

City of Maplewood

Police Use of Force (UoF) Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 20, 2016

1) CALL TO ORDER

The fifth meeting of the Use of Force Workgroup was called to order at 6:34 PM by Chair Neblett.

2) ROLL CALL

A quorum of the UoF Workgroup was in attendance at the meeting, including:

- Sylvia Neblett, Chair
- Melissa Sonnek
- Rita Janisch
- Mary Schoenborn
- Sarah Lilja
- Dave Mathews
- Anne Bryson
- Juan Wilson
- Dave Singleton
- William Josten
- Kathryn Hatlestad

Staff Present:

- Paul Schnell, Police Chief
- Cassie Fisher, Admin Assistant to the Police Chief/Police Data Analyst

Absent:

- Lenna Scott
- Evelyn Combs
- Tzianeng Vang

3) BUSINESS AGENDA

a. Continued review and discussion of the Body Worn Camera (BWC) policy draft:

Topics and areas of consideration:

- 1) Consider defining mental health crisis and behaviors.
- 2) Include in training best practices for language usage for advising individuals of recording. i.e.: "We are both being recorded" versus "You're being recorded."
- 3) Include commendations to the section Department Use of Data.

Recommendations approved by vote of group:

- We recommend that the BWC's Purpose Statement be amended to, "**Purpose**" section use of the following language: The use of body-worn cameras (BWCs) in law enforcement is relatively new. Their use by Maplewood Police Department is intended to enhance the mission of the Department by documenting contacts between members of the Department and the public, while balancing demands of accountability, transparency, and privacy concerns. Digital evidence captured by the portable recording system is not all-inclusive. The system captures a less-broad and less-detailed image than the totality of the human senses.
 - Upon the matter being moved and seconded, it was approved by unanimous decision.
- With concern over the definition of "Adversarial," we recommend "with a person" be removed from the first sentence.
 - Upon the matter being moved and seconded, it was approved by a 10 Yea, 1-Nay vote.
Note: this was not a unanimous recommendation. The principle reservation is there is no concern about use of force, and encounters themselves will always be with a person, therefore it does not warrant change.
- Approval of recommendation to include "Critical Incident" in legal terms/definitions.
 - Upon the matter being moved and seconded, it was approved by unanimous decision.
- Approval of recommendation to add definition of Brady-Giglio impairment in the Definitions section.
 - Upon the matter being moved and seconded, it was approved by unanimous decision.
- We recommend changing the language in General Guidelines for Recording section C, as we believe de-escalation is not the only reason to advise of recording. Approval of recommendation to change language to take to mean de-escalation as an example.
 - Upon the matter being moved and seconded, it was approved by unanimous decision.
- We recommend the use of gender-neutral pronouns throughout the policy whenever feasible.
 - Upon the matter being moved and seconded, it was approved by unanimous decision.

- We recommend for clarification changing the language in Access to BWC Data section B to “Access to BWC data, whether by city or personally owned and approved devices, shall be managed in accordance with established city policy.”
 - Upon the matter being moved and seconded, it was approved by unanimous decision.
- Since the department has unlimited digital data storage, we recommend increasing the retention of non-evidentiary data to 1 year, to coincide with the time limit of making a human rights complaint.
 - Upon the matter being moved and seconded, it was approved by a 9-Yea, 2-Nay vote.

***Note:** this was not a unanimous recommendation. One of the reservations is that a complaint will most likely occur in the current retention timeframe of 90 days. Another reservation is regarding the concern over keeping non-evidentiary video of persons on file for such a long period of time, as it is seen as infringing upon personal civil liberties.*

b. The following items are on the agenda for review and discussion during the October 27, 2016 meeting:

- Outside Employment
- Fitness for duty
- Traffic Collisions
- Organizational Structure & Employee Summary
- ICAT – A Training Guide for Defusing Critical Incidents

4) ANNOUNCEMENTS

Paper copies of the following items were distributed to the group: Maplewood Police Department’s Organization Chart and Employee Summary; “Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics: A Training Guide for Defusing Critical Incidents;” and Uoff Workgroup Member Ride-Along request forms.

5) NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the workgroup shall be held on Thursday, October 27, 2016 at 6:30 PM (to 9:00 PM) at the Maplewood Police Department.

6) ADJOURNMENT

The Use of Force Workgroup meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.