

**POLICE ADVISORY AND REVIEW BOARD MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF NOVATO – POLICE TRAINING ROOM
THURSDAY, July 16, 2020**

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Bruce Bartel

ROLL CALL: Present: Bruce Bartel, Board Chair
Ky Medigovich, Vice Chair
Leslie Biagini, Board Member
Bruce Ritter, Board Member

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

Absent: Catherine Dacre, Board Member

CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:

There was no closed session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There were no announcements.

APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ritter motioned to approve the July 2, 2020 minutes, Medigovich seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

I. AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Review of the Handcuff and Restraint Policy

1. Board Chair Bartel referenced items for consideration or concern from the Los Angeles Bola Wrap Policy to consider for Novato:
 - Sharing the policy with the public before the device is introduced
 - Implementing an alert before deploying the device, like, “Bola bola bola”
 - The device resembling and sounding like a gun could result in “sympathetic fire”
 - Pellets or barbs from the device requiring medical treatment and becoming biohazard after removal
 - Defining which medical professionals will remove pellets or barbs
 - Using the device on people either running away or deploying into crowds
 - Supervisors carrying and delivering the device

2. Board Member Ritter added that:
 - Circumstances should be specified for when the bola device will be deployed
 - Transporting the device would be difficult as officers already carry a taser, gun and other gear

3. Board Member Biagini asked
 - If the policy will address whether officers should have back up while deploying the device
 - How the device would be used by a solitary officer
 - How officers will have access to the device if it is kept in supervisor vehicles

4. Chief McCaffrey addressed Board comments:
 - The device is for restraint and not considered use of force
 - It looks more like a remote control for an airplane than a weapon
 - Each scenario will determine when the device should be used along with additional tools like bean bags, tasers, or use of force items – depending on if/what weapons are being used against officers
 - Lethal coverage may be needed to cover officers who intend to deploy the device
 - The device was used on officers during training 20 or more times and they never experienced barbs or hooks being stuck to them
 - There is an existing protocol for removing taser barbs, which is transport to the hospital

- Consideration will be made regarding the device deployment sound and the possibility of it being confused with gun fire
 - Presenting the device to the community is not preferred. The PARB is providing non-law enforcement feedback that will help the department plan for the device usage
 - The device will be carried by supervisors at first, then distributed when its effectiveness is confirmed
- b.** Discuss the PARB's presentation to Council on July 28, 2020
- Board Member Biagini will be the presenter
 - Assistant City Manager Deakyne shared a PowerPoint of previous presentation items
 - The group chose potential additional details to include:
 - a. Their attendance at officer promotion and swearing in ceremonies
 - b. Board participation as panelists for employee interviews
 - c. Listing members who have completed the PD's Community Academy
 - d. A list of PD hosted community events that Board members attended
 - e. Members go on ride alongs with officers
 - f. Members help at DUI check points
 - g. The PARB serves both the Council and community

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS

- a.** Board member Ritter suggested review Novato PD's Use of Force summary at a future meeting. Assistant City Manager Deakyne will follow up.
- b.** Board member Biagini made a motion to discuss the funding of the department in support of the work they do with the community. Medigovich seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting Date – Thursday, November 5, 2020

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Bartel to adjourn. Ritter seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.