I. Introductions:

Chair DeStefano welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced new student member, Kavya Krishnan.

Ted Boscia and Jason Hecht were introduced to the group as today's meeting guests to discuss the preliminary survey results.

II. Preliminary Survey Results Discussion

Senior Research and Planning Associate, Jason Hecht, provided a brief summary of the preliminary results of the survey conducted on February 8, 2021 and asked the committee for feedback on what the final report should look like. He focused his findings on the overall community satisfaction of CUPD, firearms related to CUPD, and wellness checks. According to Mr. Hecht, this survey was one of the largest surveys conducted by the university in several years with over 35,000 students, faculty, and staff participation requested and received what is considered to be a high response rate at 22%.

In his summary, Mr. Hecht described the survey showing 70% of the overall population being generally satisfied with CUPD and 7% being generally dissatisfied. Breaking that down further, the student population represented that they are least likely to be satisfied with CUPD with 20% of the group being black students, 14% underrepresented minority students, 6% from the Asian community, and 12% white students. In terms of interactions with CUPD, only 26% replied that they have had any
interaction with them at all. A main takeaway from this, is that in terms of overall responses not many have had any interactions with CUPD. Respondents of color were most likely to say that they have not been treated respectfully by CUPD. Another takeaway from this survey, is the deficit in knowledge of what CUPD does and whether they carry firearms. From the survey, 29% showed that they were unaware officers carried firearms. According to the survey, CUPD officers are seen as less threatening than other officers from outside the university with students being the most likely group that they have a threatening impression of officers with firearms. The numbers change drastically when questions about black student representations of this were asked. Mr. Hecht summarized that only 13% of black students are made to feel safe about police officers with firearms outside of CUPD and only 18% are made to feel safe with carrying officers from CUPD.

One of the main conclusions taken from this survey is that the general impression tends to be positive but there is a real knowledge deficit of CUPD procedures and policies. The committee cautioned against viewing this as an accurate “overall” impression when minority groups on campus have the opposite view of police officers. There is concern that because most responses were overall positive, that the voices of those that are dissatisfied would be drowned out and putting that in the report would be misleading. The committee also cautioned against viewing numbers as the overall truth and discussed the importance of looking at the full picture.

III. Conclusion/Next Steps

Today's guests will join us for one more meeting to continue discussions on the survey results. The committee discussed the need to have more or longer meetings and less guest speakers to fully analyze all the information presented to the group so far. Next meeting will be on Monday, March 22nd.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM
Notes by: Samantha Radloff