



FACT SHEET—Q & A

Police & Community Ad Hoc Working Group

Q. What does “oversight” mean? What does “oversight” include?

A. “Oversight” is a general term that may include a wide spectrum of activities from the direct, day-to-day legal and managerial responsibility for determining operating and personnel management policies performed by Police Chiefs, City Managers and City Attorneys, to the political oversight and stewardship performed by elected officials, to general advice, public opinion and perspective provided by Laramie citizens and visitors who are the beneficiaries of policing services.

Q. Will the proposed ad hoc committee perform oversight of the police department?

A. No. As recommended by the City Manager in Resolution 2021-18, the ad hoc working group will not have any authority to exercise any form of oversight of the Laramie Police Department.

Q. Is it appropriate for police officers to sit on working groups like the one proposed?

A. That depends on the focus and purpose of the group. Police officers often participate on working groups where education and community relations are the focus like the proposed ad hoc working group - although there are almost always limitations on how many members may be law enforcement officials. It is much less common for police officers to serve on citizen oversight boards.

Q. Is it appropriate for citizen lay-persons to sit on working groups like the one proposed?

A. Yes. It is common practice across the country for citizens to participate in their local government and have input on the services it provides, including policing! In this capacity, residents may review policing actions and policies, gain understanding and provide advice to professional management and elected officials. Nearby examples of citizen policing-oriented groups include Fort Collins and Cheyenne, to name a few.

Q. What will the ad hoc committee do?

A. “Ad hoc” groups are temporary and must complete their assigned work within a predetermined amount of time. The ad hoc group proposed in Resolution 2021-18 must first become educated and knowledgeable about municipal policing practices and policies and then, within six months, will provide advice to city leadership about:

- community values, needs, and priorities for policing services
- potential solutions and methods for meeting the values, needs and priorities of the community for policing services
- how best to build understanding, effective communication and trust between Laramie’s police department and the community, and
- transparency and accountability

Q. Will the ad hoc committee make policy for the police department?

A. No. Resolution 2020-18 does not grant any form of policymaking authority to the ad hoc working group. The working group may *only* provide advise as described above.

Q. How will the city enact the recommendations of the ad hoc group?

A. All recommendations of the ad hoc group will be reviewed by professional staff to determine whether the recommendations are legally permissible and appropriate and, thereafter, will be considered by the governing body. The city may, or may not, enact any recommendation of the ad hoc group at its sole discretion.

Q. Will the ad hoc committee lead to the formation of an oversight board?

A. No. Resolution 2020-18 does not predetermine or dictate any outcome as might result from the ad hoc group.