

THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON 21ST CENTURY POLICING

**Minutes from the Deliberative Session
Polaris Room
Ronald Reagan Building
Washington, D.C.**

February 24, 2015

Attendance

Task Force Members: Charles Ramsey, Laurie Robinson, Cedric L. Alexander, Jose Lopez, Tracey L. Meares, Brittany Packnett, Susan Lee Rahr, Constance Rice, Sean Michael Smoot, Bryan Stevenson, Roberto Villaseñor.

Staff and Agency Personnel: Ronald Davis, Darrel Stephens, Steven Rickman, Melanca Clark, Katherine McQuay, Charlotte Grzebien, Deborah Spence, Laurel Matthews, Silas Darden, Michael Franko, Jennifer Rosenberger, Shannon Long, James Copple, Colleen Copple, Jessica Drake, Jason Drake, Letitia Harmon, Steven Minson, Elizabeth Simpson.

Discussion

Charles Ramsey called meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. The task force read and discussed recommendations as submitted by the subcommittees and posted on the task force web site.

James Copple laid out the process noting that staff members were looking for the intent, saying the task force won't wordsmith unless a word alters the meaning of the recommendation. If they think something belongs in the broader narration or preamble, they can move it there. Other recommendations can move to another pillar, because that is where they properly belong. If there are implementation steps where they don't have agreement, they go into the "parking lot" for future discussion and resolution.

All of the recommendations in pillars 1, 2, 3, and 4, as well as the overarching recommendations, were discussed with a few items moved to the parking lot. Areas of significant conversation were as follows:

- Clarifying the difference between internal and external procedural justice. Tracey Meares noted that procedural justice refers to the ways in which people make decisions about treatment, whether that treatment is about a police officer individually or how the organization is run. The target of that treatment can be a person on the street or a police officer.
- The decoupling language about Homeland Security and local law enforcement as well as clarifying the intent and language of the immigration related action steps.

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- Why not to focus on body-worn cameras in the recommendations. Brittany Packnett noted that technology is so quickly produced. That list of existing technologies grows every single day. When we delineated technology, we captured video, audio, and something about biometric sensitive information. We are essentially trying to say it's not just cameras. There was also discussion around how those technologies that capture this sensitive information should be tamper proof.
- The recommendations concerning independent investigation of use of force incidents. Brayan Stevenson noted that the Policy and Oversight subcommittee has discussed this at length and said that the way he would talk about this to law enforcement is pulled out of judicial issues such as recusal if the judge has a relationship with a party. It is not that the judge is unfair, but it's about the appearance of impropriety and impartiality. If it looks unfair, it undermines the integrity of a court so much that you lose more than you gain. In our case, the appearance is so important that whether or not you need it, it has to be part of what you do.
- What “military tactics and military equipment” means both in the public realm and within departments, noting that it is how the equipment is used that is really the issue. There also was protracted debate over the necessity of civilian review boards, with Susan Rahr noting that based on testimony they heard and read, there is a great deal of information that indicates some type of civilian review or oversight is necessary. What that looks like can be determined by the community. Consensus was reached around the idea that every community should define the type of civilian oversight it has. Not the need for it, but the type.
- Whether making recommendations to schools is part of their mandate. Roberto Villaseñor noted that they weren't talking about courts and jails and county attorneys and worried that directing recommendations to schools could cause problems for this report. The agreement was reached to change language from “schools should” to “law enforcement should work with schools to...” in order to put the onus on law enforcement.

At 7:23 p.m., the meeting was adjourned due to time. It was agreed to reconvene by conference call in the morning to discuss pillars 5 and 6.

Minutes Certified By Co-Chairs: 4/24/2015