

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

CITY OF DAVENPORT, IOWA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2020; 10:00 AM

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

SPECIAL MEETING

I. Virtual Link

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEfqfuyqpjwoHtL5wHXXX5tQbmb9Mvy1SV7W](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?from=addon&url=https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?from=addon&url=https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEfqfuyqpjwoHtL5wHXXX5tQbmb9Mvy1SV7W)

II. Welcome

III. Public Input

IV. Commission discussion on Policing Reforms Report

A. Policing Reforms Report

V. Public Comment and Presentation

VI. Adjourn

VII. Next Meeting

City of Davenport
Civil Rights Commission

Department:
Contact Info:

Date

Subject:
Policing Reforms Report

ATTACHMENTS:

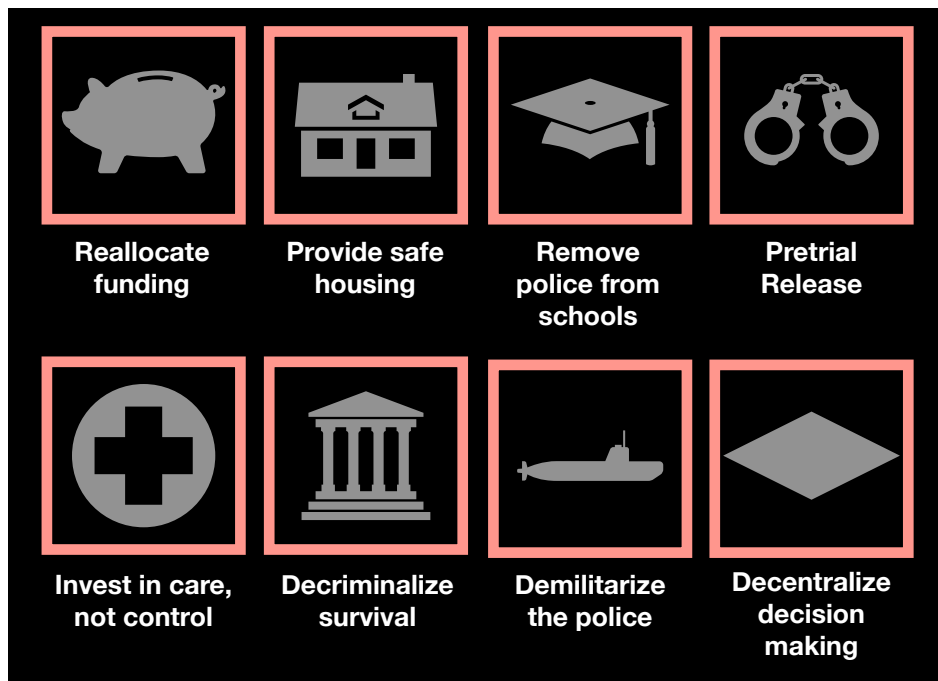
Type	Description
▣ Cover Memo	Policing Reforms Report

REVIEWERS:

Department	Reviewer	Action	Date
Civil Rights	Badillo, Beth	Approved	7/17/2020 - 3:22 PM

Policing Reforms

Policing Reforms Throughout the State



Use of Force Policies

Ban choke holds, knee-to-neck maneuvers and strengthen use of force standards.

Body Cameras and Associated Policies

Purchase additional body cameras. Review and revise bod camera policies relating to retention and the imposition of strict body camera provisions (i.e., when they are required to be on, etc.).

Civilian Review Board

Form an independent citizen's review board.

Decriminalization

Decriminalize minor marijuana crimes and other low-level offenses.

Why Does This Matter?

Our community directs vast resources into law enforcement instead of affordable housing, equity initiatives and accessible health care and this has caused significant harm to our community.

1

BANG FOR YOUR BUCK

Most of the work that police do, focuses on minor crimes or crimes of poverty that shouldn't be criminalized in the first place.

2

REFORM FOCUSES ON HARM REDUCTION

The focus should be on rethinking the overall role of police in our society, rather than calculating acceptable levels of harm.

3

POLICING CULTURE IS ROOTED IN OPPRESSION

Modern policing structures are derivatives of the slave patrols in the South and strike breakers in the North.

The modern American policing structure was formalized as a way to control “social disorder”. Social Disorder is a very fluid term, where the definition is generally limited only by the person or entity defining the term. At the time that these systems were developed, the terms were defined by the capitalist interests of those whose taxes and political interests supported the development of policing institutions.



Capitalistic interests were much more concerned with social control, than they were crime control. They needed an orderly and stable workforce to prop up their business interests.

The Importance of Calls for Policing Reform

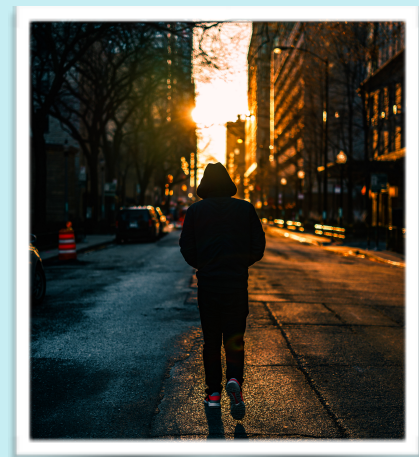
Black, brown and lower income communities have lived through militarized policing practices for decades, causing lasting harms similar to those caused by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

The threat and experience of police brutality, racial profiling and discrimination can be experienced individually or vicariously, and the traumatic symptoms as a result of these experiences can have wide ranging effects on individuals within our community. Children are especially susceptible to incurring the psychological and physical impact of police brutality and/or the threat thereof during their developmental stages.

Police brutality is not limited to physical attacks, often when we hear the term, we think

CHANGES THAT WILL CREATE LASTING EFFECTS

1. Demilitarize the police.
2. Remove police from schools.
3. Release people held pre-trial and those held on parole violations.
4. Repeal local ordinances that criminalize survival.
5. Invest in neighborhood councils who can participate in municipal decision making.
6. Provide safe housing for all community members.
7. Invest in care, not control.



of excessive physical force, however the definition also extends to false arrests, verbal abuse, unnecessary intimidation, and racial profiling. Whereas examples of physical police brutality can include, but aren't limited to, pepper spray, batons, tasers, hitting, choking, throwing, and sexual abuse.

A U.S. Department of Justice study (2000) on attitudes and reports of police officers regarding police brutality showed that 84% reported witnessing a fellow officer use more force than necessary; 61% indicated that police do not always report the abuse of fellow officers, even when it is a serious criminal violation. 67.4% reported that police officers who reported fellow officers were likely to receive a "cold shoulder" treatment. Finally, "a majority (52.4 percent) agreed or strongly agreed that it is not unusual for police officers to "turn a blind eye" to other officers' improper conduct".

Racism is a form of emotional abuse, and can therefore be experienced as a traumatic event. People experience traumatic reactions from racial profiling and police brutality, negatively impacting both their physical and psychological well-being.

Trauma reactions typically fall into three main categories: intrusion, arousal, and numbing/avoidance. With intrusion, thoughts or images intrude on their daily life, and they continue to experience the event. With arousal, after a traumatic event there is sleeplessness, hyperactivity, and a difficulty concentrating on things. With avoidance or numbing, there is avoidance of the people or places that remind them of the event, or there may be memory loss concerning certain features of their experience.

Both racism and discrimination have been shown to be a major contributing factor in the

findings of health and mental health disparities. Discrimination has been positively linked to, "increased allostatic load, inflammation, shorter telomere length, coronary artery calcification, dysregulation in cortisol, and greater oxidative stress". This study also found that discrimination has positive associations with adverse cardiovascular outcomes, BMI and obesity, hypertension and blood pressure, engagement in risky behaviors, alcohol misuse, and poor sleep.

Metzger, Leah, "Don't Shoot: Race-Based Trauma and Police Brutality" (2019). *Orphans and Vulnerable Children Student Scholarship*. 7. <https://pillars.taylor.edu/ovc-student/7>.

Changes Occurring Across the State

Cedar Rapids

City Council moved forward on four of the seven items requested by Cedar Rapids Advocates for Social Justice.

There are seven requests from the group, which the commission says it supports:

- 1. Form an independent citizen's review board.**
- 2. Make significant investments in diversity, equity, and inclusion.**
- 3. Ban choke holds, knee-to-neck maneuvers and strengthen use of force standards.**
4. Decriminalize minor marijuana crimes and other low-level offenses.
- 5. Impose strict body camera provisions.**
6. Make negotiations between law enforcement and municipal representatives public.
7. Abolish qualified immunity.

Dubuque

Developing a citizens review board in collaboration with the NAACP

Sioux City

The Sioux City City Council is considering the purchase of body cameras.

West Des Moines

The City of West Des Moines' Mayor signed the Mayor's Pledge:

1. REVIEW your police use of force policies.
2. ENGAGE your communities by including a diverse range of input, experiences, and stories in your review.
3. REPORT the findings of your review to your community and seek feedback.
4. REFORM your community's police use of force policies.

The department's first step since the signing of this pledge was to create a community member taskforce (8). The job of the taskforce is to review the policies and practices of the police and in the end provide a presentation of their findings. They are currently meeting weekly for a 2-3 hrs at a time with the goal of late August to present findings.

West Des Moines is also in the research phase of developing a community review board for the police.

Des Moines

Passed an ordinance that prohibits racial bias in traffic stops and other police actions, bans pretextual stops based on race and requires training on implicit bias and de-escalation techniques. Passed a resolution expressing its support of the decriminalization of marijuana and establishing a task force to minimize the enforcement for possession of marijuana for personal use.

Iowa City

Strengthened its existing Independent review board.

Passed a 17 point resolution addressing disparities.

The 17 points addressed by the resolution are:

By Dec. 15, 2020, have a preliminary plan to restructure the Iowa City Police Department towards community policing.

Allocate \$1,000,000 in City funds to promote racial equity and social justice.

Expanding efforts to increase the number of minorities employed by the City.

Receive a report by Aug. 1, 2020, from the City Manager's office on the ICPD's involvement in the use of gas and flash-bang devices during the protest in Iowa City on June 3, 2020.

Create an ad hoc Truth and Reconciliation Commission to carry out restorative justice on racial injustice in the City by Oct. 1, 2020.

Change 2021 City Council's legislative priorities to advocate for more criminal justice reform and enhance the authority of the Community Police Review Board.

Expand use of City's racial equity toolkit to City Council and local business partners.

By Jan. 1, 2021, receive a report and recommendations on changes to the Community Police Review Board.

Provide a detailed expenditure summary of the police budget on the City's website.

Support divestment of Johnson County Sheriff Office's MRAP vehicle and obtain a report on military grade equipment owned by ICPD.

Direct City Manager to ban any use of chokeholds by police.

Direct City Manager to ensure officers working in Iowa City have not committed serious misconduct.

Review and revise ICPD's Body Worn Cameras and In-Car Recorder systems.

Revise ICPD's general orders to require officers to intervene and stop excessive force.

Work with Public Art Advisory Committee and Black artists to provide opportunities for artistic expression by the Black Lives Matter movement and communities of color.

Prohibit the use of tear gas, rubber bullets, and flash bangs against peaceful protesters.

Beginning in 2021, Juneteenth, June 19, shall be a City holiday.

Urbandale

The City of Urbandale is expediting the purchase of additional police body cameras to cover its investigative division. The City already has body cameras for its patrol division.