

Working Group for Police & Community - Group Memory Meeting October 28, 2021

Meeting Goal: The primary purpose of this meeting was to gain a better understanding of the process for receiving and responding to complaints regarding police in Laramie, focusing on citizen complaints.

Pre-meeting Preparation: Prior to the meeting, committee members were asked to review the relevant Laramie policies—including ADM 10 and ADM 14—as well as the 2020 LPD Annual Report.

Co-Chair Welcome & Facilitator Introduction of Topic: The session began with welcoming remarks from the committee co-chairs who expressed an interest in the committee learning more about the ways citizen complaints are received and investigated.

Presentation on the Laramie Processes for Receiving and Responding to Complaints: This week Chief Stalder, City Manager Jordan, and City Attorney Southard presented remarks on how the City and Police Department receive and respond to complaints from citizens (and others including City employees). The remarks referenced ADM 10 and ADM 14 as guiding policies, and referenced the General Orders Manual as guiding appropriate officer conduct. The remarks noted that there are currently multiple avenues for reporting (e.g., directly to the police department via the website, the City Manager’s Office, etc.) including the option for anonymous reporting. All reported complaints are documented and investigated. In addition, they discussed how results of investigations are reported back to the person making the complaint. The speakers noted the interactions and cooperation between the police and the city in responding to complaints.

Committee members asked clarifying questions that considered issues related proper documentation and impartiality; concerns regarding retaliation for filing complaint; publicizing reporting options; engagement with marginalized communities; and Laramie Police Department’s use of early intervention systems to identify problematic conduct.

Small Group Discussions on the Complaint Processes: The committee had an opportunity to break into small groups to consider the remarks. Members of the small groups reported back to the committee the issues discussed, including topics such as:

- Opportunities for innovative two-way communication between the police and community, on topics such as complaints.
- The challenges of ensuring diverse representation of community members on boards and commissions for the purpose ensuring marginalized communities have voice.
- The opportunity for leveraging University resources for greater community engagement, including engagement with marginalized communities.