

**Advisory Group for Obama's Pledge
(AGOP)
Minutes of the 1/13/2021 Meeting**

Members present: Erga Pierrette, Birukti Tsige, Isadel Eddy, Carey McDonald, Darren Josey, Ben Hartzell, Jay Bhimani, Kelli Collomb and Yusin Mok.

Also Present: Councillors Neal Anderson, Steve Winslow, and Amanda Linehan and Maria Luise (Mayor's Office).

Update on Translations and Community Forum

Maria Luise reported that Malden's Use of Force Policy has been translated in the following languages: Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, and Spanish. The summary/introduction will be done by Tuesday. Once completed, it can all be posted and then a community meeting scheduled.

There was discussion about the community meeting format. Councillor Winslow mentioned that The Affordable Housing Trust was having a forum that would involve interpreters. It will be interesting to see how that all works.

It was brought to the attention of the group that the Use of Force Policy that is posted in different languages on the website needs to be adjusted. The languages are not identified correctly, and the English version is missing. Maria will have Ron Cochran correct this.

The summary document includes a request for public input and includes the opportunity to comment on the group's recommendations. Presently, in the document the request for input is suggested by email and or regular mail. An email has been set up and the reader is directed to the website. The group spoke about providing a stamped self-addressed envelope for an individual that might need it and also suggested using the drop box outside of City Hall. If someone wants a self-addressed envelope they can provide a contact.

There was discussion about other ways of providing the information and what the brief introduction should include. The intro may highlight "Have your Voice Heard" or "This is your chance to comment on Malden's Use of Force Policy."

Outreach

Outreach is critical and the group considered various ways to get the word out and which platforms to use. There was discussion about the following:

- **Online option/ email**
- **The schools through Connect Ed and/or ClassDojo**
- **Different civic and community groups**
- **An MATV Live event**
- **A Code Red call by Mayor**

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The goal is to reach a diverse audience given that the policy has been translated in different languages. There was some concern expressed that reaching out through the schools may overload families.

Councillor Anderson suggested reaching out to the schools to see how they reach parents and which languages they have available through ConnectEd. A voice message through their medium with the option of different languages would be helpful. Councillor Linehan confirmed that parents do sign up and provide a primary language. As a parent she receives information electronically and in monthly packets. The schools use ClassDojo which connects principals, teachers, students and families. Councillor Linehan also shared that she has used ClassDojo for some of her events and it has been effective to drive a broader audience.

Members discussed and considered the following:

- Using bulk Instagram posts to appeal to the younger audience.
- The need to let people know clearly what their information and input is going to be used for. Will it be used in a community forum or remain confidential?
- An online form format

There was concern expressed with the current approach and the feeling was that a standard email response would lead to disorganized results and inefficiency. If there are specific questions asked, it will be easier to organize the data and input received.

Online Form:

Everyone agreed that an on-line form would be the best approach. Each recommendation would have an area for comment under it. This would allow for cleaner data collection. A link on the executive summary can take the commenter to the online form. We can ask for input on each of the numbered recommendations. There can be "Other Comments" at the end.

Other suggestions mentioned:

- May also want to ask how much do you support this recommendation on a scale of 1 – 5
- Need to make sure the page and section is clearly identified

The introduction should include a definition of Use of Force and explain why it is important to participate in this process. Also include the confidentiality piece. Maria needs to check with Ron Cochran about the anonymity of those who respond. Let the public know that the information will be used to change the initial recommendations and that all comments submitted will be part of the public record. It will become public information even though the person will not be identified.

The group is particularly interested in input from marginalized communities and those directly impacted by interactions with the Police Department.

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Before the next meeting a working google document will be distributed for everyone to comment on. This will include a draft of the introduction and the on-line form. The group will make changes to the documents and make suggestions. Can also provide suggestions by email.

Once these items are complete, the community forum/meeting will be scheduled.

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for next Sunday unless the tasks are not complete. The community meeting will be scheduled once the on-line form is in place.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Luise