**Approved**

**CITY OF YPSILANTI**
**POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS/BLACK LIVES MATTER**
**JOINT TASK FORCE**
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2016 - 7:00 P.M.**
**YPSILANTI CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**
**ONE SOUTH HURON, YPSILANTI, MI 48197**

## I. CALL TO ORDER –

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

## II. ROLL CALL –

**TASK FORCE**

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| Council Member Nicole Brown, Chair | Present |
| HRC Commissioner Jennifer Symanns | Present |
| Council Member Anne Brown | Absent |
| HRC Commissioner John Shuler, Co-Chair | Present |
| Council Member Brian Robb | Absent |
| HRC Commissioner Theresa Saunders | Present |

## III. INVOCATION –

Council Member Nicole Brown asked all to stand for a moment of silence.

## IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –

"I pledge allegiance to the flag, of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

## V. AGENDA APPROVAL –

**Commissioner Shuler moved, seconded by Commissioner Symanns to approve the agenda as submitted.**

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the agenda was approved.

## VI. MINUTES

— August 8, 2016

**Commissioner Saunders moved, seconded by Commissioner Symanns to approve the minutes as submitted.**

On a voice vote, the motion carried and the minutes were approved

## VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS –

1. Community Oversight/ Citizen Review Board
    a. Sub-Committee Report

Sub-Committee Member Denese Brown informed the Task Force the Sub-Committee had met three times since June to assess what the goal would be for an oversight board. Ms. Denese Brown explained it was determined the goal would be to provide effective policing and procedural justice. Ms. Denese Brown stated Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson, another member of the sub-committee, suggested a community forum to discuss best practices. Commissioner Saunders added Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson has a contact in Southfield which has a successful citizen's board in place that could provide best practices in how the board should be structured.

Council Member Nicole Brown asked if asked if any communities similar to Ypsilanti were examined. Ms. Denese Brown responded several communities were examined.

Commissioner Shuler asked if the recommendation from the sub-committee was to form the body before its structure was decided. Commissioner Saunders responded a commission would need to be formed to make those decisions.

Council Member Nicole Brown stated during the last Task Force meeting it was informed that the subcommittee was considering altering the name. Ms. Denese Brown responded the Sub-Committee discussed the title of the body being Police/Community relations.

Council Member Nicole Brown stated the next steps moving toward the formation of this body are to hear a presentation from the contact in Southfield and review possible funding mechanisims.

Ms. Denese Brown stated the ultimate goal in the development of this body is to shift from blame to creating trust between the community and the Police Department. Commissioner Shuler asked if the board will be to foster relationships with the community rather than to simply oversee. Ms. Denese Brown replied the goal is to create accountability and there is still work to be done regarding the structure of the body.

Council Member Nicole Brown stated she would like to know how members of this body would be selected. Commissioner Symanns stated the University of Michigan board is selected through elections of staff and faculty.

Commissioner Shuler asked what roles other City Departments would play in the activity of this board. Ms. Denese responded that structure still needs to be formulated.

Commissioner Symanns stated she feels it is important that this body be designed specific to Ypsilanti and not just a copy of what another community does.

Commissioner Shuler asked if Eastern Michigan University has been involved. Commissioner Symanns responded EMU should already have a similar review board as required by Public Act 120.

Commissioner Shuler asked if the possibility of forming a regional body was discussed. Ms. Denese Brown responded the Sub-Committee felt if a regional body was formed the needs of Ypsilanti cold be lost.

Sub-Committee Member D'Real Graham stated a goal of the Sub-Committee is to incentivize first responders to live in this community. Ms. Denese Brown said officers could be interviewed to help to formulate strategies. Council Member Nicole Brown agreed, and said a strategy needs to be developed that would fit for this community.

Commissioner Shuler asked what the options for how this board would function are. Ms. Denese Brown responded she is not entirely sure, but the overlying theme of this body is to build trust between the Police and the community at large. Comissioner Saunders added the guiding principle is procedural justice.

Commissioner Shuler asked what the next steps are. Commissioner Saunders responded to invite the Southfield representative to provide a presentation to the Task Force and the Community and Council can decide the subsequent steps. Mr. Shuler replied this Task Force has been tasked with the completion of this work. Council Member Nicole Brown agreed, and said she will provide Council with an update but a resolution should not be sent until a full plan is in place.

Commissioner Shuler asked how the Sub-Committee came to see Southfield as a model. Mr. D'Real Graham responded Southfield has been recognized nationally for its review board. Council Member Nicole Brown asked if the representative from Southfield could be invited to present at the next meeting on October 10, 2016.

Mr. D'Real Graham stated he would like to start soliting businesses in the Community for gift cards to provide to officers to have them spend time in the community on their off days. Commissioner Saunders agreed, and said it is important to begin building these reltaionships.

**VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –**

1. Cheryl Farmer, commended the Task Force and is in favor of creating the review body. She stated the Police Department used to offer a citizens police academy and suggested that it be implemented as well as offering diversity training. She suggested President Obamas Best Practices be reviewed.

**IX. CHAIR RESPONSE –**

Council Member Nicole Brown thanks Ms. Farmer for her comments.

**X. ADJOURNMENT –**

**Commissioner Shuler moved, seconded Commissioner Symanns to adjourn the meeting.**

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.