

City of Salem Community Police Review Board

October 9, 2018 6:00 p.m. City Manager's Office

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Ira Feitelson, Chair; Jodi Sherwood, Vice Chair, Bevin Clapper, William Distad, Steven Rice, and Lynelle Wilcox

Members Absent: David J. Rheinholdt, Robert McGinty

Staff Present: Gretchen Bennett, Mayor/City Manager's Office, Marc Weinstein, City Attorney's Office

Guests Present: Sgt. Matthew Riddle, and Sgt. Stephen Smith, Salem Police Dept.

1. Roll Call. Chair Feitelson welcomed the group and called the meeting to order. The meeting was recorded. He welcomed guests. Introductions were shared.

2. Approval of Minutes. Gretchen clarified that Member Staudinger resigned from the board. No corrections or changes to the minutes were provided. Vice Chair Sherwood motioned to approve the July 10, 2018 minutes as presented; Member Distad seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.

3. Public Comment: None

4. Consideration of Requests from City Manager or Chief of Police: None

5. SWAT Team: Sgt. Matthew Riddle is with the SWAT team. He has been with the department for over 19 years and with SWAT for over 16 years. He is the current team leader. A PowerPoint presentation was shared.

The overarching objective in many situations is to try to motivate the person of concern to surrender. Decisions to employ SWAT go all the way to the Chief. The goal is not to escalate or be an oppressive force. Courts have ruled the mere deployment of SWAT is a use of force. Skills are perishable, so the team trains frequently. The number of times the team has deployed has declined. The thought is that officers today are better trained and more equipped. There are

negotiating tactics available at the officer level.

Why armored trucks? To move large things and to stop bullets.

Using explosives to break doors is best practice; it has been determined it is the most safe for the suspect and the police. It involves a fuse and water.

SWAT owns no automatic weapons. They are accountable for each bullet. Officers are required to pull the trigger each time.

Member Clapper asked about response time. Generally, it is inside an hour, for the full team, depending on the location. The new police station will help as the current situation has equipment spread out at multiple locations.

Protection of innocent civilians is the number one priority. Canines are SWAT trained; certain dogs are trained and assigned as appropriate. Sgt. Smith shared he attended SWAT canine school. Searching is the most typical role for a dog. Robots can also search, but they can't smell and are limited in what they can see. Dogs also have intuition.

Marc asked about post-operation procedure. Everyone enters a briefing room. Rank is gone and everyone is honest. Sgt. Riddle writes a formal after action report. These reports lead to training plans. He noted one should never trade good luck for bad tactics.

The group discussed public records as it relates to SWAT. Information is discoverable and also available through the process with some redactions as needed.

Officers are trained to respond to hostage situations, mass shooters and other situations.

The Board thanked Sgt. Riddle for his time and the information.

6. Request for Review Hearings: None. No updates to the postponed review hearing.

7. Board Member Comments

Member Wilcox shared she met some members of the Downtown Enforcement Team. She was impressed with their work with people who are experiencing homelessness. She does not want to see a "sit/lie" ordinance in Salem.

Vice Chair Sherwood would like to receive a review of complaints for the year at the next meeting. The team also requested a presentation about the riot team. Sgt. Smith will plan both for the next meeting.

Chair Feitelson recommended members participate in the Citizen's Police Academy. He said it exposes participants to every aspect of the department and it is beneficial for all who are on the board.

Member Clapper asked about surveys of the community. Gretchen answered there is a survey done that includes police; she will share. The department has a strategic plan.

The Board thanked Chair Feitelson and Member Wilcox for their service. Both will not be returning in the New Year as their membership terms are concluding.

8. Adjournment. Vice Chair Sherwood moved to adjourn the meeting; Member Distad seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted, Gretchen Bennett, Staff Liaison