



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – September 7, 2016 Agenda Item 7

Work Session

Police Community Relations Update

Recommended Council Action

Hear information from the City Manager.

Context with Key Issues

In late July, Mayor Stewart and Councilmembers Qureshi and Seamens met with the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, Police Chief and several other senior members of the Takoma Park Police Department to discuss how to move forward on improving police-community relations in Takoma Park. Previously, two Requests for Proposals had been issued for consultant assistance on this topic, but the proposals received did not seem appropriate for Takoma Park.

In the discussion, the Police Department went through a number of initiatives and best practices that are already being done or are being implemented. It is important that the whole Council and the public be aware of these, so the information will be shared at the work session and will be put on the City website in an easily-accessible format.

- Data Sharing to Come
 - White House Police Data Initiative
 - Crime data
 - Offender data
 - Traffic stops
 - Internal affairs / Use of force
 - Web Page Links
 - RAIDS
 - Open Data Montgomery
 - RAIDS Online
 - General Orders
- Training
 - Entry Level (29 weeks)
 - In-Service
 - Mental health first aid (7 hour course)
 - Crisis intervention training (40 hours – goal is to help those with mental illness or autism and to keep them out of the justice system)
 - De-escalation / Tactical disengagement
 - Constitutional law
 - Peer support

- Department Branding / Outreach
 - Police car design
 - Business cards
 - National Night Out / Unity in the CommUNITY
 - Youth Outreach
 - Explorers
 - Summer job program / internships
 - Visits to Lunch & Learn and similar programs
 - Family services diversion program
 - School Lunch with a Cop
- Intelligence Led Policing / Predictive Policing
 - Crime analyst
 - ATAC RAIDS
 - RAIDS Online
 - Offender data tracking

In addition to the efforts we are making, it is helpful to have consultant assistance in surveying the community and in making recommendations of improvements. Having a separate entity doing the surveying and providing recommendations helps build trust in the process, which is necessary for it to be successful.

Areas where the Police Department feels consultant input would be important are:

- Community survey
- Internal Police Department survey
- Refining performance evaluation measures
 - Redefining performance
 - Quantifying non-traditional duties

Council Priority

Livable Community for All; Engaged, Responsive, and Service Oriented Government

Environmental Impact of Action

N/A

Fiscal Impact of Action

\$40,000 in Police budget for consultant assistance

Attachments and Links