

**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION**

Update on Council's Pledge to reform Police Use-of-Force department policies

Wendell Shirley, Interim Chief, 452-2031  
*Police Department*

**DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL****INFORMATION  
ONLY**

As a result of the final report and recommendations from the Office of Independent Review (OIR) Group concerning police use of force policies, the City has been implementing reforms as directed by the final step of the Council's Pledge. Staff will share the progress on responding to the recommendations since the last quarterly update to Council on September 20, 2021.

No Council action is needed.

**RECOMMENDATION**

N/A

**BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS**

This Council item is a routine quarterly update on ongoing progress on Council's Pledge to review the Police Department's use of force policies.

On June 11, 2020, Mayor Lynne Robinson, with the support of Council, pledged to review police use of force policies to identify any potential reforms. In September 2020, the City hired OIR Group to review the Bellevue Police Department's policies surrounding use-of-force. After community engagement with stakeholders and the community at large, OIR Group completed its analysis of the police use-of-force policies. On April 12, 2021 the OIR Group presented its final report and recommendations to Council. On June 11, 2021, the Police Department presented an overview of the City's plan for implementing the recommendations and committed to returning to Council quarterly with reports on the status and progress of implementing the recommendations.

At the last progress report on September 20, 2021, it was reported that 20 of the 47 recommendations (42 percent) were completed. Since the September 20, 2021 Council meeting, the Police Department has responded to and completed implementing an additional 12 OIR Group recommendations, totaling 32 of the recommendations completed to date (68 percent). Some of this quarter's completed recommendations were related to changes to use of force policies concerning the use of TASERS, Extended Range Impact Devices, and restrictions to the use of deadly force.

For the next quarter, the Police Department has prioritized OIR Group recommendation #37, to consider implementing a body worn camera program. At the September progress report, staff reported that a body worn camera steering committee made up of multiple affected departments was developed and plans for community feedback and engagement sessions were planned. Since September, the Police Department has solicited input from key community stakeholders and created an *Engaging*

*Bellevue* web page to solicit feedback on the community's thoughts on body worn camera programs.

Along with seeking input from the community on body worn cameras, Interim Chief Shirley hosted a virtual community meeting on January 12 to present an overview of the progress made on the OIR Group recommendations. Part of this virtual community meeting was dedicated to a listening session on the topic of body worn cameras. Staff will continue to analyze the feedback provided through the *Engaging Bellevue* webpage, individual stakeholder meetings, and the community listening session as it works towards developing a body worn camera program.

The Department hopes to report back to Council on the completion of the remaining recommendations at the next quarter progress report.

## **POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

### **Policy Impact**

The Pledge prompted reforms to use of force policies of the Police Department. Implementation of reforms has begun and will take through mid-2022 to fully adjust for compliance with new laws, conduct corresponding training, and establish equipment/staffing needs.

### **Fiscal Impact**

All potential new fiscal impacts have yet to be determined. Most recommendations that present a cost are already budgetarily achievable within the adopted budget. Implementation of recommendations that will pose a cost in excess of budget will return to Council for future decisions of the Council.

## **OPTIONS**

N/A

## **ATTACHMENTS**

A. Office of Independent Review Group – Report and Final Recommendations

## **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

N/A