

League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County Observer Corps

Name of Agency: Citizen Police Advisory Board *Date:* June 4, 2020
Observer Reporting: C Rikerd *Length of Meeting:* 60 minutes
Members Present/Absent: CPAC Members, Police Chief Ramsdell and a police representative
Others present (i.e. media, public): Zoom Format – attended telephonically

Discussion Items

The Citizen Police Advisory Committee is a policy-focused board created to ensure transparency and accountability in the way that the City of Tacoma Police Department (TPD) operates.

Discussion Item from agenda:

[Review of] CPAC's Public Charge and City Resources currently being allocated to ensure CPAC is able to efficiently execute their assigned duties

[Discuss] CPAC and its role in reviewing police policy and if we have the proper support to ensure accountability and transparency in the way the TPD operates as our mission states. More specifically, is the CPAC able to effectively do this in regards to officer involved shootings involving marginalized communities of color with our current structure and support system from the City of Tacoma.

Problems identified by the Committee include:

- lack of timely access to initial police reports regarding incidents that require investigation of police actions,
- lack of communication with an investigating organization outside the TPD,
- lack of access to oversight records such as the audit completed of the policies and procedures of the TPD,
- lack of clearly defined avenues of support and communication with the city management and TPD.

CPAC needs full access to records of investigations as they are created to be proactive in fulfilling its mission of community outreach, and to ensure transparency in police policy, procedures, and investigations of citizen complaints, and transparency in investigations of potential police misconduct.

CPAC has formed a subcommittee of 5 of its 11 members to study its charter and bylaw responsibilities, and determine if changes are needed to give the committee advisory authority to act with due diligence during investigations of police incidents. Changes proposed will be presented to City Council, representatives of the TPD and TPD union representatives.

Content (what is being discussed):

Did they approve some action? Yes, establishment of a subcommittee for policy to determine if the Committee is meeting its defined function, and to develop a policy for seeking more support from Tacoma government and police administrators.

Does anything relate to League priorities or positions? Yes, relates to league position on racism in policing.

*If so, do you **recommend** local League action?* Yes, observe and report on this committee's work as liaison between citizens and the TPD, especially since the death of Mr. Ellis, to increase transparency in police policy and procedures.

*Was **access** to materials for certain agenda items limited or excluded from you?* n/a

Was background material available to the public? Yes, CPAC has a webpage within the city government website listing their responsibilities, contacts, organizational documents and directions for submitting a complaint.

***Public Meetings of interest to League** – i.e., were there any public meetings announced that you think League members may be interested in attending and/or becoming involved with the issue?*

CPAC meets the second Monday of each month at 6pm. Meetings are open to the public.