

Working Group for Police & Community - Group Memory Meeting September 30, 2021

Meeting Goal: The primary purpose of this meeting was to gain a better understanding of the City of Cheyenne Police Department Use of Force Review Board and begin a broader discussion about Citizen Review Boards.

Co-Chair Welcome: The session began with welcoming remarks from the committee co-chairs. The co-chairs discussed the Laramie Use of Force Policy information provided to the committee, noting these materials can help inform future conversations.

Remarks on the City of Cheyenne Police Department Use of Force Review Board: Guest speaker Brian Kozak, former Cheyenne Chief of Police, provided remarks on Cheyenne's Use of Force Review Board. Committee members asked clarifying questions that considered issues related to confidentiality, statutory protections of personnel records, the distinction between the Use of Force Committee and the civil service commission, qualification criteria for the citizen members, interest of community members in serving on the board, and evaluation of the board.

Small Group Discussions of Reactions to the Presentation: The committee had an opportunity to break into small groups to consider the remarks and the potential for using a citizen review board in Laramie. Members of the small groups reported back to the committee the issues discussed, including topics such as:

- The need to promote transparency between the police and the community
- The appropriate training needs of citizen board members and the proportion of citizen representatives.
- The importance of having buy-in from both the community and police
- Concerns about meeting statutory requirements for confidentiality, particularly relating to personnel records
- The need for survey and statistical data to evaluate the effectiveness of a review board
- The scope of the review board's charge could be broader or narrower than the Cheyenne model