

## MINUTES

### Eugene City Council Virtual Work Session Eugene, Oregon 97401

November 16, 2020  
5:30 p.m.

**Councilors Present:** Betty Taylor, Emily Semple, Alan Zelenka, Jennifer Yeh, Claire Syrett, Chris Pryor, Greg Evans

**Councilors Absent:** Mike Clark

Mayor Vinis opened the November 16, 2020, work session of the Eugene City Council.

#### 1. **WORK SESSION: Civilian Review Board Annual Report**

Chair of the Civilian Review Board Lindsey Foltz provided information about the Civilian Review Board 2019 Annual Report.

##### Council Discussion:

- Mayor Vinis – expressed support for the work being done by the CRB and Police Auditor’s Office staff; commented on the outreach efforts and expressed appreciation for specific access improvements for the Spanish-speaking population; asked why complaints had increased each year.
- Councilor Syrett – thanked staff for their work; expressed appreciation for outreach efforts and asked if staff had seen an increase in engagement with Spanish-speaking populations lodging complaints with the Police Auditor’s Office.
- Councilor Evans – discussed the disproportionate percentage of stops of African Americans and asked for clarification of the statistic; asked if there was a correlation between hate crimes statistics and the Police statistics for African Americans.
- Councilor Pryor – expressed appreciation for staff and their work; said the goal of starting the Auditor’s Office was to change the culture of the Police Department; discussed the impact of individual police officers who have multiple justified complaints on this effort to improve the department culture, and ways to weed them out.
- Councilor Zelenka – discussed the types of complaints, seeking clarification of how they are characterized; asked how Eugene compares to other cities with a Police Auditor’s Office and CRB system; discussed the hard work that went into establishing the civilian review process and expressed appreciation for the staff who have implemented it.
- Councilor Yeh – expressed appreciation and thanks to staff; asked how the CRB could increase the number of cases they review; discussed how the CRB regards training as being critically important and looks at trends with young officers.
- Councilor Evans – noted how police officers move around to different agencies and that it’s important that the City looks at officer backgrounds closely before hiring; asked if there were standards and policies for hiring practices to protect the City from hiring those with misconduct charges from previous departments.

#### 2. **WORK SESSION: Police Auditor Update**

Deputy Police Auditor Leia Pitcher provided information about the Police Auditor Update.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Zelenka – asked about the dramatic increase in minor complaints; asked about the frequency of CRB and Police Auditor disagreements with the Police Chief on adjudication; inquired about the influence the groups have on police policy.
- Councilor Yeh – asked about the statistic indicating that internal complaints in EPD are going down each year.
- Councilor Evans – asked if staff were keeping count of the number of complaints police are responding to for homeless camps; inquired if there more homeless people coming in to lodge complaints against the police; discussed the claim that the City is creating an atmosphere where it is criminalizing the homeless.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie Adams  
Deputy City Recorder

Link to the webcast of this City Council meeting [here](#).