

Public Safety Review Board

Minutes of Meeting

January 17, 2017

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the meeting of December 13, 2016, were approved.

DPS Policies and Procedures: No further objections were made to the DPS arming policies, and those policies were deemed approved.

Arming of Senior Staff: As of January 3, three senior DPS staff (Chief, Deputy Chief and Commander of Investigations), all of whom had decades of prior experience carrying firearms as law enforcement officers, began carrying firearms while on duty. Two additional staff, each instructors/armorer, were also armed as of that date. Based on these officers' experience in the first few days, a decision was made to replace the gun locker with one that could accommodate an entire duty belt (with firearm and ammunition). The initially installed locker could hold only the weapon, requiring each officer to unholster it before storing it. This repeated need to holster and unholster weapons on a daily basis created a greater potential for accidental discharge than is desired, thus DPS ordered the larger locker.

Training of Officers to be Armed: The first "wave" of 16 officers completed their training and one female member failed the training due to lack of requisite arm strength. DPS intends to work with this officer to increase her strength so she can go through the training again and, hopefully, qualify. Questions were asked about the process of re-training this officer (whether she has to complete the entire training regimen again), and how many times she might be permitted to "fail" the training. The question was also asked whether DPS officers are periodically required to be re-certified. Chief Fischer will be asked to respond to these questions at a future meeting.

Body Cameras: Preliminary discussion occurred on the question of whether DPS officers should wear body cameras. A number of issues exist, including those relating to privacy (especially in the medical center, where HIPAA broadly protects patient information), use and storage of camera footage, RPD experience with body cameras, and the experiences of peer institutions. The Board decided to submit questions to DPS in advance of the next meeting so that Chief Fischer could attend the next meeting with some benchmarking information, cost estimates and other answers. Body cameras will be the subject of future meetings of the Board.

Bias Training: The question was posed whether the same firm that will conduct bias training to the President's Diversity Council might be retained to train DPS officers, as well. Interest was expressed in learning more about the bias training that is being conducted for officers currently.