Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) – Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2020
12:30-1:30pm
Held via zoom

Attendees:

**Members:** Byrne (faculty), Chukuwukere (student), Davis-Frost (institutional), Haenlin-Mott (institutional), Hodges (student), Mackowski, (faculty), Margulies (faculty), Ononye (institutional), Rogers (student)

**Chair:** DeStefano

**Staff:** Burgess, Honan, Matta, Radloff

START: 12:30pm

I. **Introductions:**

PSAC Chair, Joanne DeStefano, started the meeting by acknowledging how difficult the past two weeks have been for everyone. She encouraged everyone to submit their thoughts for future topics and focus groups that are set to begin in January.

II. **Background Data on CUPD**

Chief of Police, David Honan, continued his review of the university police department from the previous meeting. Chief Honan thoroughly explained his expectations for transparency and professionalism. He focused on law enforcement partnerships and explained Cornell’s guidelines when assisting other agencies. Chief Honan also summarized in detail his organizational structure – who they are, what they do, who is armed versus who is unarmed, etc – as well as his department’s budget.

Chief Honan and the group discussed the department’s policy on use of force. The department is required to review their policy regularly and comply with annual training and testing. A use of force analysis was presented by looking at trends, training needs, equipment and policy issues, etc. Chief Honan provided 2019 data to summarize when department used force which includes passive physical direction, active physical control and weapons drawn. Chief Honan also presented the 2019 Annual Internal Affairs Summary which reviews every complaint made by university constituents against its police officers to determine trends, policy deficiencies, training needs, or performance issues. Additionally, Chief Honan presented the 2019 biased policing analysis. This analysis reviews data by race about police interactions which result in an adverse effect on an individual such as summons and on campus referrals. Additionally, this analysis reviews complaints, community feedback,
training, and incident reports to determine any trends, policy deficiencies, training needs or performance issues.

Chief Honan also provided his opinion on the impacts on campus safety by disarming CUPD. He highlighted that by disarming his officers, other police agencies would have to respond to violent crimes on campus with CUPD having no say. He stated that the lack of firearms is not proof that firearms are not needed. Arguments for disarming the police fails to account for police presence in deterring crime, police investigations, threat assessment and behavioral assessment teams providing support to people of concern, etc. CUPD tries to do everything they can to prevent use of force; however low crime does not mean no crime.

Several questions were asked about police officer trainings, disarmament, and law enforcement partnerships. Chief Honan summarized that the founding principles of Cornell and the values of Cornell ensures that the department focuses primarily on taking care of its students and its community. Their values include building trust within the community. The group acknowledged the large responsibility placed upon the department. As questions on police training and police reform continued, the group decided that it is important to create a sub-committee of this group that can focus on these issues. This group will consist of Chief Honan as chair, Uche Chukwuukere, Connor Hodges, Joanie Mackowski, Nate Rogers, and Chief Honan’s training coordinator. Sam Radloff will create a PSAC channel of the group’s collaboration tool. Meetings will be scheduled for this sub-committee soon.

Meeting adjourned at 1:31 PM
Notes by: Samantha Radloff