

City of Maplewood

Police Use of Force (UoF) Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 15, 2016

1) CALL TO ORDER

The twelfth meeting of the Use of Force Workgroup was called to order at 6:37 PM by Chair Neblett.

2) ROLL CALL

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

- Sylvia Neblett, Chair
- Rita Janisch
- Melissa Sonnek
- Dave Mathews
- Anne Bryson
- Sarah Lilja
- Kathryn Hatlestad

Staff Present:

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

Elected Officials Present:

- Bryan Smith, Councilmember

Community Members Present:

- Diana Longrie
- Kevin Berglund

Absent:

- David Singleton, Vice-Chair
- Evelyn Combs
- Lenna Scott
- Juan Wilson
- Mary Schoenborn
- William Josten

3) BUSINESS AGENDA

- a. Approval of December 15, 2016 Agenda.
- b. Approval of December 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes.
- c. Review and Discussion of Chapter 3, General Operations:

1. 300.8 – The group recommends changing “periodic” training to specify “annual” training. It is also recommended that this statement be made earlier in the policy manual section.
 - Upon the matter being moved and seconded, it was approved by unanimous decision.
2. 304 – This group will look at the topic of *use of force review* (the topic of Policy 304) as a separate topic later in our work together. The group will also consider the appropriate purpose and role, scope, and composition of a Civilian Review Board.
3. 306.3 – The group recommends using letters rather than bullet points. The group also recommends that the fifth bullet of 306.3 read “disability or difference” rather than “disability.”
 - Upon the matter being moved and seconded, it was approved by unanimous decision.
4. 308.4.2 – The group recommends that policy mandate inspections and maintenance of equipment in accordance with manufacturers recommendations or other appropriate parameters.
 - Upon the matter being moved and seconded, it was approved by unanimous decision.
5. 308.8.1 – The group recommends that “riotous behavior” be defined in terms of the relevant statute.
 - Upon the matter being moved and seconded, it was approved by unanimous decision.
6. 308.4.2 – The group recommends that departmental policy specifically address the police response to mass demonstrations. That policy should articulate the value of freedom of expression and the need to protect public safety.
 - Upon the matter being moved and seconded, it was approved by unanimous decision.
7. 310 – The group will review the media policy to determine whether the policy provides adequate direction with respect to informing the public in a timely manner, especially regarding an officer involved shooting. Does policy 345 cover this concern, or does it need to be addressed in this policy. The group plans to address this in our next session.
8. 310.6 – The group recommends that the language of 310.6 be considered for tone, to connote impartiality, consistent with policy 310.4.2. Any editing should reduce connotations of suspicion regarding witnesses. Another option would be to explicitly state the purpose of the policy measures.
 - Upon the matter being moved and seconded, it was approved by unanimous decision.

9. 310.8 – The new BWC policy was adopted after our working policy books were created. The department is aligning MAV policies to be consistent with the newer BWC policy.
- d. **Members are to study the identified policy sections, and submit their written thoughts regarding questions and/or comments they have for discussion to Cassie by 0700 the Tuesday before the next meeting. It is preferred that members contribute their written thoughts even if they will not be in attendance of the meeting.**
- e. **The following items are on the agenda for review and discussion during the January 5, 2017 meeting:**
- Chapter 3: General Operations – Use of Force policy review continued
 - Items recommended that would aid in the review and discussion of Chapter 3:
 - 1) ICAT – A Training Guide for Defusing Critical Incidents
 - 2) Final Report on The President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing

4) ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chief Schnell advised that he, the workgroup facilitators, and Chair Neblett will meet during the break and develop a plan for the 4 meetings the group will have in January 2017 – with a plan to have the review of the policy manual completed by the end of January. When the group has a complete list of their policy recommendations, the Use of Force instructors would be brought in for a question and answer type roundtable discussion. A final draft format will be created from this discussion.

5) NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the workgroup shall be held on Thursday, January 5, 2017 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.