



Office of the Mayor

Jim Paine, Mayor

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Meeting Minutes

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON COMMUNITIES OF COLOR THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020 5:30 P.M. - CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Present: Chair Stephan Witherspoon, Deonne Nelson, Jenny Van Sickle
Absent: Natasha Lancour, Pat St. Germaine, and Kat Werchouski
Others Present: Mayor Jim Paine, Chief Nick Alexander, Nick Raverty, KBJR, Superior Telegram

1. The regular meeting of the Mayor's Commission on Communities of Color for the City of Superior was called to order Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 5:35 p.m. in City Council Chambers, of the Government Center, Superior, Wisconsin.

2. Roll Call

Present commissioners introduced themselves and their role in the community. Each taking time to explain their dedication to the Commission and its work, their thoughts on how people of color are treated, and the recent murder of George Floyd and others in matters of police brutality.

3. Public Comment

No public comment was made.

4. Presentation from Mayor Paine

Mayor Paine outlined this Commission as a policy-leading body to help the City of Superior better support its communities of color. He acknowledged there is still a lot of work to do for our communities to all be treated equally, and called on the Commission to lead by sharing their ideas, vision and opinions.

5. Presentation from Police Chief Alexander

Chief Alexander shared a presentation with statistics on Superior Police Department's arrests and use of force broken down. Some notable statistics and points of topic are:

- In 2018, SPD had 1,939 arrests; 1,594 of those arrested were white.

- From 2002-2014, SPD averaged 28 use of force incidents per year; 2015-2019 SPD averaged 14 use of force incidents per year (76% white, 16% Native American, and 6% African American).
- There is currently a campaign called “8 Can’t Wait” that shares 8 initiatives all police departments should undertake. SPD already had implemented all 8.
- Approximately 20 officers have completed CIT training in the last 5 years.
- Implicit bias training is mandatory.
- All use of force incidents have to be reported by the officer and has to be signed off by their supervisor, a use of force specialist, and finally reviewed and signed off by Chief Alexander.
- Early warning and early intervention systems are in place for SPD, meaning if they shows signs or patterns that signal concern to their supervisory officer, they can recommend the officer receive additional training, counseling, etc.

The changes made to the police department in recruiting, hiring and personnel management have drawn desirable outcomes: higher accountability for all officers, stronger community relations, higher performance, and lower litigation to name a few.

The Commission thanked Chief Alexander for the information. Commissioner Van Sickle asked the chief to provide more in depth information related to traffic stops, acknowledging many police brutality situations can begin with routine traffic stops. Chief Alexander said he will supply data to the Commission, and plans on attending every Commission on Communities of Color meeting as well as having other representatives from SPD as well.

6. Approve Commission’s statement on the death of George Floyd

No action was taken.

7. Open discussion on future policy initiatives, no action to be taken

No action was taken.

8. Any other business

No other business was discussed.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

*Submitted by: Nick Raverty
Chief of Staff to the Mayor*