



Agenda Item Report

City Commission - Apr 04 2023

Department	Staff Contact
City Manager's Office	Casey Toomay, Assistant City Manager

Recommendations

Consider adopting Resolution No. 7474 designating members of the Community-Police Oversight Work Group and clarifying its project description, purpose and expectations, and scope of work.

Executive Summary

Resolution No. 7474 concerns the Citizen-Police Oversight Work Group (the Work Group). Challenges with appointments to the Work Group and the delays in commencing its work have caused staff to bring forward for the City Commission's consideration a resolution identifying the membership of the work group and streamlining its work. In an effort to encourage progress of the Work Group, staff recommends the Governing Body remove the expectation that the Work Group focus on previously submitted ordinance amendments, and instead, allow the Work Group to determine its own suggestions for ordinance amendments for improving the complaint process and enhancing citizen oversight. Accordingly, paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of the May 16, 2022, Project Charter are modified to strike the requirement that the Work Group review the draft ordinance prepared by the Community Police Review Board (CPRB). A thorough review and examination of the existing complaint process remains within the Work Group's purview. It is hoped that adoption of Resolution No. 7474 will energize the Work Group so it can commence the very important work of building trust between the Lawrence Police Department and our community.

Alignment to Strategic Plan

Safe and Secure

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact to the City.

Action Requested

Adopt Resolution No. 7474.

Previous Agenda Reports:

[June 7, 2022 City Commission meeting](#)

Attachments

RESOLUTION NO. 7474

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAWRENCE, KANSAS,
DESIGNATING THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY-
POLICE OVERSIGHT WORK GROUP AND CLARIFYING ITS
PROJECT DESCRIPTION, PURPOSE, AND EXPECTATIONS
AND SCOPE OF WORK**

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Lawrence, Kansas (“Governing Body”), affirms its desire to build greater trust between the Lawrence Police Department, its sworn officers, and non-sworn staff and the Lawrence community to help build a community where all people feel safe and secure and have access to trusted public and community-based safety resources;

WHEREAS, the Governing Body is committed to the important work of building trust between the community and the Lawrence Police Department while also advancing the City’s Strategic Plan Commitments to Equity and Inclusion and Engaged and Empowered Teams;

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2022, the Governing Body voted to approve and authorize the mayor to sign the Citizen-Police Oversight Work Group (“Work Group”) Project Charter which was designed to serve as a guide for the work of the Work Group;

WHEREAS, the Project Charter identified the Work Group membership, the Project Description, Project Purpose, and the Project Expectations and Scope of Work, among other provisions;

WHEREAS, the Governing Body deems it necessary and advisable to review and consider certain modifications to the Work Group membership and the Project Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body desires to appoint the members of the Work Group and refine the Work Group’s Project Description, Project Purpose, and Project Expectations and Scope of Work.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING OF THE CITY OF LAWRENCE, KANSAS:

SECTION 1. Recitals. The above-stated recitals are adopted by reference and incorporated herein as if set forth *verbatim*.

SECTION 2. Paragraph 5. (Work Group Membership) of the Project Charter for the Community-Police Oversight Work Group is amended to read as follows:

5. Work Group Membership

The members of the Work Group shall be:

- Brenda Clary
- Gregory Tempel
- Dr. Amilee Turner
- Jordan Bickford

Alex Kimball Williams
Doris Ricks
Harrison Baker
Jacqueline Nance
Rich Lockhart
Anthony Brixius
Kevin Henderson
Ian McCann

If a vacancy in the Work Group Membership occurs before its work is complete, the Mayor shall recommend a person to fill the vacancy, subject to the approval of the Governing Body.

Additional City staff will be available to assist the Work Group with technical knowledge and project support, including members of the City Manager's Office, the Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion and the City Attorney's Office. These employees will not serve as members of the Work Group but may attend meetings in a non-voting capacity.

SECTION 3. Paragraph 1. (Project Description) of the Project Charter for the Community-Police Oversight Work Group is amended to read as follows:

1. Project Description

A comprehensive review of the Lawrence, Kansas, Police Department completed in May 2021 included 75 recommendations for changes to policies, procedures, and other topics. Contained in the report were findings and recommendations pertaining to the handling of complaints against law enforcement officers, community-police relations, public trust and transparency, citizen oversight, and the Community Police Review Board. The proposed project involves a review of the complaint process, relevant findings and recommendations from the Lawrence, Kansas, Police Department Study and relevant laws, regulations, policies, and procedures.

Section 4. Paragraph 2. (Project Purpose) of the Project Charter for the Community-Police Oversight Work Group is amended to read as follows:

2. Project Purpose

Assess existing policies, procedures, systems, and other information relevant to the receipt and investigation of complaints against law enforcement officers in the Lawrence Police Department and citizen oversight of that process.

Section 5. Paragraph 3. (Project Expectations and Scope of Work) of the Project Charter for the Community-Police Oversight Work Group is amended to read as follows:

3. Project Expectations and Scope of Work

The Community-Police Oversight Work Group will review the entire existing process in which complaints against the LKPD are handled, including intake, investigation, resolution, public

reporting, and the CPRB's oversight role. The following provides an outline for topics within the Work Group's purview:

1. Provide feedback to candidate selected to provide facilitation services in support of the Work Group. Oversee the work of the facilitator throughout the project, including any consideration for alterations to the facilitator's scope of work.
2. Document and explain the existing complaint process in a diagram.
3. Assess the existing complaint process to identify concerns and conflicts as well as opportunities to improve trust and transparency.
4. Research and review evidence-based and best practices, policies and procedures for receiving, investigating, resolving and reporting on complaints against law enforcement officers.
5. Assess and make recommendations regarding the CPRB's role and authority in serving in an advisory, oversight, and/or review capacity.
6. Identify goals for CPRB membership, including number of board members, qualifications, and strategies to achieve diverse and inclusive board composition. Review evidence-based and best practices for board member appointment that advance goals for diverse representation and inclusion.
7. Review evidence-based and best practices and make recommendations about public reporting related to the complaint process.
8. Document and explain the proposed complaint process, including roles and responsibilities of each party involved.
9. Produce an executive summary report for the City Commission addressing the work and process conducted by the Work Group and findings and recommendations for Commission consideration.

Section 6. All other provisions of the Project Charter not otherwise modified by this Resolution No. 7474 shall remain unchanged and shall be in full force and effect.

Section 7. The Governing Body encourages the Work Group to work collaboratively and creatively to bring forth proposals that will best serve the Lawrence community and the City of Lawrence employees, unmoored to any specific draft proposal or ordinance framework. The Governing Body further encourages the Work Group to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the Lawrence Police Department's complaint process.

ADOPTED by the Governing Body of the City of Lawrence, Kansas, this _____ day of April, 2023.

APPROVED:

Lisa Larsen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sherri Riedemann
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Toni R. Wheeler
City Attorney

DRAFT