

Arlington Police Department

Juliann Flaherty
Chief of Police



POLICE HEADQUARTERS
112 Mystic Street
781-316-3900

Town of Arlington
MASSACHUSETTS 02474

Date: March 6, 2020

To: Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager

From: Chief Julie Flaherty

Re: Recommendation for Police Chief's Advisory Committee

After researching best practices from the International Chiefs of Police, Police Executive Research Forum, and studying the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing Report, I believe that an Arlington Police Chief's Resident Advisory Committee on 21st Century Policing (PCAC) would be extremely beneficial to the Town. In an effort to further our mission of building and maintaining community relationships, building trust, fostering cooperation, and increasing transparency, I would like to form this commission to involve residents of Arlington in the overall mission of the police department. I envision creating a committee consisting of 11-13 community leaders, members of the Human Rights Commission, Disability Commission, Rainbow Commission, Arlington Public Schools, Student Council Leadership, religious leaders, the Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee, business owners, an elected official, Town Counsel, and a police union representative. The PCAC would provide a forum for discussion and present the chief of police with a diverse spectrum of viewpoints represented by community members.

The mission of the PCAC would be to foster open communication and cooperation among community members and the police department. The PCAC would be tasked with advising and making recommendations to the Chief of Police, enhancing police-community relations by serving as a liaison between the police department and the community, and reviewing and making recommendations on policies, procedures, recruitment, training, culture, and programs. Working with the Chief of Police, the

"Proactive and Proud"

committee would identify areas of focus including homelessness, the opioid crisis, immigration, police officer safety and wellness, and best police practices.

As part of my research, I consulted with Chelsea Police Chief and President of the Massachusetts Major City Chiefs, Brian Kyes, who reinforced my belief that such an initiative was a progressive and exceptional model. Chief Kyes suggested the Framingham Police Department Model, which he was intimate with, as one that proved beneficial to the City of Framingham.

In addition to forming the PCAC, I would engage the services of a consultant with experience in developing benchmarking standards and a comprehensive evaluation instrument to measure the effectiveness of the PCAC and ensure goals and objectives of the committee are accomplished. I believe that through the formation of a PCAC, in addition to our state accreditation assessment, we will continue to move the Arlington Police Department forward as a 21st century police department.

<https://www.framinghamma.gov/2560/Police-Advisory-Committee>

<https://www.policechiefmagazine.org/citizen-advisory-boards-in-contemporary-practice-a-practical-approach-in-policing/>

https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/taskforce_finalreport.pdf (page 46)