



City of Colorado Springs

City Hall
107 N. Nevada Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO
80903

Meeting Minutes Council Work Session

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Monday, June 20, 2022

3:00 PM

Council Chambers

Special Meeting for CSPD Use of Force Study Presentation

How to Watch the Meeting

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Facebook Page @coscity Council | SPRINGS TV - Comcast Channel 18 / 880 (HD)
- Stratus IQ Channel 76 / 99 (Streaming)

Estimated agenda item times are provided for planning purposes and do not constitute notice of a specific time for any item. Items may take more or less time than estimated. City Council may amend the order of items.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present 6 - Councilmember Yolanda Avila, Councilmember Stephannie Fortune, Councilmember Nancy Henjum, Councilmember Bill Murray, President Tom Strand, and Councilmember Wayne Williams

Excused 3 - Councilmember Dave Donelson, President Pro Tem Randy Helms, and Councilmember Mike O'Malley

Councilmember Murray and Councilmember Williams attended the meeting virtually.

2. Staff and Appointee Reports

2.A. [22-307](#) Assessment of Colorado Springs Police Department Use of Force Report

Presenter:

Chief Adrian Vasquez, Colorado Springs Police Department
Rick Brown, Lt Colonel (Retired), Pennsylvania State Police
Dr. Robin S. Engel, Professor of Criminal Justice and Director of the IACP/ UC Center for Police Research and Policy, University of Cincinnati

Attachments: [cspd_use_of_force_final_transparency_matters_report_april_2022\(1\)](#)

Chief Adrian Vasquez, Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD), introduced the assessment of CSPD Use of Force Report and Rick Brown, Lieutenant Colonel Retired, Pennsylvania State Police

Mr. Brown went over the scope of work, report overview, research questions, and the findings from the case review of 140 instances of the pointing of a firearm by an Officer, recommendations, and key observations.

Dr. Robin S. Engel, Professor of Criminal Justice and Director of the IACP/UC Center for Police Research and Policy, University of Cincinnati identified the types of data/analysis, and summary of findings.

President Strand asked when this report was presented to the public at the Stargazer's theater. Mr. Brown stated April 26, 2022.

President Strand asked if an assessment like this has been completed for similar sized cities. Dr. Engle stated they have completed use of force assessments for Tulsa, OK, Cincinnati, OH, Austin, TX, and other smaller agencies.

Councilmember Murray asked regarding data collection. Dr. Engel went over the data sources used.

Councilmember Murray asked if the City's use of force is better than other cities. Dr. Engel stated it is very difficult to compare agencies.

Councilmember Murray asked if reasonable search was analyzed. Dr. Engel stated they did not use that data.

Councilmember Williams asked if population variances were determined in the ratio calculations. Dr. Engel stated they do attempt to make those adjustments.

Councilmember Williams asked if the 77,000 arrests were different individuals. Dr. Engel stated that number reflects arrests incidents and included individuals who may get arrested multiple times.

President Strand asked what standard is used to determine whether or not the seizure of an individual by an Officer was appropriate. Mr. Brown stated the Constitution and that the Officer needs to have reasonable suspicion.

Councilmember Henjum asked how many attendees there were in the Officer focus groups. Dr. Engel states there were two groups of twenty-four

Officers and one group of twelve supervisors.

Councilmember Fortune asked if there are any studies done regarding the litigious side of the data. Mr. Brown stated the timely release of information to the public needs to be strategic due to the investigation requirements and legal counsel.

Councilmember Murray asked if all incidents of the use of force by CSPD was assessed. Mr. Brown stated their analysis was strictly based on the pointing of a firearm.

Councilmember Murray asked what the CSPD should know. Mr. Brown stated the pointing of a firearm is not a de-escalation procedure. Dr. Engel stated Officers need to be trained to know when to use force.

Councilmember Murray stated who should be held accountable when training has fallen short. Dr. Engel stated the perception of the Officers and the training program itself would need to be evaluated.

Councilmember Murray asked if the Chief of Police should be vetted from outside the department. Mr. Brown provided the dynamics of promoting from within the department and outside of it.

JJ Frasier, Chair, Law Enforcement Transparency and Advisory Committee (LETAC), asked if the report either confirms or denies racial disparity. Dr. Engel stated they are not able to determine racial bias of Officers by looking at aggregate data.

Steve Kern, Vice Chair, LETAC, asked about the benchmark to be used in determining racial or ethnic disparity. Dr. Engel stated the Census data and arrest data is flawed when used as benchmarks measures for this data and they believe criminal suspect data is a better risk assessment measure.

Ms. Frasier asked if there was a male versus female outcome. Dr. Engel identified the statistics of male uses of force, male arrests, and male population.

Councilmember Avila stated poverty statistics need to be included as a measurement.

Chief Vasquez stated he has a commitment to make CSPD processes and policies better and will be using an outside agency to determine how to incorporate the recommendations of the report.

Councilmember Fortune stated another piece of the puzzle is to address the drug and alcohol issues in the community.

Citizen Jaymen Johnson expressed appreciation for Chief Vasquez, LETAC, Mr. Brown, and Dr. Engel and stated social disparities and interactions with the police needs to be addressed.

3. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before City Council, Council adjourned.

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk