

Working Group for Police & Community - Group Memory Meeting October 14, 2021

Meeting Goal: The primary purpose of this meeting was to gain a better understanding of options for citizen oversight boards and begin a broader discussion on the options suited to Laramie.

Pre-meeting Preparation: Prior to the meeting, committee members were asked to watch a presentation from the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE), available at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BXTBdFuLtYY>.

Co-Chair Welcome & Facilitator Introduction of Topic: The session began with welcoming remarks from the committee co-chairs. In addition, the Facilitators reminded committee members of the shared values discussed in an early committee meeting to frame today's discussion.

Guided Large Group Discussions of Reactions to the Presentation: The committee had an opportunity to discuss the NACOLE presentation using discussion questions provided by the Co-chairs. The discussion questions included questions about why NACOLE posits that citizen oversight is necessary, the relative importance of the goals of citizen oversight, the model of citizen oversight that would be most applicable to Laramie, and necessary qualifications for oversight board members.

In this discussion, it was noted that this committee has not yet determined whether a civilian oversight board is necessary in Laramie. However, this conversation is a useful way to assess its potential relevance as a proactive measure. In addition, there was conversation around the long-term challenges and potential benefits associated with a civilian oversight board.

Finally, the committee discussed topics that could be under the purview of a citizen review board, including:

- Reviewing complaints and reporting back to the community
- Reviewing and auditing police training
- Outreach, including providing the community with information about policing practices and training
- Providing a channel for communication with the community in collaboration with the police department
- Reviewing use of force situations