RPS Subcommittee A - Meeting #11

Monday, January 10 | 4:30-6:00 pm ET

RPS Subcommittee Attendees: Travis Brooks, Laura Lewis, George Mcgonigal, Rob

Gearheart, Mary Orsaio

CPE Attendees: Josh Young, Hans Menos, Lillian Hua

AGENDA & NOTES:

4:30-4:35pm Welcome | All

Check-in

4:35-4:40pm Housekeeping | Lillian

- Next meeting is Thursday, January 20 at 6:00-7:30pm EST
- Subcommittee working sessions
 - January 10 (M) 4:30-6:00pm EST
 - Unarmed responders
 - Community Engagement Strategies
 - January 20 (Th) 6:00-7:30pm EST
 - Beat design analysis + recommendations
 - January 24 (M) 4:30-6:00pm EST?
 - Shift assignments analysis + recommendations
 - Under the current contract, changing the shift schedule would require an MOU
 - NYS Trooper schedule is appealing (4 on, 2 off?) because it would give people more weekends off, but would be contingent on pay
 - It is helpful to understand a menu of what might be appealing not necessarily for the short term, but for future negotiations after the current contract expires
 - Review of Subcommittee Recommendations: January 31 (M) 6:00-7:30pm EST

4:40-5:55pm <u>Unarmed Responders</u> | All

- Acknowledge that some of this is outside of our scope and that further study should be conducted
- The bulk of noise complaints in Ithaca are college parties
 - O Unarmed responders should not be responding to these due to perception
 - IPD handles off-campus noise complaints for IC and Cornell, including frat/sorority parties which can require a large response to break up.
- The question of "what type of authority do unarmed officers have" should be raised as a research question
- I think the unarmed officers broadly should be focused somewhere between generalist and mental health specialists, and shouldn't be a catch-all for offloading low-level police calls
- We may want to look at training and see if there is variation on training for unarmed responders.

- Also co-response to allow for most holistic assessments of calls
- o It's going to be important to partner with the county on mental health calls
- We can't expect unarmed officers to cover everything
- Rob: Let's remember that a piece of this puzzle is how calls for response are being interpreted, and we need to get better at that
 - o E.g. we only have one call category for traffic incidents
- Early on, there seemed to be agreement among most of us that call delineation needs to be more granular. So when we're talking about training, it pertains to training for 911 dispatchers
- How long do mental health and non-arrest calls take?
 - Calls without arrests are some of the longest calls we have because we want to take our time
- I would be in favor of a behavioral health clinician on IPD. It is very hard to get Tompkins County Mental Health to respond on call. They say 24/7 "mobile crisis" but really it's "mobile phone." It could take an hour and a half for them to respond on the scene. Typically they'll just fax a 945 order
 - You could get a better response with a clinician showing up to someone's door with an armed officer in the back
 - They don't necessarily have to be a clinician, but should at least be someone trained
 - The county mental health department is barely staffed and there is a national shortage of social workers, behavioral health clinicians, etc.
- If we did have someone working in behavioral health working in the DCS, it would expedite and streamline many processes. But how many do you need to cover the city 24/7?
- Let's not confuse long-term care with individual needs either. There's an immediate response and then connecting individuals to ongoing wraparound services and long-term case management.
- I had this conversation with a while ago. Our outreach workers are not intended to be case managers. I understand there is a need to respond to mental health calls; simultaneously I'm seeing the unarmed officers as having a broader range of issues to which they should respond. We're developing a system where situations and individuals who have negatively been responded to by IPD will be improved, and to do increased community outreach. I think we can and need to hold these things at the same time.
 - I agree. That's why we should figure out what skillsets we need at the higher end then go down.
- One of the things that's not spelled out is patrol support would like to hear more

 Josh: has something close to a CSO, which is outlined by what they are and are not allowed to do there are protocols. I could ask someone from to come or circulate a policy/alternative models would that be helpful? (Yes)
 - Rob: We often do pilots and then wish we understood our intentions/metrics/the end result better so this would be helpful.

- Also, our recommendations are only based around 5 unarmed officers. I think idea is suitable for narrowing the skillsets. We would also do well to look at shift assignments and demand
- An advantage is these officers are not beholden to the IPD contract, so their shift schedules are more flexible and can be adjusted to needs.
- Josh: There is a period of transition as armed and unarmed officers learn to work with each other - that is when protocols can be reestablished, etc. to level-set
- I think this unarmed group would be most effective if working in tandem with IPD e.g. going to the same shift briefing, etc. I'm not convinced this should be a separate division
 - o Josh: Outside of the scope of our subcommittee, but that is a valid problem
 - Hans: Agreed, it's an issue for silos that's something the community will have to address
 - I do think it comes down to expectations and the culture in the department that is stood up. And when people buy into it, then it will improve public safety for the community. That's why the Commissioner being hired will be extremely important
 - Communications is key. We want people to buy into the model we're operating under and collaborate. We can have the best designed system but without the umbrella commissioner who sets the stage for communication between members, it won't work.
 - Aside from the Commissioner, the values and messaging of the Police Chief and the parallel unarmed position will be critical.
- Beats are okay aside from unequal division in West vs. East. Walking points e.g. around Commons would be useful too but I'm not sure we'll have anyone to fill it

Questions to pose to Common Council

- What skillsets are most important proceeding with our reform?
 - What can be part of training?
- How will the new officers and department interact with the county? The county's mental health department?
- What type of authority will unarmed officers have?
- What type of expertise and education should the behavioral health specialists have?
- How many behavioral health specialists are needed for the desired service provision across the city?

4:40-5:55pm Community Engagement Strategies | All

5:55pm-6:00pm **Wrap Up | All**