

NAME

The name of this *ad hoc* committee shall be the “Police Services Review Working Group”.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the *ad hoc* Police Services Review Working Group shall be to present the South Portland City Council with recommendations as to whether there should be changes to how certain calls for service are responded to by the City of South Portland.

Unless their charge is extended by a majority vote of the City Council, the Working Group shall be considered dissolved upon presentation of their recommendations at a meeting of the City Council.

MEMBERSHIP

The Working Group shall be comprised of nine voting members who shall serve until the Working Group is dissolved. These members shall include:

- The Police Chief (or designee);
- The Fire Chief (or designee);
- The Behavioral Health Liaison;
- The Social Services Director;
- The Finance Director (or designee);
- A City Councilor, to be selected by the City Council; and
- Three residents, to be appointed by the City Council from a list of applicants, one of whom shall also be interested in serving on the yet-to-be-formed Human Rights Commission.

A facilitator shall be hired to lead the Working Group meetings and assist the group with its duties, to include preparing and presenting the final report to City Council.

The Working Group should endeavor to invite other professionals in the policing, social services, and health services professions to attend meetings and/or provide information to the Working Group members to assist in their decision-making process.

MEETINGS

The Working Group shall meet as needed at its sole discretion. Notice of each meeting shall comply with the City’s notice policies and Maine’s Freedom of Access Act.

DUTIES

As part of its duties, the Working Group shall:

- First answer the following question before embarking on other duties: “There is a perception that some calls for service are escalated into a worse situation due to the response of a uniformed, armed police officer, and that these scenarios could be handled more appropriately by different personnel, such as a social worker. Is there evidence in South Portland that these types of calls result in an escalated response and that the individual(s) in need of assistance do not receive such assistance?” (The Working Group should reach consensus as to what defines an “escalated response”.) Statistics and examples should be used to help answer this question. The response to this question, along with other considerations (i.e. cost

savings, relief on stress to police officers, and resident health and welfare) shall serve as the basis for undertaking the following duties:

- Research other models of providing a response to certain calls for service that either may not require the presence of a police officer or involve both a police officer and other professional, such as a social worker.
- Evaluate whether these other models would be beneficial and/or necessary in South Portland.
 - If so, provide a recommendation to the City Council. This recommendation should include a review of all options studied; the problem identified in South Portland that is intended to be addressed; the selected option and how it will address the problem identified as existing in South Portland; and an estimate of the associated costs to implement such a program. The recommendation should also provide a measurable outcome(s) for the City to track so that it can evaluate the effectiveness of this new program in addressing the stated problem.
 - If not, provide a review of all options studied and explain why the Working Group believes a problem does not exist or is not likely to exist in South Portland that would necessitate the implementation of such a model.

DEADLINE

The Working Group should be prepared to present its report to the City Council no later than Tuesday, February 9, 2021.