



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA

Work Session - Police Reform Procedures

COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE ONLINE ONLY

Due to the COVID-19 precautions, the Council Meeting will be held online and is planned to be cablecast on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996 and streamed to www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv.

Resident participation:

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81204723848?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81204723848?pwd=b0Vsa2dmVDRuMCtwWjVuUWExdzhXUT09)

pwd=b0Vsa2dmVDRuMCtwWjVuUWExdzhXUT09

OR

Join By phone: (301) 715-8592

Meeting ID: 812 0472 3848

Passcode: 274668

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use Video Relay Services (VRS) at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

8:00 PM

Work Session Packet

Police Reform Procedures

Suggested Action:

Reference: Comparison Chart

Draft Resolution

Letter, C. Byrd, 11/22/2021

Agenda

- Introductions
- Council Discussion
- Questions and Answers
- Other Items

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[PoliceReformComparisonChart-AfterWorkSession2021-11-15_TextColorCodes Resolution Ref.pdf](#)
[Draft Resolution.pdf](#)
[byrd_council -- 11_22_2021.pdf](#)

City Council Work Session Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: December 1, 2021

Submitted by: Bonita Anderson

Submitting Department: Administration

Item Type: Work Session Item

Agenda Section: Work Session Packet

Subject:

Police Reform Procedures

Suggested Action:

Reference: Comparison Chart

Draft Resolution

Letter, C. Byrd, 11/22/2021

Agenda

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Attachments:

[PoliceReformComparisonChart-AfterWorkSession2021-11-15_TextColorCodes Resolution Ref.pdf](#)

[Draft Resolution.pdf](#)

[byrd_council -- 11_22_2021.pdf](#)

**Table: Compilation and Comparison of C. Byrd 10 -11 21 Police Reform Proposal; C. Davis Amendments
Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) Recommendations; GPD Response; Zirkin Suggestions**

Color Code	C. Byrd's 10/11/21 Police Reform Proposal (slightly different from Byrd 09/08/21 proposal)	C. Davis' Amendments to Proposal	PSAC 05/05/21 Police Reform recommendations	GPD Department 09/10/21 response	GPD 11/14/2021 response	Stan Zirkin Suggestions 11/03/21 email
Green	I move that the city council direct city staff to take the following actions described below related to reforming policing in Greenbelt.					I move that the City Council direct city staff <u>to direct the Police Department to modify general orders and rules in the following respects:</u>
	De-escalation and Use of Force					
Green	(R1) 1 - Add a definition of de-escalation to the definition section of General Order 616-02.		PSAC recommendation same as Byrd proposal.	The department agrees with this recommendation and updates can be included after the current Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) review is complete in the fall of 2021. The department's assessment cycle runs from October 1 st to September 30 th of each year.	The department can add this to a policy.	

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Green	(R2) 2 - Modify the language of General Order 618 to include "The Department's policy is to use only the reasonable force necessary to accomplish a lawful objective and to apply de-escalation techniques when possible."		PSAC recommendation same as Byrd proposal.	The Use of Force Policy is currently subject to CALEA assessment. Once assessment review is complete, it is the Department's intention to update the use of force policy. These updates are intended to ensure compliance with new State Law and CALEA standards. The Maryland Police Training Commission (MPTC) is tasked with providing guidance for new use of force policy standards.	GO 618 is less lethal weapons, the use of force policy is 616, which already contains this statement. But it could be added	
Green	(R3) 3 – Establish Maintain a system to identify police officers who are considered likely to use excessive force and to retrain, counsel or if needed reassign them.		PSAC recommendation same as Byrd proposal.	The department currently has a system in place to meet this standard. General order 431 Early Intervention Program is designed to identify issues. This policy was updated in June 2020 to incorporate new CALEA mandates. This policy will be updated again to ensure it is in compliance with new laws.	This is already in place, GO 431 Early Intervention Program provides for this.	

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Yellow	(X1) 4 – Issue a general order requiring referral to the state's attorney office for investigation of any officer whose conduct results in a fatality.		PSAC recommendation same as Byrd proposal.	The dept is preparing a new policy to address the changes in the upcoming law. Guidance will be provided by the Attorney General's Office in conjunction with the Maryland State Police for the process of how these investigations will be handled.	This is covered by State law that requires all Attorneys' General Office to investigate. General order modification is ongoing.	
	Duty to Intervene					
Green	(R4) 1 - Modify General Order 202-KK to include anti-retaliation and whistleblower protections.		PSAC recommendation same as Byrd proposal.	The department will make the changes to this order pursuant of the new State law. Currently the City provides "whistleblower" protections in City Code Sec. 13-234(b).	This is being completed.	
	Civil Liberties					
Green	(R5) 1 – Modify the general orders to limit the use of no knock warrants, in accordance with HB670 of the 2021 General Assembly.		PSAC recommendation same as Byrd proposal.		This is being completed.	
Green	(R6) 2 – Modify General Order 638-06 to specify that when forcibly entering a premise, officers must loudly and clearly identify themselves as police officers.		PSAC recommendation same as Byrd proposal.	The department will be modifying the current policy to be consistent with the new State law. These changes pertain to the execution of "no-knock" warrants but will affect the entire policy.	This is being completed.	

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Red	(X2) 3 - Ban the detention of a civilian who is not suspected of a specific crime.		PSAC recommendation same as Byrd proposal.	Current policy and practices are within CALEA, Federal and State standards. However, if a policy lacks clarity it could be updated. Additionally, a detained person can only to be held long enough to determine if there is criminal involvement or upon the completion of official law enforcement matter.	This is problematic as it would prevent officers from acting for status offenses, traffic violations, civil violation, and any city code violation. Additionally, in most investigations, the specific nature of the crime is not known until an investigation can be conducted. Officers may detain a person under a strict set of rules established by the Supreme Court. The department would recommend this section be removed	

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Red	(X3) 4 - Direct staff to reconsider whether GPD interview procedures with juveniles fully met the "doctrine of parens patriae, where the State plays the role of the parent, rather than adversary, to the child" as noted in Section 05 of General Order 804.		PSAC recommendation same as Byrd proposal.	Department policy and practices meet national standards and are audited by CALEA. Furthermore, our policy and practices meet the State of Maryland standards.	The department will review.	
Green	(R7) 5 - Have a provision added to General Orders 804 and 664 (concerning Student Resource Officers, identified in the General Order as first and foremost law enforcement officers) which requires that interrogations be conducted in a "fair, impartial and objective manner" as specified in General Order 105.II.		PSAC recommendation same as Byrd proposal.	The SRO must abide by all agency policies including general order 105. Therefore it would not be needed in a second location. Furthermore, the SRO is bound by additional policy and procedures that are developed by the Board of Education.	The department can add this.	

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Green	(R8/R9) 6 – Require that GPD submit data concerning juveniles arrested between 2017 and 2019; the race and gender of the juvenile charged; the nature of the charges; and how many of these arrests were conducted by the SRO. This data shall be provided every six months for three cycles after which the recommendation will be re-visited regarding the frequency of reports regarding juvenile arrest data.		PSAC recommendation same as Byrd proposal.	The department can provide the data.	The department is preparing the first report, the only question is how the Council would like it published.	
	Transparency					
Green	(R10) 1 - Modify general orders to prohibit officers from preventing civilians from recording police-civilian interactions so long as the person is acting lawfully and safely.		PSAC recommendation same as Byrd proposal.	The department will modify general orders to coincide with the State's codification of regulations.	This is being completed.	

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Green	(R11) 1B		<u>1B - Modify the general orders to allow the public to see some disciplinary and internal affairs records, including complaints ruled baseless, in accordance with April 2021 General Assembly legislation.</u>	The department will modify general orders to coincide with the State's codification of regulations.		
Green	(R12) 2 - Have the definition of 'complaint' broadened so all complaints or concerns about an individual officer's actions and/or Departmental policy can be documented and properly reviewed, even if the ultimate resolution is that the complaint is determined to be 'unfounded' or 'unsubstantiated.'		PSAC recommendation same as Byrd proposal.	General order 635A requires investigation of all complaints, including anonymous ones. The department is required to adhere to the mandate by CALEA standards. Additionally CALEA does not define the word complaint. Unless the State of Maryland defines the word "complaint" in its interpretation of the "Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 attempts to interpret could cause confusion with the State's new process. The department is waiting for guidance from MPTC on policy updates to ensure compliance.	This could revise.	

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Red	(X4) 3 - Modify General Order 674 to require the release of all body camera footage within 7 working days of a request and within 3 working days of a request for footage related to a use of force incident.	Modify General Order 674 to require the release of all body camera footage within 7 working days of <u>any</u> request and within 3 working days of a request for footage related to a use of force incident.	Recommend that General Order 674 incorporate a tiered deadline process to allow for more speedily release of body camera footage, upon request, of those incidents involving use of force, stop and frisk and other serious altercations. This recommendation may have to be modified where the State's Attorney becomes involved in a criminal proceeding involving camera footage.	The department acknowledges this policy needs updating and will do so upon MPTC releasing the State's recommended policy or at the minimal codifying the new regulations. Whatever date is chosen needs to be obtainable. If the turnaround is unreasonable and the agency cannot meet the prescribed time identified in the policy, it could result a loss of public confidence and in a non- compliance issue for CALEA accreditation.	The department prefer a 14-day timeline that is consistent with MPIA rules and the standard set by the IID for release.	
Green	(R13) 4 - Add a provision to General Order 674-6202 saying that, if an officer fails to turn on his/her body camera and/or turns off the body camera without just cause the officer will be subject to discipline up to and including discharge.	Copied from next row for comparison: 5B - Add a provision to General Order 674-6 stating that the police officer going out on patrol has the responsibility to assure that he or she has a working body camera and that failure to do so could result in discipline up to and including discharge.	PSAC recommendation same as Byrd proposal.	The body camera policy sets out the practice and procedure which officers are to adhere to. The department does not include possible sanctions for policy violations in policy. All discipline and sanctions are outlined in general orders 202 and 401. The department conducts audits to ensure compliance to the policy and provides training, counseling and discipline as needed	The department is adding this new rule be GO 202, code of conduct and recommends that it only appear in that order.	

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	(R13) 5B				This general order already requires officer to ensure that the camera functions prior to the start of each shift and GO 202 provides for progressive discipline for failing to adhere to the policy.	5B - Add a provision to General Order 674-6 stating that the police officer going out on patrol has the responsibility to assure that he or she has a working body camera and that failure to do so could result in discipline up to and including discharge.
Red	(X5) 6 - Add a provision to General Order 674-09(C) saying that stop and frisk incidents based on suspicion be included on the list of incidents that the supervisor shall review.		PSAC recommendation same as Byrd proposal.	This would require research but could be considered during the general order modification to see if the request can be accommodated.	The department would propose language that the review would in place for terry stops where the purpose of the stop is for solely weapons.	

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Green	(R14) 7 - Require GPD to make the terms of such settlements public on a yearly basis.	Require GPD to make terms of such settlements <u>over police misconduct</u> public on a yearly basis, <u>except those exempted by Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT)</u> . <u>Excluded from disclosure through redactions should be any terms in the settlement labelled confidential by the parties and otherwise ensuring privacy by excluding the names and addresses of the parties to the settlement.</u>	Recommend Council consider requiring GPD to make the terms of such settlements public on a yearly basis. Excluded from disclosure through redactions should be any terms in the settlement labelled confidential by the parties and otherwise ensuring privacy by excluding the names and addresses of the parties to the settlement.	While there have not been any recent settlements. The City follows the guidance of its insurance carrier, Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) in these matters. LGIT will make professional recommendations but the final decision on lawsuits rest with City Management and City Council. Additionally legal settlements typically carry confidentiality agreements that may prohibit any public release.	The department has no concerns with this item, it would council's decision.	

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Green	(R15) 8 - Require that new general orders or modifications to existing orders be submitted to the city manager, city council, and PSAC at least four business days prior to the change.	Require that new general orders or modifications to existing orders be submitted to the <u>C</u> ity <u>M</u> anager, <u>C</u> ity <u>C</u> ouncil and PSAC at least four business days prior to the change.	Recommend new general orders or modifications to existing orders be submitted to the Public Safety Officer/City Manager either before or after implementing changes to the general orders (as agreed to by these parties). After implementation, the City Manager or City Manager's designee are to forward the submission/s to PSAC within two weeks of implementation. Implementation of these changes is not and shall not be dependent upon PSAC comment.	It would not be an issue to provide notice to PSAC when general orders are updated. When general orders are changed they are made available to the public through the city webpage.	The department already makes policies public and would not have any issues.	
	Militarization					

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Green	(deleted) 1 - By January 2024, require that GPD assess the utilization of the department's existing military vehicle, and determine whether there is a compelling public safety need to retain the vehicle or whether there are other ways to satisfactorily meet the public safety interest currently being served by that military vehicle.	Delete, due to vehicle beyond useful condition.	The April 2021 legislation puts limits on what type of military equipment police departments can obtain from DOD. The GPD has to follow this law.	The department will modify any policies to come into compliance with State law once the anticipated State direction is provided. The department is currently exploring the process of returning the rescue vehicle to the State of Maryland due to maintenance issues.	The current vehicle is scheduled for deadline.	

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	Hiring					
Green	(R16) 1 - Require that a specialist in law enforcement recruitment diversity be hired by the Department by the end of Fiscal Year 2023.	Require that a specialist in law enforcement recruitment, <u>promotion, and retention diversity</u> be hired <u>or contracted by the Department City to assist in improving GPD diversity as soon as practical by the end of Fiscal Year 2023.</u>	Recommend that a specialist in law enforcement recruiting be hired by the Department to assist in improving GPD diversity statistics.	The departments hiring process is closely monitored by City Human Resources and audited by CALEA. The department does recognize the need to have a workforce that is reflective of the city population. Anything that would help with this endeavor would be appreciated up to and including the hiring of a recruiter that could specialize in recruiting outreach programs.	The department would like to defer this topic to the Human Resources office. However, questions about funding and type of employee would need to be provided.	
	Training					
Green	(R17) 1 - Maintain ongoing training and attention first and foremost to officer and civilian safety as well as assuring the incorporation of de-escalation techniques and awareness of the influence of bias, conscious, or unconscious.		PSAC recommendation same as Byrd proposal.		These topics are currently part of regular in-service training and will continue to be emphasized.	

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	Stop and Frisk					
Red	(X6) 1 - Expressly ban all stop and frisk tactics that have been declared unconstitutional, including those tactics that were found unconstitutional in the case of <i>Floyd v. City of New York</i> .		Recommend definitions of reasonable suspicion, proactively patrol and aggressively patrol be added to General Orders 620 and that examples of suspicious person and circumstances be provided.	The general orders provide definitions where possible, we can review and determine if needed.	The department would propose a policy on Constitutional Policing to address these areas if not covered by current policy.	
Red	(X7) 2 - Expressly prohibit stopping people solely based on race and gender.		Recommend the General Order enumerate that the criteria for implementing the frisk of a suspect is the suspicion that the suspect is armed	Officers are trained to adhere to the standards of Terry v Ohio when determining when to conduct a Terry stop. Any modification must conform to existing legal standards.		

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	Other					
Green	(R18) 1 - Require that at the time a citation is being issued, officers explain to each traffic violator receiving a citation that traffic court has the authority to dismiss or reduce the ticket and/or fine upon hearing a plea of not guilty or guilty with an explanation from the violator. In order to assure uniformity in the information provided, it is recommended that a card with this information be printed, English on one side Spanish on the other, for the officer to provide to each traffic violator receiving a citation, so that the traffic violator receives the information both verbally and in written form.	(delete—In order to assure uniformity in the information provided, it is recommended that a card with this information be printed, English on one side, Spanish on the other, for the officer to provide to each traffic violator receiving a citation, so that the traffic violator receives the information both verbally and in written form). This information is already printed on the citation itself.	PSAC recommendation same as Byrd proposal.	The State of Maryland District Court explains this information on the citation form DR-49E. This information has been reviewed and has been found by CALEA to be within national standards. The department should not create a separate set of directions that may cause conflict with the courts. The department provides additional resources for non-English speakers, with the use of a translator. This can be done either in person or via telephone on the language line.	The department concurs with Councilmember Davis	

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Green	(R19) 2 - Require that GPD submit quarterly reports regarding traffic stops and traffic stop outcomes for ongoing review. After three cycles, the recommendation can be revisited regarding the frequency of reports regarding traffic stops and traffic stop outcomes.	Require that GPD submit semi-annually (delete—quarterly) reports regarding traffic stops and traffic stop outcomes for ongoing review. After three cycles, the recommendation can be revisited regarding the frequency of reports regarding traffic stops and traffic stop outcomes.	PSAC recommendation same as Byrd proposal.	The department would recommend that any reports be completed not more than yearly. The process of collecting, analyzing and publishing the data is time consuming and would prove to be taxing on staff as well as provide limited comparisons. Additionally, the department is contracting with the University of Maryland to conduct an analysis of several years of traffic data which will be available later in 2021.	The department already produces the report but would prefer to maintain it as a yearly report.	

Yellow	(X7) 3 - Require Request that GPD <u>explore the feasibility of capturing</u> provide data on the number of all stops and frisks based on suspicion for the last three years, 2018—2020, including race, gender, age range of the person, <u>[Greenbelt residence status/city of residence/resident or non-resident/place of residence]</u>, details of the reason for the suspicion and whether the person was subsequently arrested.	Delete this bullet until the Department obtains a new system that can provide this information. Its current system cannot. Require that GPD provide data on the number of all stop(delete—s) and frisks based on suspicion for the last three years, 2018—2020, including race, gender, age range of the person, details of the reason for suspicion and whether the person was subsequently arrested.	PSAC recommendation same as Byrd proposal.	The department captures data for all calls for service, about 24,000 per year. The system does not capture if the call involved a Terry pat down and the department would not be able to provide a break down by age, race and gender for all of those calls for service. The department does capture demographic data related to arrests including the criminal charge. The department is currently engaged in other data collection projects including a data analysis of traffic stops being conducted by the University of Maryland. A second long term project is underway collecting demographic data for all Uniform Crime Report (UCR) related incidents. Lastly the department does not engage in a program of stop and frisk similar to the NYPD program. Officers only engage with individuals based on specific facts or circumstances and that justifies stopping a person thought to be involved in criminal activity at the time. Officers do not stop and detain individuals when there is no reasonable belief that criminal activity is occurring.	The department concurs with Councilmember Davis	
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Yellow	(X7) 3B		3B - Following review of the initial data provided, a follow-up recommendation will be made as to the frequency of ongoing data regarding frisks based on suspicion.			
Green	(R20) 4 - Require GPD to reconsider its policy to retain photographs of <u>individuals</u> whom GPD suspects, based on "reasonable articulable suspicion", may have committed crimes but who are not arrested because of lack of probable cause. If it is concluded that GPD has a compelling need to retain such photographs, require that the photographs be expunged after no more than one year.		PSAC recommendation same as Byrd proposal.	Further research warranted; however photos have a compelling use during investigations. Detectives regularly use photos to identify individuals involved in crime.	The department can review the policy.	

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Green	(R21) 4 - Require that a new general order be developed emphasizing GPD's commitment to community policing/guardian mindset of "protect and serve" rather than a warrior "law and order" mindset. The new General Order would confirm the value GPD places on the collaborative nature of community policing and the integration of community policing concepts in all of its interactions with the community.		PSAC recommendation same as Byrd proposal.	The department has policy that provides guidance in this area. General order 100 provides for the department's mission statement. This mission statement can be reviewed and updated as needed. Further, City staff is bound by the City Community Pledge which promotes community values.	The department can complete this, but it may not need to be a new policy, but a re-write of an existing one.	

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Green	(R22) 4B		<u>4B - Recommend that the GPD subscribe to and participate in the National Use of Force Database and the National Police Officer Decertification Database if and when the IACP proposals on police reform are adopted and implemented. Recommend that Council consider endorsing some or all of the IACP police reform proposals as noted in Appendix B of original doc.</u>	The department regularly follows proposals made by organizations such as the IACP. Some the department's current policies are based on IACP model policies. Additionally, in the event that any national databases are created CALEA would likely mandate their use.		
Civilian Oversight						
Green	(R23)		<u>The general orders must be consistent with the new legislation regarding the establishment of a civilian majority board to decide complaints against officers.</u>	General order modification to coincide with the State's codification of regulations.		

Introduced:
1st Reading: October 11, 2021
Passed:
Posted:
Effective:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2XXX

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE DIRECTION TO THE CITY MANAGER TO DIRECT MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN POLICE GENERAL ORDERS.

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to continue to build trust and transparency related to the practices of the Greenbelt Police department, and

WHEREAS, the City Council directs staff to modify certain General Orders as described.

NOW THEREFORE, the police department will:

1. Add language to General Order 616 with a definition of de-escalation.
2. Add language to General Order 618 to include “The Department’s policy is to use only the reasonable force necessary to accomplish a lawful objective and to apply de-escalation techniques when possible.”
3. Maintain a system to identify police officers who are considered likely to use excessive force and to retrain, counsel or if needed reassign them as described in General Order 431.
4. Add language to the General Order 202 to include anti-retaliation and whistleblower protections.
5. Modify the general orders to limit the use of no knock warrants, in accordance with HB670 of the 2021 General Assembly and restrict the usage of such tactics for instances that are required for the preservation of life.
6. Add language to General Order 638 to specify that when forcibly entering a premise, officers must loudly and clearly identify themselves as police officers.
7. Add language to the general orders concerning Student Resource Officers (SRO) that interrogations be conducted in a “fair, impartial and objective manner” as specified in General Order 105.
8. Produce semiannual reports on juvenile arrests data to include race, gender, charges and if the arrest was completed by the School Resource Officer.

9. Produce the report described in number eight (8) for the calendar years 2017, 2018 and 2019.
10. Modify the general orders to prohibit officers from preventing civilians from recording police-civilian interactions so long as the person recording is acting lawfully and safely.
11. Modify policy regarding the release of internal investigation files as needed to comply with Maryland MPIA laws effective October 1, 2021.
12. Provide a definition under General Order 635 to broaden the definition of a “complaint” so all concerns about performance and policy can be reviewed, even if the ultimate resolution is that the complaint is determined to be ‘unfounded’ or ‘unsubstantiated.’
13. Add a rule under General Order 202 related to the proper operation of body worn cameras, instructing officers to activate the cameras at the beginning of their shift, during all law enforcement related encounters and activities, further cameras must remain on during the totality of the event in compliance with department policy.
14. Publically disseminate the terms of settlements over police misconduct on a yearly basis, except those exempted by Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT). Excluded from disclosure through redactions should be any terms in the settlement labelled confidential by the parties and otherwise ensuring privacy by excluding the names and addresses of the parties to the settlement.
15. Provide notice of changes to general orders to the City Manager, City Council and Public Safety Advisory Committee.
16. Provide for, in conjunction with the City’s HR department, a specialist in law enforcement recruitment, promotion, and retention to assist in diversity.
17. Continue to provide ongoing training in de-escalation techniques and the awareness of the influence of bias in policing.
18. Make available, if requested by traffic offenders at the time a citation is being issued, information in Spanish on procedures for satisfying the traffic citation including the right to a trial in Maryland district Court and direct the offender to resources.
19. Produce semiannual reports on traffic stops with data related to stop outcomes. The frequency of these reports will be evaluated after three reporting periods.
20. Conduct a review of the policy related to the retention of photographs of individuals who were stopped, but not charged with a criminal violation. The recommended retention length is one year after the date of the stop.

21. Modify the relevant community policing general orders with an emphasis on the guardian policing model. The policy will address the collaborative nature of community policing and the integration of community policing concepts in the departments interactions with the community.
22. Participate in a nation database on police decertification and/or use of force database if such national databases are created in the future.
23. Ensure that policies and practices are consistent with changes to Maryland law related to civilian oversight.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland

November 22, 2021

Colleagues:

The police reform resolution prepared by Mr. George and Chief Bowers reflects much of the consensus on the city council around various police reform matters, but there are three key issues that I would like to raise before the city council approves to the resolution:

No knock warrants

First, the language on no-knock warrants does not reflect the consensus of the city council. Indeed, Councilmember Gordon and I (and perhaps others) have suggested that the police reform measures in Greenbelt include language prohibiting the Greenbelt Police Department from using no-knock warrants. While the current resolution does reference 'limiting' the use of no-knock warrants, that is still quite different from prohibiting the department from using them outright. I do not recall a consensus being reached on excluding the more explicit ban requested by Councilmember Gordon from the new measures.

Body cameras

Second, the language on body cameras is insufficient. It does discuss requiring officers to turn and keep their cameras on, but it does not make any reference to disciplinary action being the result of violating this requirement. It also does not address requiring footage to be released more expeditiously, particularly in use of force cases. These are issues that we discussed and that we must come to a consensus and act on.

Disciplinary records transparency

Third, the language in the resolution related to releasing records related to internal affairs investigations is extremely vague. It should be clear that this

resolution grants the public the right to request and see police disciplinary records, including records related to complaints of alleged misconduct. As you know, this is an issue that has been raised both by the city council and PSAC.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Colin Byrd
Councilmember
City of Greenbelt