

**POLICE ADVISORY AND REVIEW BOARD MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF NOVATO – POLICE TRAINING ROOM
THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2020**

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Leslie Biagini

ROLL CALL: Present: Catherine Dacre, Vice Chair
Bruce Bartel, Board Member
Ky Medigovich, Board Member
Bruce Ritter, Board Member

Staff Present: Matthew McCaffrey, Police Chief
Jessica Deakyne, Assistant City Manager

CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:

There was no closed session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There were no announcements.

APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA:

It was moved by Bartel and seconded by Ritter, to approve the final agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ritter motioned to approve February 13, 2020 minutes with the following amendments:

1. Remove Matt McCaffrey's name from the list of present attendees. The motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED AND OTHER BUSINESS:

AGENDA ITEMS

a. Select new Chair and Vice Chair

1. Ritter nominated Bartel as the new Board Chair. Biagini seconded. All were in favor.
2. Medigovich volunteered to be Vice Chair. Ritter seconded. All were in favor.

b. Review of Police Procedures

1. Chief McCaffrey presented a remote restraint device, called the BOLA.
 - A non-weapon wrap device that can be deployed from a distance
 - The device has a one-shot capability
 - Upon deployment, the device restrains either both arms or legs of someone trying to flee, but timing is key. A second officer may need to deploy another BOLA to immobilize someone
 - Immobilizes people causing a threat so officers can approach safely for taking into custody and transporting.
 - No data yet reporting undesirable outcomes. Still in testing phase
 - Novato officers will be trained by manufacturer in four-hour blocks and the City will provide advanced training with defense tactics
 - After tracking the use of BOLAs, the department will be able to determine its effectiveness

2. Chief McCaffrey Gave a Review Department Activity

- a. The 2019 annual report is on the City's website and has been promoted over social media
 - As part of the transparency requirements, the policy, and procedures manual, use of force audits and ammunition reports are included
 - Community members have asked that NPD post all policies that could provide information considering the recent George Floyd incident. Sanctity of Life and Use of Force information was already included
 - The department received many emails regarding the George Floyd incident. Though some were obviously cut and pasted from other communications, some were from community members who thoughtfully expressed their concerns

- The California standard of procedure is to evaluate all reasonable ways to use restraint before considering force
 - It is the duty of officers to intervene when they see that unreasonable force is being used
 - Shooting at moving vehicles is used only in extreme circumstances.
 - Awareness trainings are ongoing, and NPD continues to evaluate policies and procedures.
 - The company that provides tasers and body cameras, is testing a device that activates cameras when an officer's firearm is drawn. Novato is considering its use
- b. Revenue reduction ideas for the department are being discussed as well as the issue of "defunding" as currently heard in news and community.
- Instead of defunding PD, finding State level funding for programs that help mentally ill, homeless, drug abusers, and others in need is a priority
 - Dangerous situations may suddenly arise and out of the capabilities of social workers
 - Officers are often the ones who bring mentally ill, homeless and drug abusers to treatment facilities
- c. Other department happenings include:
- Three officers in the Police Academy are scheduled to graduate in August 2020
 - Mel Black is retiring after 20 years of service with the City of Novato
 - Community events have been cancelled. NPD will continue to use social media to promote upcoming Community Police Academy and Get Ready online events.
- d. There have been no Citizen complaints since the last PARB Meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Council invited PARB members to give an annual report. July 28, 2020 has been tentatively selected.

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS

1. Board member Ritter asked how background checks are conducted for officers transferring into Novato's department. Chief McCaffrey reported that

stringent background checks are conducted. Psychological evaluations, polygraph testing and thorough reference checks are also done. Parents, neighbors, former supervisors, and coworkers are interviewed. In addition, prior disciplinary records are reviewed.

2. Board member Ritter asked how many complaints had been received in the last year. Chief McCaffrey reported that no complaints had been received in the last six months. There have been three in the last year.
3. Board member Ritter asked if both the July 16, 2020 and August 6, 2020 meetings would be needed. Assistant City Manager, Jessica Deakyne offered to evaluate the meeting schedule after completing the annual report to Council. Moving the report to August could be considered, too.
4. Board member Ritter asked what Council would like to see in the annual report. Assistant City Manager, Jessica Deakyne suggested reading through one year's worth of meeting minutes to determine shareable information. Chair Biagini offered to consolidate minutes into a rough presentation for PARB members to discuss. A vote was taken and all approved Biagini's leading the effort to draft the annual report to Council.

Next Meeting Date – Thursday, August 6, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Biagini to adjourn, Dacre seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.