

DRAFT

To: Mayor & Town Council
Town of Chapel Hill

From: Roscoe Reeve, Chair
Community Policing Advisory Committee

Date: November 9, 2016

Subject: Yearly Report, 2015-2016

CPAC is pleased to submit to you its annual report on activities of our committee during this last year, 2015-2016.

In summary, CPAC has spent the majority of its meeting times addressing the issues of bias and fairness in the performance of CHPD officers, especially in reviewing, at your request, the concerns and requests sent to you by a coalition of local activists, Orange County Bias Free Policing Coalition (OCBFPC). This coalition included your own JIAC advisory committee and one of our CPAC members.

After reviewing the OCBFPC requests, CPAC began the process of receiving information from Chief Blue on departmental policy, standards and training that had already addressed the issues or were proposed in future plans. This process included a joint work session with the Justice in Action Committee (JIAC) in October that was also attended by OCBFPC members. Eventually, JIAC decided they would develop and complete their own response to the coalition.

Subsequent CPAC agendas continued the process of receiving information and data from CHPD on fair and bias free policing and CPAC discussed the coalition proposals, gave Chief Blue feedback on current or proposed responses, and began to draft a memo to you which was completed in the early spring. CPAC found the department pro-active and open to reviews and new options for achieving bias-free and fair policing. New training was arranged for all in the department with policy and standards reinforced or modified to achieve bias awareness and more trust in the community.

In the area of openness and accountability, Chief Blue discussed with CPAC the role of captured data, in-car cameras and the testing of body camera technology as was mentioned and proposed by the coalition. On-going plans have led to a call for more and better data to sustain or challenge officer contacts with citizens, with an eye towards racial disparity. Cameras have been installed in all patrol cars for many years and provide important information for police performance and evidence collection. Body camera technology has been carefully and limitedly tested seeking to find the best camera performance and the most reasonable cost. While body camera capability is

in the process of expanding, CPAC has been skeptical of its effectiveness and costs. Future focus of CPAC on body cameras will include review and proposals of those policies that will govern their use and disclosure. The State has just set rules on body cameras that could place law enforcement in NC in the middle of the argument for full disclosure of video evidence that may be crucial for investigations of citizens and officer conduct.

CPAC will continue to explore other issues and concerns, including a monthly review of critical policies, standards and training. We have achieved good progress in committee diversity but will continue efforts to maintain or enhance that goal. We also will continue to put emphasis on outreach, both for CHPD events or programs (meet-a-cop coffee, police academy, town hall answer sessions at the library, meetings with community activists and concerned citizen groups, neighborhood watch) and for CPAC (joint meeting with JIAC and coalition invitees).