

City of West St. Paul
Public Safety Committee
June 16, 2020

Members Present:

Chair Anthony Fernandez
Member Wendy Berry
Member Dick Vitelli (via phone)

Others Present:

Mayor Dave Napier
Police Chief Brian Sturgeon
City Attorney Kori Land
City Manager Ryan Schroeder

Chair Fernandez called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM and requested that Chief Sturgeon explain the existing Use of Force Policy. Chief Sturgeon noted that Lexipol, our vendor maintaining the policy document, provides a similar service to 8100 law enforcement agencies around the country including other Dakota County communities. Lexipol provides updates for consideration by the agency regularly in response to Federal and State legislative changes.

Committee members asked about Best Practices, Duty to Intercede, current patrol shifts, training, possible uniform changes to mitigate officer fatigue, cardio holds, union issues, body cams, field training, officer call loads, and the hiring and interview process. Additionally, Chief Sturgeon discussed critical versus non-critical updates and handling differences between the two and that each of the 32 Officers were notified of every policy change and were required to acknowledge receipt of each change. He also noted that there had not been a use of force investigation in at least two decades, that Department management and the union have a good working relationship, and there have been no recent arbitrations and only one mediation in recent memory.

The Committee did not suggest specific changes in the Use of Force Policy. The Chair noted that the policy should move next to a review by the City Council.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Submitted

Ryan Schroeder
City Manager