

# City of Eugene POLICE COMMISSION



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The Police Commission recommends to the City Council, City Manager, police department, and the people, the resources, preferred policing alternatives, policies, and citizen responsibilities needed to achieve a safe community. We strive to create a climate of mutual respect and partnership between the community and the police department that helps to achieve safety, justice and freedom for all people in Eugene.

Police Commissioners: Kaitlyn Lange, Chair; Tamara Miller, Vice-Chair; Mike Clark; Jim Garner; Linda Hamilton; Jesse Lohrke; James Manning; George Rode; Claire Syrett; Joe Tyndall; Juan Carlos Valle; Bob Walker

## Police Commission Meeting March 14, 2013

5:30 pm, Kilcullen Conference Room, Police Headquarters, 300 Country Club Road

<u>Item</u>	<u>Starting Time</u>	<u>Minutes</u>
1. Agenda review	5:30	5
2. Minutes Approval – February 14, 2012	5:35	5
3. Public Forum	5:40	10
4. Comments from Chair and Items from Commissioners	5:50	20
5. Provider Perspectives on Domestic Violence Policies, <i>Megan Connolly and Christine Enking, Women Space</i>	6:10	60
6. Break	7:10	10
7. Chief's Report	7:20	30
8. Committee Reports	7:50	20
9. Closing Comments	8:10	20

Next Police Commission Meeting: Thursday, April 11, 2013

## MINUTES

Eugene Police Commission  
Kilcullen Room—Police Headquarters—300 Country Club Road  
Eugene, Oregon

February 14, 2012  
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Tamara Miller, Vice chair; Jim Garner; Jesse Lohrke; Claire Syrett; Joe Tyndall; Juan Carlos Valle; Bob Walker; Juan Carlos Valle; Claire Syrett Police; Police Chief Pete Kerns; Carter Hawley; Eugene Police Department

ABSENT: Kaitlyn Lange, Chair, Mike Clark, Linda Hamilton

Ms. Miller called the meeting of the Eugene Police Commission to order at 5:30

### Minutes

Mr. Valle noted that he should be noted as absent from the January meeting. The amended minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

### Public Comments

Ms. Carol Berg Caldwell – Shared an article about officers lying in court due in part to requirements in grants.

Ms. Mary Salinas – Shared concern about the police response in Newtown. She shared concern about how homeless people are treated, and expressed concern about how the Mission treats people.

Ms. Deb Frisch – Supported the concerns of preceding comments. She asked that the Chief identify a date for the Lexipol update, stating that it is important for this conversion to be completed. She commended the Chief's letter to the editor regarding criminal justice funding and jail bed capacity.

### Comments from Commissioner

Mr. Lohrke expressed concern about unmanned surveillance equipment. He asked the Commission to look into this issue.

Mr. Valle expressed his deep disappointment with the Commission for its not responding to the public concern to meet at a location other than 300 Country Club. He was concerned that the domestic violence topic had been cancelled and not rescheduled.

Mr. Walker apologized for leaving early. He noted that the entire population suffers because of the poor actions of a few people. He believes the Police Commission is on the right track, trying to protect everyone from the actions of a few.

Mr. George Rode, the new liaison from the Civilian Review Board reported on the recent actions of the Civilian Review Board.

Mr. Tyndall expressed his belief that if the homeless had money, they'd be welcome downtown. They don't have money, so police are called, and the police response does not change the fact that they are homeless. He called for the Police Commission, or the Chief of Police to go before the City Council to stand up for the needs of homeless.

Mr. Garner wished everyone a happy Valentine's Day.

Chief Kerns reported that we don't have any grants dependent on arrests, but could create a summary of grants.

Ms. Syrett apologized for missing January and coming late in February and missing the March meeting.

#### Committee Reports

Mr. Walker reported the Policy Committee held its meeting the preceding week. The majority of the meeting was taken up by a discussion about trespass letters.

Mr. Tyndall reported the Outreach Committee is still trying to schedule a meeting with EPD union president to discuss the proposed officer anonymous survey. The UO Forum has been cancelled at this time, because of the forums held by UO regarding arming UOPD. At the next committee meeting, the group will discuss details of the proposed State of Public Safety Forum.

#### Community Values

Ms. Miller introduced the topic, explaining that the question relates to how the Police Commission provides input on policy and how the values of the community are reflected in the work of the Commission.

Mr. Lohrke expressed concern that people talk about "word smithing" as if it is always a bad thing. He suggested sometimes reviewing and developing language provides clarity and helps a group develop and confirm consensus.

Mr. Valle has been on the policy committee since he's been on the Commission. He expressed confusion as to why this issue was brought up again.

Mr. Walker said he appreciates the input from staff and the values of the members of the community who contribute at the meetings.

Ms. Syrett said she had been involved when the policy committee was reviewing very specific language related to the TASER policy, explaining that sometimes that level of detail is necessary, and that she appreciates the policy-focused discussion as well.

Mr. Garner said it seems that the policies are coming from the Policy Committee slowly, but that pace reflects thorough discussion by the Committee and input from the community. He supports the way it is going.

Ms. Miller clarified that her concern about word smithing is not related to one word or two, but rather the result of her example of the TASER policy where it took eleven months to review the language. She said that the most important aspect is to capture the discussion and all varied opinions.

Chief Kerns said it helps him to understand the thinking behind the proposed changes. It helps him understand the legislative intent.

Mr. Valle said another role of the policy committee is related to the community dialogue. He asked the Chief to inquire of the Commission as to its reasoning if that information is not captured in the minutes. He asked that the Chief reconsider increasing funding to provide sufficient staff resources take adequate notes at the meetings so that the dialogue can be captured and shared with the Chief.

Mr. Lohrke said the Chief's comment about understanding the discussion was helpful as it helps provide direction when minutes are taken. He supported Mr. Valle's concern regarding sufficient resources. He asked the Chief to report to the Commission on upcoming projects.

Mr. Walker noted that there is a vacancy on the committee, and solicited volunteers.

Ms. Syrett supported the idea that the Committee discuss community values in a way that could be seen as the overriding objectives to frame policy discussions.

Mr. Tyndall expressed interest on serving on the Committee.

#### Chief's report

Chief Kerns reported that given budget challenges, additional staffing resources to support the committee would be extremely challenging and unlikely.

The Chief reported on his monthly activities and recent actions of the department.

Mr. Valle asked the Chief to comment on the Commission role in Animal Shelter. He noted that the Chief's report included reference to mental health. He hopes that the discussion continues about mental health.

Ms. Syrett asked about when traffic enforcement occurs and how decisions are made. The Chief responded that to date, the department's data let policing has not included traffic rates. As more traffic information is collected, the Traffic Enforcement Unit may begin to shift its response, based on the data.

Mr. Walker encouraged Commissioners look at CrimeReport.com.

Mr. Garner asked how many additional hours would be added to address inattentive driving. Chief Kerns will get that information.

Mr. Lohrke asked if the Commission could get copies of grant applications. The Chief will look into this request.

### Break

Mr. Valle and Mr. Walker left the meeting.

### Downtown Public Safety Committee

Ms. Miller reviewed the information from the first Downtown Public Safety Committee. She said that everyone appears to be interested in providing constructive comments and suggestions to develop alternatives.

Ms. Syrett asked how the second CAHOOTS van has impacted downtown.

Mr. Tyndall reported that he was at the meeting. He relayed some of comments made by the public, including the fact that there is no homeless person on the committee to provide input.

### Closing Comments

Mr. Tyndall mentioned “West of Memphis”, a new documentary that will be shown at the Bijou. He shared portions of a letter that he’d written. He talked about the story of a couple who went from the American Dream to being entirely destitute. He hopes that the Police Commission, the Downtown Public Safety Committee, or any group, is willing to take a stand for homeless.

Mr. Rode expressed frustration with the bad behavior from people experiencing homelessness.

Ms. Syrett shared a poll is being taken with the Council regarding illegal camping and possibly car camping. She encouraged Mr. Rode and Mr. Tyndall to attend the Council meeting when it gets scheduled.

Mr. Lohrke suggested that the Chair and Vice Chair discuss committee and commission membership to encourage and increase attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

*Notes taken by Carter Hawley*



## Eugene Police Commission

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300 Country Club Road  
Eugene, OR 97401  
541-682-5852

Below are seven questions that will help the Commission gauge its effectiveness and the perception of its effectiveness within the Eugene Police Department. Your responses will be strictly confidential. Please complete the survey, print out and return to Carter Hawley, Police Analyst.

### Background

The Mission of the Eugene Police Commission is to recommend to the City Council, the City Manager, the Police Department, and the people, the resources, preferred policing alternatives, policies and citizens' responsibilities needed to achieve a safe community. The Commission strives to create a climate of mutual respect and partnership between the community and the Police Department that helps achieve safety, justice and freedom for all people in Eugene.

1. Are you aware that the Police Commission provides input on police policies and procedures that reflect community values
2. How long have you worked for the department?
3. Do you believe citizen input is beneficial in policy review?
4. Among the policies the Police Commission has reviewed, it recently reviewed the Pepper Spray Policy, and Vehicle Pursuit Policy, which have been implemented by the Department. What changes affected you? How?
5. What do you feel is the greatest public safety concern in the community?
6. How can the Police Commission increase communication understanding and trust between EPD and Community?