

Meeting Minutes

Subcommittee on Elgin Police Department Allocation of Funds

**Date: Thursday, February 17,
2022 Time: 5:00pm – 6:30pm**

Meeting Objectives:

- Review previous discussions
- Discuss possible subcommittee recommendations
- Discuss requested input from community

Discussion Agreements:

- Speak for yourself about what has heart and meaning
- Honor the agenda or modify by agreement
- Learn from and understand each other’s perspective
- Be respectful, candid, and constructive
- Provide balance of speaking time
- Test assumptions by asking questions
- Explore innovative solutions based upon common interests
- Strive to resolve differences and seek common ground
- Discuss topics together rather than in isolation
- Limit side conversations and actively participate

Members Present: Zaldivar, Habun, Calhamer, Blair, Rivera, Arreola, Cordova (observing)

Members Absent: Banner, Flickema, Blanchard

Agenda

Time (CT)	Topic	Notes
5:00pm	Call to Order and Agenda Review	Facilitators called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm and the agenda was quickly reviewed.
5:05pm	Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>Any member of the public who wishes to address the task force may do so via Elgin City Hall</i>	No members of the public were present at City Hall to give public comment.
5:10pm - 6:20pm	Committee recommendation proposals	The facilitation team introduced recommendations submitted by the subcommittee members prior to the meeting. These recommendations included: placing a hiring freeze on EPD, reallocating money from EPD community engagement services to non-police affiliated community based organizations, moving mental health services out of EPD and housing it in other educational/health-based institutions, increasing the number of mental health officers employed by EPD, and hiring

	<p>additional EPD officers to offset overtime, and building a “Smart Station.”</p> <p>Subcommittee members then shared their motivations for offering the recommendations they submitted. One Task Force member stated that they believed the EPD had grown too large and that the role of the police should be kept to its core responsibilities. Other Task Force members expressed that they wanted the EPD to have greater resources to continue and expand their community engagement.</p> <p>Subcommittee members then began their discussion of how EPD’s budget should reflect community priorities around mental health services.</p> <p>One member notes the the implementation of Illinois’ new suicide hotline number, 988, represented a new opportunity to direct calls around mental health toward the most effective services.</p> <p>Chief Lalley responded that EPD is currently working on triaging mental health calls and directing them toward providers. However, the Chief noted that often police services are needed in crisis situations and that often the police provide a continuum of care in directing persons in need to mental health professionals. The Chief stated that that dual response is often the best approach in real-world situations.</p> <p>The subcommittee then discussed how EPD response to addiction could be altered. One subcommittee member suggested that local organizations like Point to Point, which currently provides narcan and fentanyl strips that EPD does not, could be supported in creating a greater addiction response effort using money that is allocated to EPD. The member suggested that this could be an effective solution because many communities in Elgin do not trust the police and do not turn to them for help.</p> <p>Chief Lalley stated that EPD already has the “We Can Help” program in which anyone who enters the police department and states they need help with their addiction will be given assistance in</p>
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		<p>finding treatment by EPD.</p> <p>One subcommittee member responded that they wished partnerships between the EPD and treatment providers could be more solidified and that many communities do not feel that vulnerability with the police. Another member responded that the subcommittee members did not need a specific plan yet but should keep the focus on trimming the EPD budget for community engagement and directing such funds to other recipients.</p> <p>Chief Lalley concluded the meeting with a statement that the funding the EPD currently receives allows it to be engaged in the community and not just the “beat cops of old.”</p>
<p>6:25pm</p>	<p>Review of actions taken and next steps</p>	<p>The facilitation team adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm. The next meeting of the subcommittee will take place on March 17th.</p>