

University of Rochester
Public Safety Review Board
Minutes of Meeting
March 18, 2018

Present: Francis Price (via telephone)
Rick Crummins
Holly Crawford
Tony Kinslow
Elizabeth Palermo
Jordan Smith
Christopher Acquina
Kathy Parrinello

Absent: Eldred Chimowitz

Guest: Mark Fischer

1. Opening Remarks from President Feldman

Interim President Richard Feldman delivered some opening remarks to the Board. He reminded those present that he served on the Security Commission whose work led to the approval of arming DPS officers and that he has been pleased with how that has been implemented over the past couple of years. He heard a short description of the Board's work and said he would be interested to attend future meetings.

2. Administrative Items

The Board approved the meeting minutes for October January 22, 2018.

3. DPS Update

- a. *Active Shooter-related issues:* Mr. Fischer reported that, since the Parkland, FL shooting, there has been a spike in requests for active shooter training in departments. Work is also being done with the University Fire Marshal and the AVP for Facilities to assess whether it is possible to create safety zones on campus. One example would be lockable classrooms. The issues are complex and require weighing safety from shooters against fire safety, as an example. Mr. Fischer expects to present options and make recommendations soon to Ms. Crawford and others.

DPS will also be refreshing active shooter training for officers, particularly as it concerns when/whether a single officer should confront a gunman. Confronting a gunman has proven repeatedly to be effective at reducing casualties. Mr. Fischer is confident that his armed officers would confront a lone gunman, but needs to be sure their training allows them to make appropriate decisions in short amounts of

time in varying circumstances (such as where there may be multiple shooters, in which case confrontation is unlikely to be effective).

Mr. Price questioned whether the university should be prepared to respond to requests that armed DPS officers carry increased firepower, such as rifles. Mr. Fischer felt that campus is still getting used to having handguns on campus but also acknowledged that some officers remain concerned about being at a disadvantage in today's environment.

- b. *Recruiting.* A new class of 14 recruits consists of six women, two African-Americans, one Hispanic and one Native American officer. Among the new male recruits is one from Afghanistan, one Asian, one Hispanic and five Caucasians. This is a very diverse class.

DPS is also launching a new mentoring program, developed by Captain Cindy Coates, which assigns a mentor to each new recruit, so that they will have a friend to turn to with questions and concerns they may not feel comfortable sharing with their Field Training Officer. Mentors, who are volunteers, will attend a one-day training for this new role.

- c. *Unholstering and Armed Responses*

Mr. Fischer reported on one unholstering, on January 24, in which officers responded to a report of a possible burglary in progress at Whipple Park. The building was cleared without incident and no suspect identified. It is likely that the resident who reported that he found his door ajar had simply forgotten to lock it.

On February 11 an armed officer responded to a full-building fire alarm at Anderson Tower. The officer was the closest available, and a full-building alarm always poses a heightened concern for student health and safety.

On February 12 an officer responded to an intrusion alarm at the Eastman School and found two non-University persons smoking marijuana in a balcony after the building had closed. A scuffle ensued and the officer radioed for backup. Armed officers responded because the officer had asked dispatch to "step it up" and they could not hear on the radio what was transpiring at Eastman. The reporting officer suffered minor injuries from a fall down several flights of stairs.

4. Drug Issues

Ms. Smith inquired about use of Narcan by DPS and whether we have had many incidents of heroin or fentanyl use on campus. Mr. Fischer reported that, so far this year, there has been no significant opiate activity and no use of Narcan. Marijuana use remains prevalent. On that front, Ms. Parrinello reported that ED staff are seeing patients

frequently who have used marijuana laced with more potent drugs and that this represents a higher health risk.

5. Prisoner Transport

Mr. Fischer reported that slow progress is being made to allow DPS to transport arrested individuals to the county jail.

6. Annual Report

Mr. Crummins will prepare a draft of the Board's annual report, to be presented to President Feldman before the May meeting of the Board of Trustees.