6/17/2020 City Council Study Session – Policing in Pacifica

Q&A Questions Submitted by public attendees via Zoom

1. Will PPD ban shooting at moving vehicles and require a use of force continuum?

2. What is your policy with homeless people here? I am afraid to call the police even when it appears someone needs help because of my fear they will be mistreated and not helped. What can you tell us since its really not a police matter?

3. What options are there for officers to seek outside assistance and support for deescalating a situation where an individual is mentally ill, intellectually disabled, or otherwise unable or less able to comply with officer instruction?

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5. Anonymous Attendee 06:25 PM -- Has there been discussion about moving internal affairs or misconduct allegation review outside the police department like what is being done in Flint and elsewhere?


7. Breck Hitz -- In the statement released on June 9, Manager Woodhouse and Chief Steidle report that officers receive "recurring" training in use-of-force policy, de-escalation techniques, and bias-free policing, but they do not quantify this training. How many hours per year of such training does a Pacifica officer receive?

8. Anonymous Attendee 06:29 PM -- Sorry to see Mike O’Neill is falling asleep!

9. What are the consequences for an officer who does not fulfill their duty to intercede?

10. Rachel Schaefer 06:30 PM -- what training do officers have to identify and work with mentally ill and/or intellectually disabled individuals?

11. Naomi Hamburger 06:32 PM -- White supremacy, anti-Black racism, and violence against Black community members is all around us. It’s the air we breathe. None of us have clean hands and we must hold ourselves to a much higher standard than the status quo. With that goal of improving and actively working against anti-Black racism and violence, what is our growing edge in Pacifica? Where do we have room to improve? Where does PPD have room to grow and do better? Thank you.
12. Is the city considering reallocating part of the PPD budget for other city services such as housing, parks and recreation, city improvements, etc?

13. Does your policy prohibit the use of a taser when individuals are in the prone position?

14. Are all officers wearing masks - at all times when contacting the public? Are you testing your officers? Are they REQUIRED to wear PPE when on duty?

15. Kirsten Andrews-Schwind 06:44 PM -- Does the department keep statistics on the race of people involved in traffic stops, other stops, and arrests? Are those available to the public?

16. How many of the 33 officers LIVE in Pacifica?

17. Naomi Hamburger 06:47 PM -- How many community members are present at this meeting? Thank you.

18. Anonymous Attendee 06:49 PM -- Thank you, I appreciate the presentation.

19. Jay Crawford 06:50 PM -- LEGinfo.legislature.ca.gov is a website maintained by the State of California that you can read every law in California as well as every bill that is pending. The section you want to read is California Penal Code Section 835a I think that this should be pointed out to people so that they can read the law for themselves.

20. Mike Kahn 06:52 PM -- FYI, public can't see any question on Zoom unless you publish them.

21. Will there be a motion to replace Pacifica PD officers with unarmed non-law enforcement agencies who will be responsible for responding to non-violent calls for service?

22. Clara 06:55 PM -- Will there be any divesting of funds from the Pacifica PD into the communities such as affordable housing, healthcare, libraries? As crime is a response to social conditions.

23. Katie Harkin 06:55 PM -- I have 2 questions: 1. I appreciate the information shared in the report from the City Manager and Police Chief, and would like to ask whether the Police Department currently gathers demographic information on the calls to service referenced in the memo, and if they do would they be willing to share that demographic data along with demographic information on the staff of the police department? 2. The report also mentioned a partnership with CORA to support with calls related to domestic violence. I think that is a great partnership, and wonder whether the department would be willing to form a similar partnership with an organization that serves people experiencing homelessness? This could support police as they respond to calls related to homelessness and offer services.

24. Eva Mejia 06:57 PM -- Thank you for this comment! I won’t take time to say the same thing but I completely agree with Suzanne.
25. georgeacarpenter 07:07 PM -- How are pacifica residents guaranteed that law enforcement obey their own rules? As of now, we are forced to take the word from our police chief. As a resident I can only have peace of mind knowing issues relating to economic disparities and mental health are addressed by an investment in youth programs, affordable housing commissions, and mental health services. I call on city council to please divest from the police to support social services. Thank you.

26. Cherie Chan 07:09 PM -- Hello, Council Members and Pacifica Staff, Thank you for taking the time to convene this study session tonight. I have learned much so far. My name is Cherie Chan, I live on San Pedro Avenue. I have some comments: Manager Woodhouse: You spoke to the City of Pacifica’s commitment to organizational ethics, Culture improvement and transparency. Yet, when I sent a Public Records Act Request to your department, your city clerk responded, and I quote: “City has withheld and/or redacted certain records which are exempt under the public interest exemption pursuant to Government Code section 6255 as the "public interest served by not disclosing the record[s] clearly outweighs the public interest served by disclosure of the record[s]." No reason, as required under the law, was provided. It is chilling to me that the City would blithely use “Public Interest” as an overall shield for potentially dishonest behavior. It is actions like this which cause Pacificans to lose trust in their city government. Cherie Chan 07:09 PM (continued, due to size limits) As a public servant myself, I find this misuse of Government Code to be an insult to our profession. Second: The use of for-Profit vendors: Why does the Pacifica PD use an off-the-shelf User of Force policy bought from Lexipol? Lexipol is a for-profit company founded by two former police officers who became attorneys defending police misconduct. Lexipol is a private company with no oversight. Lexipol does not use the “Necessary Standard” in regard to deadly force and has no place in a transparently managed city. So yes, we agree that the Obama Framework is an excellent starting point--and floor--for beginning a re-thinking of how we can keep the citizens and visitors to our city safe. Thank you.

27. emily Walley 07:13 PM – This is Emily Walley of Pacifica. I am concerned about the amount of money our city is spending on police when it should be providing public health services. Even the police chief mentioned our city needs more help in the area of mental health. So, my question is: What could it look like if Pacifica entirely defunds the police department and reallocates money to the public?

28. Why are use of force instances reviewed by command staff within the department and not an independent citizen/civillian board?

29. Why aren’t complaints reviewed by an independet committee outside the police department? Why aren’t these complaints publicly available so we know what officers in our community have been accused of?

30. Jay Crawford 07:47 PM -- You can’t tell people where they can and can’t live. Pacifica’s Use of Force Policy section 300.4.1 speaks to whether or not to shoot at moving vehicles.
31. Jason Aygun 08:05 PM -- Why is getting in compliance with 392 a deep discussion? it should be obvious. please expand. To subcontract the PD AND not be in compliance with 392 is highly negligent.

32. Kali Drake 08:11 PM -- nurses have to be recertified every 2 years and participate in ongoing classes including on bias and racial justice. Can Pacifica consider something similar for our officers?

33. Nora 08:13 PM -- There were a lot of questions asked by ppl who made public comment- will those questions be answered as well?

34. Kali Drake 08:13 PM -- is every officer wearing body cameras 100% of the time? are dash cameras on 100% of the time? if not, why not?

35. Jason Aygun 08:16 PM -- will those forms be backed up with video footage???

36. Anonymous Attendee 08:16 PM -- Why are you not leading the police dept in changes now? 2023 is just a joke. You are obviously a follower who is not initiating change for the community, and it appears to avoid leading your officers which should be your role as chief.

37. Jason Aygun 08:20 PM -- why is it so hard to envision a not for profit police department?

38. Anonymous Attendee 08:20 PM -- racial bias analysis can be done with psychological testing

39. Jason Aygun 08:25 PM -- fire funding is not involved with police funding. that's a bad analogy.

40. Anonymous Attendee 08:26 PM -- As we see our community age in place, dementia will be an increasing problem and this needs to be planned for now as senior mental health issue that is not handled by armed officers.

41. Anonymous Attendee 08:27 PM -- Mike O'Neil stated school shootings, school shootings can be avoided by having better mental health services available.

42. Anonymous Attendee 08:32 PM -- Do our police officers get EMT training or do you always send an entire FIRE TRUCK for situations that need first aid? How is this changing given COVID to provide CPR and such other needed assistance to save a life?

43. Jason Aygun 08:35 PM -- but you can't be sued civilly. Qualified Immunity. so of Millbrae PD comes to Pacifica and unjustifiably uses deadly force, no one is responsible. that's what I'm hearing. Chief, with your background standards in place, would you have hired the officer who shot Tamir Rice?

44. Jay Crawford 08:44 PM -- Will the State Attorney General look at our use of force policy?
45. Mike Kahn 08:48 PM -- The spirit of the law is not applied equally across racial lines.

46. Jason Aygun 08:54 PM -- so we deserve a town hall where we can address City's statements.

47. Anonymous Attendee 08:55 PM -- DISARM AND DEFUND is the only answer

48. Anonymous Attendee 08:56 PM -- stop complimenting the pigs

49. Jason Aygun 08:57 PM -- The public needs to hold y'all in high regard. holding each other in high regard is baseless.