

HAMDEN POLICE CHIEF COMMUNITY INPUT AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE

May 29, 2019

Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm by Chairman Keith King.

Chairman King initiated introductions of the members who spoke of their background and interest: Anthony Harper, Dominique Baez, Scott Jackson, Elana Williams Rountree, and Valerie Horsley. The group was joined by Mayor Curt Balzano Leng.

Mayor Leng thanked the participants for agreeing to join this important endeavor. He envisions the committee hosting public input sessions around the Town; where and when at the discretion of the committee. He is also seeking input on recommended updates to the current job description, which was distributed. Mayor Leng is looking for a transformative leader skilled in advancing the principles of community policing and a candidate who offers the opportunity for longevity, which is necessary for transformational change. He would like to see as widespread distribution of the opportunity as possible. In response to other questions, he prioritized a demonstrable commitment to ethics and integrity in the position as well as experience that will earn the trust of current and future sworn officers. Education and training are important and related field experience could be very valuable, especially as it relates to responding to circumstances related to circumstances involving mental health issues. A diverse pool of candidates is important, one that reflects the entire community. Mayor Leng clarified the role of the Police Commission: it approves policy; certain discipline; approves the organizational chart; approves the hiring of classified positions; and is the recipient of citizen complaints.

The committee decided that they would meet on Wednesdays at 6pm and schedule public hearings in Southern Hamden, Central Hamden, and Northern Hamden over the summer to solicit citizen input. Tentative dates discussed for public meetings were determined as June 19, June 26, and July 10, 2019. The committee suggested using postcards, social media/website and other innovative strategies to maximize the opportunity to participate. The committee must strategize how to hear complaints that may divert attention from the executive search.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.