauschuck explained that it changed from a lifetime ban and is to maintain impartiality so that anyone who has made a complaint or who has retired from the police department must wait 10 years from their complaint or police service. Mayor asked if it is public to know how many complaints exist and their outcomes. Chief Sauschuck explained non-personally identifiable statistics are publically available online. Anne will check the availability of reports.

Chair made a MOTION to move the item to the council with one change; MOTION SECONDED and PASSED.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Sound Monitoring Equipment Update

Brief update from city staff, Andy Downs, regarding the sound monitoring equipment that has been placed throughout the city:

- Installed 13 sound monitoring devices to measure noise levels,
- Recorded from August to November.
- The next step is determine how the data will be analyzed and used
- The Vendor that performed the study, Acentech, will give two presentations: for City staff and City Councilors.

Councilor Batson asked where the mic was located in Thompson's point; it was located in brick south due to the power requirement. Andy explained that the number of mics and the possible locations complicates the results.

Chair Ray asked if waterfront concert noise levels were part of the study. Equipment captured concert sound data, but a challenge on the East End was power access. Chair Ray asked if decibels will be used in ordinance based on these data. Andy said that the vendor should make recommendations.



Mayor Strimling asked when the outside groups interested in the noise ordinance would come in. Chair Ray said they are already part of the process as using sound monitoring equipment was a recommendation from Portland Downtown. Mayor asked if outdoor speakers and doors must be closed. Chief Sauschuck said it is not codified but addressed by law enforcement as complaints are made.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Presentation from the City's Division of Public Health

Dr. Kolawole A. Bankole, Director of the Portland Public Health Division (PPHD) gave an overview of the division's work, current initiatives, and vision for the direction of Public Health in Portland. See presentation here:

<https://www.portlandmaine.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/5762?fileID=29503>.

PPHD has three goals in their strategic plan:

- Public health policy
- Integration across HHS and City
- Develop and conduct a Community Health Plan.

Bridget Rauscher, Program Coordinator of the Substance Use Prevention Program presented on the [Mobile Medical Outreach Project](#). The projects goals are to provide access to low barrier medical care to high risk individuals; provide referrals for services, education or treatment of manageable conditions, and enhance the continuum of care with the ultimate goal of supported or independent housing.

Councilor Ali asked what the cost of the mobile clinic is: \$30,000 to run for just under 14 months. It has used overdose prevention funding and has not yet been funded by CDBG but they have applied for CDBG Funding.

Chair Ray asked what staffing would be needed to collaborate with data. Dr. Bankole responded that he would like to create a position for a data analytics focused program coordinator. Chair Ray and Mayor Strimling asked because Portland has a federally qualified health center, does Dr. Bankole see the city moving away from clinical services. Dr. Bankole responded PPHD will grow the core of elements of Public Health while still providing services where gaps exist.

Councilor Batson asked if the outside clinical agencies needed to provide population health data have been contacted. Bankole has started the outreach.

Councilor Batson asked what the City of Portland does for Public Health Outreach for immunizations. Through a collaboration with the Maine CDC, the City did a free flu vaccination clinic. PPHD does not have the financial or staffing capacity to do more without collaboration. Is it possible to replicate the mobile clinic to immunize other vulnerable populations?



Mayor Strimling asked what the local health complaints are. Dr. Bankole is our local health officer; every town in Maine needs to have a local health officer for complaints. Bankole receives and investigates complaints. 10 were made, 8 were investigated by him, the two other were done by health inspection and code enforcement.

Chair gave overview of the next steps

- 2nd Tuesday with some months having a second meeting. No meetings in August or November.
- Council Goal setting will be in February.

Meeting adjourned