



Eugene Police Commission:

Community members advising government on police policy, practices and resources as part of the public safety system





Overview:

Discussion Topics:

- Board Composition
- Powers and Duties
- Goals
- Mission and how the Commission Works
- Highlights
- Workplan Priorities
- Emerging Issues Work Plan
- How to Get Involved



Board Composition:

The Eugene Police Commission is a diverse twelve member body that acts in an advisory capacity, created by the City Council in 1998

The Police Commission composition specified in Eugene Code 2.013:

- 2 Liaisons to City Council
- Liaison from the Human Rights Commission
- Liaison from the Civilian Review Board
- 8 Citizens

Appointment Process: Mayor nominates, council appoints



Powers and Duties

Outlined in Eugene Code 2.368 (4)(a) :

- 1. Increase communications** between police and the community, leading to a greater understanding of the preferred policing alternatives for this city
- Identify **police policy and resource issues** related to preferred policing alternatives;
- 3. Decrease misunderstandings** regarding the nature of adopted police policies, practices and approaches;
- Provide input on police policies and procedures that **reflect community values**; and
- Assist the City Council in **balancing community priorities** and resources by advising on police resource issues.



Goals

Goals listed in the Police Commission Bylaws:

1. Ensure that policies and procedures of Eugene Police Department **protect the civil rights** and liberties of everyone in Eugene.
2. Promote policing that respects and **reflects Eugene's rich cultural diversity**
3. **Increase communications, understanding and trust** between police and the people of Eugene
4. **Encourage problem solving** and partnerships between people, neighborhoods, other agencies and the police
5. **Provide fair opportunities** for the public and criminal justice experts to participate in the work of the Commission



Mission and how the Commission Works

- The Police Commission's **Mission** recommends to the City Council, the City Manager, the Police Department and the people, the resources, preferred policing alternatives, policies and people's responsibilities needed to achieve a safe community. **The Commission strives to create a climate of mutual respect and partnership between the community and the Police Department** that helps achieve safety, justice and freedom for all people in Eugene. (Police Commission Bylaws)
- The Police Commission receives reports from the Eugene Police Department, the Civilian Review Board, the Human Rights Commission, the Police Auditor and others. The Commission also welcomes public participation.
- **The Commission meets the second Thursday of every month**, except August. For more information and agendas, see [Eugene-or.gov/PoliceCommission](https://eugene-or.gov/PoliceCommission)

Highlights



Excerpt taken from the FY 2020-21 Work Plan Review for City Council:

- Reviewed code of conduct policy (FY 2017)
- Implemented plan to increase communications between community and police, created a subcommittee to set goals for outreach, and created monitoring tools (FY2018)
- Continued recommending 21st Century Policing concepts of Police Legitimacy be incorporated into policy including guardian mentality and de-escalation (FY 2018)
- Completed a yearlong review of the Drone Pilot Program (FY 2019)
- Reviewed the Department-Issued Cell Phone Procedure (FY 2019)
- Completed a review of homeless related policies believed to place blame on the Police Department for things the Police Commission thinks are out of EPD control (FY 2020)
- Began a review of policies revolving around the Deadly Force Investigations (FY 2020)
- Enhanced outreach efforts by rotating locations, incorporating virtual meetings attending more community meetings and invited groups of officers to the table for information share (FY 2020)



Workplan Priorities:

Biannually, the City Council meets with the Police Commission to review its past work, and to approve its upcoming work plan.

Concepts stressed at the May 4, 2019 Police Commission Retreat:

- Supporting emerging issues (remaining flexible)
- Community Safety Initiative and policy/process needed to support
- Community outreach enhancements
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) presenters
- Use of force and transparency related to police policy
- Homeless services as it relates to the Police Department



Emerging Issues Work Plan:

Emerging Issues Work Plan*:

- Public Assemblies and Demonstrations (Policy 316)
- Civil Disturbances (Policy 317)
- Field Force (Policy 318)
- PepperBall (Policy 804)
- Handcuffing Control Holds and Impact Weapons (Policy 808)

*Recommended by Chief Chris Skinner, Policy Sergeant Kyle Williams and with Police Commission support. Commissioners are continuing to review Eugene Police Policy and Procedure to increase the list.



How to Get Involved

- Attend regular meetings and offer a public comment. Meetings are held the second Thursday of every month, at 5:30pm.
- Research draft documents, minutes, finalized policy recommendations and other information on the web site, and give us your feedback, or submit written comments for the record.
- Review past agendas and video of past meetings on the Police Commission archives webpage.
- Contact the Police Commissioners directly.
- Learn more at <http://Eugene-or.gov/PoliceCommission>