



City Council Report

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Sacramento, CA 95814

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File ID: 2019-00019

January 22, 2019

Consent Item 09

Title: 2019 Topic Directive for the Sacramento Community Police Review Commission

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution directing the Sacramento Community Police Review Commission to: 1) evaluate and engage the community about the City Police Department's Body Worn Camera program, with the intent of enhancing community relations and improving accountability and transparency; and 2) report back to the City Council about the Commission's findings and recommendations on the program on or before December 10, 2019.

Contact: Francine Tournour, Director, (916) 808-7525, Office of Public Safety Accountability

Presenter: None.

Attachments:

1-Description/Analysis

2-Resolution

Description/Analysis

Issue Detail: In 2016, the City Council established the Sacramento Community Police Review Commission (the “Commission”) and tasked to advise and make recommendations to the City Council about the City’s police (the “department”) policies, practices, and procedures. (See Sacramento City Code section 2.110.030)

For 2019, staff recommends that the Council direct the Commission to evaluate the City’s Police Body Worn Camera program (the “program”). (See attached Resolution.) Fully implemented in March 2017, the program’s policy, equipment, community concerns, and officer feedback has not been evaluated to determine its effectiveness and any need for improvement.

Since the program’s implementation, there have been several instances where the camera was intentionally turned off due to erroneous interpretation of city policy or inadvertently turned off due to position placement of the equipment. These instances understandably caused concern for the community and potentially deepened the lack of trust between certain community members and the police.

As the Commission continues to work towards their goal of improving the relationship between the community and police, it is imperative that they focus on relevant issues and concerns as they arise. The program’s policy has recently been updated by the department; however, the efficiency and effectiveness of the program would benefit from community input. The Commission is the bridge to that process.

To fully examine this program, staff recommends that the Council direct the Commission to evaluate the effectiveness of the program’s current policy and procedures, hold community discussions to hear concerns, host police officer focus groups, research best practices from cities with police departments of similar sizes and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the body worn camera vendor.

With this direction, the Commission will be better equipped to meet its purpose and streamline its efforts including discussing the way ahead, forming ad hocs and focus groups, giving assignments, and outlining a timetable for completion. The Office of Public Safety Accountability will continue to provide staffing assistance for Commission meetings and activities.

Policy Considerations: This recommendation is provided in accordance with City Code section 2.110.020, Purpose of commission.

Economic Impacts: None.

Environmental Considerations: None.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): The report concerns administrative activities that will not have a significant effect on the environment and is exempt from CEQA review. (CEQA Guidelines sections 15061(b)(3) and 15378(b)(2).)

Sustainability: Focused objectives should be directed by Mayor and Council to the Commission for analysis, evaluation, and recommendations at least annually.

Commission/Committee Action: Not applicable.

Rationale for Recommendation: Annual objectives will assist the Commission with executing its duties under chapter 2.110 of the City Code and targeting the concerns for the community and the Council. Accordingly, staff recommends that the Mayor and Council direct the Commission to focus on the objectives, as determined by the Mayor and the City Council annually, to ensure the Commission is meeting the intent of the City ordinance and the needs of the community and the City's police department.

Other topics include the Officer Next Door initiative and the four pillars of Accountability, Engagement, Training and Diversity.

Financial Considerations: None.

Local Business Enterprise (LBE): Not applicable.

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

Directing the Sacramento Community Police Review Commission to Evaluate and Engage the Community Concerning the Sacramento Police Department Body Worn Camera Program for the 2019 Calendar Year and Report Back to the City Council on or before December 10, 2019

BACKGROUND

- A. The Sacramento Community Police Review Commission (the “Commission”) was created by ordinance 2016-055, in November of 2016, replacing the Sacramento Police Commission. Its duties are to advise and make recommendations to the City Council regarding police policy, procedures, and best practices, including those related to community relations, hiring, and training best practices and to monitor the implementation, evaluation, and sustainability of city policing initiatives and programs. (Sacramento City Code section 2.110.030)
- B. The purpose of the Commission is to provide community participation in reviewing and recommending police department policies, practices, and procedures; and to monitor the implementation, evaluation, and sustainability of city policies initiatives and programs. (See Sacramento City Code section 2.110.020.)
- C. In March of 2017, the Sacramento Police Department (the “Department”) implemented its Body Worn Camera program (the “program”). The program’s policy has recently been updated by the Department; however, the efficiency and effectiveness of the program would benefit from community input. The Commission is the bridge to that process.
- D. Since the program’s implementation, there have been several instances where cameras were intentionally turned off due to erroneous interpretation of the policy or inadvertently turned off due to position placement of the equipment. These instances understandably caused concern for the community and potentially deepened the lack of trust between certain community members and the police.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1. The Sacramento Community Police Review Commission shall focus all of its efforts for the 2019 calendar year to evaluate and engage the community

concerning the City of Sacramento Police Department's Body Worn Camera program, with the intent to enhance community relations and improve accountability and transparency of the Sacramento Police Department. Such evaluation shall, at a minimum, include an analysis of the program's policies and procedures, any community concerns, and police officer feedback to determine the effectiveness of this program and any need for improvement.

Section 2. The Sacramento Community Police Review Commission shall continue to engage the community on a regular basis, in order for the community to be well informed about the Commission and its work. Staff will continue to assist the Commission with outreach efforts to gain community inputs and feedback.

Section 3. The Sacramento Community Police Review Commission shall provide a report and a present of its conclusions and recommendations about the City of Sacramento Police Department's Body Worn Camera program and community concerns to the Mayor and City Council on or before December 10, 2019.