



POLICE ADVISORY AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, July 17, 2024 AT 6:00 PM

In-Person:

San Rafael City Council Chambers
1400 Fifth Ave, San Rafael, California

Virtual:

Watch Online: <https://tinyurl.com/PAAC-7-17-24>

Listen by Phone: (669) 444-9171

Meeting ID: 898-5264-7245#

AGENDA

How to participate in the meeting:

- You are welcome to provide comments in-person at the meeting. Each speaker will have 2-minutes to provide public comment.
- Submit your comments by email to PAAC@cityofsanrafael.org by 4:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER - 6:00PM

MINUTES

1. Approve regular meeting minutes from the meeting of May 22nd, 2024.

OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION

The public is welcome to address the Police Advisory and Accountability Committee at this time on matters not on the agenda that are within its jurisdiction. Comments may be no longer than 2 minutes and should be respectful to the community.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

If necessary to ensure the completion of the following items, the Chairperson may establish time limits for the presentations by individual speakers.

2. Other Agenda Items:

- a. Provide feedback on the San Rafael Police Department's Mental Health and Alternative Response
Recommendation: Provide feedback.
- b. Domestic Violence Response in San Rafael
Recommendation: Accept the report.

c. 2023 Community Survey Data

Recommendation: Accept the report.

STAFF LIAISON REPORT

3. Other brief program updates or reports on any meetings, conferences, and/or seminars attended by staff.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

4. Other brief reports on any meetings, conferences, and/or seminars attended by the Committee members.

ADJOURNMENT

Any records relating to an agenda item, received by a majority or more of the Board less than 72 hours before the meeting, shall be available for inspection online and in the city hall large conference room, third floor, 1400 5th Avenue, San Rafael, California placed with other agenda-related materials on the table in front of the location prior to the meeting. Sign Language interpreters may be requested by calling (415) 485-3066 (voice), emailing city.clerk@cityofsanrafael.org or using the California Telecommunications Relay Service by dialing "711", at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Copies of documents are available in accessible formats upon request.



SAN RAFAEL
THE CITY WITH A MISSION

**POLICE ADVISORY AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE (PAAC)
WEDNESDAY, May 22, 2024 AT 6:00 PM**

In-Person:

San Rafael Public Safety Center
1375 Fifth Ave, San Rafael, California

Virtual:

Watch Online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBIUmh6ln4M>

Listen by Phone: (669) 444-9171

Meeting ID: 898-5264-7245#

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kamena called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Member Marilyn Alvarez
Member Daniel Alm
Member Daryoush Davidi
Member Darlin Ruiz
Member Paula Kamena
Alternate Member Salamah Locks
Alternate Member Karla Valdez

Absent: Member Mydung Nguyen
Member Fatai Tokolahi

Also Present:

Angela Robinson Piñon, Assistant City Manager
Scott Eberle, Lieutenant, San Rafael Police Department

Lieutenant Scott Eberle informed the community that the in-person meeting would also be recorded and streamed live to YouTube and through Zoom. He noted the two-minute timer for public comment and closed captioning on Zoom.

1. MINUTES

Alternate Member Locks moved to approve the minutes from April 17, 2024, and Member Davidi seconded the motion.

AYES: MEMBERS: Alm, Alvarez, Davidi, Ruiz, Locks, Kamena, Valdez
NOES: MEMBERS: None
ABSENT: MEMBERS: Nguyen and Tokolahi

The motion carried 7-0-0.

2. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Heidi made a comment regarding military use equipment.

Jason made a comment regarding the homeless encampment at Mahone Creek and an altercation involving SRPD and an individual with mental health needs in B Street.

3. OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

a. Provide feedback on the San Rafael Police Department’s Law Enforcement Training.

Chair Kamena introduced the item.

Lieutenant Scott Eberle presented the staff report.

Staff responded to the Committee’s questions.

Chair Kamena invited public comment
- Speakers: Heidi, Jason

The Committee provided comments.

Chair Kamena closed the item.

b. Mental Health and Alternative Response. Presented by Aziz Majid, SAFE Team Director.

Chair Kamena introduced the item.

Aziz Majid, SAFE Team Director, gave a presentation and overview of the SAFE team.

Staff responded to the Committee's questions.

Chair Kamena invited public comment

- Speakers: Xania, Heidi and Jason

The Committee provided comments.

Member Alm requested more funding for the SAFE team

Member Ruiz asked if there were Latinx members in the SAFE team.

Alternate Member Locks requested more funding for the SAFE team

Chair Kamena closed the item.

c. Development of the 2024 Workplan

Lieutenant Scott Eberle presented the work plan for the next four months.

Staff responded to the Committee's questions.

Chair Kamena invited public comment

- Speakers: Heidi

The Committee provided comments.

The Committee approved the following work plan topics - Use of Force, Youth and the Police, Domestic Violence, and Homelessness

STAFF LIAISON REPORT

4. Staff Liaison Report: None.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

5. Committee Member Reports:

- Chair Kamena: Met with Canal Alliance staff, is working with the Marin County Coalition to End Human Trafficking, attended the Center for Domestic Peace's annual Mother's Day event, and participated in an oral interview panel for SRPD.
- Member Alm: Participated in an oral interview panel for SRPD. Met with community member Heidi.
- Member Ruiz: Met with the Marin Organizing Committee, attended and graduated from Canal Alliance's Leadership Academy
- Member Locks: Promoted the Commission of Aging's Event, Aging in Marin, a cross-cultural conversation on May 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

- Member Davidi: Attended vintage car show, met with Councilmember Hill at the event, and interacted with the Police officers in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kamena adjourned the meeting at 7:54 PM.

SCOTT EBERLE, Staff Liaison

APPROVED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2024



**July 17, 2024
Item 2a**

TITLE: MENTAL HEALTH AND ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE

RECOMMENDATION: Provide feedback.

BACKGROUND:

At the May 22, 2024, meeting of the Police Advisory and Accountability Committee, the Committee heard a presentation that provided background on Mental Health and the City's alternative response team Specialized Assistance For Everyone (SAFE).

Aziz Majid, the SAFE Team Director, provided an overview of how the SAFE team was established, its scope, capabilities, and some of the current statistics from the previous year.

DISCUSSION:

The SAFE Team has had many successful outcomes in San Rafael connecting community members to psychiatric services, de-escalating crises, aiding the unhoused community members to secure housing at local shelters, and providing drug/alcohol addiction resources. The SAFE Team has helped with medical aid, drug/alcohol counseling, mental health assessments, and diversions of patients from regional Emergency Departments. Furthermore, the SAFE Team has diverted our at-risk population from the justice system through jail diversions and early interventions.

Please note that City staff and Aziz Majid presented much of the background and context about the SAFE team at the May 22, 2024, meeting. Therefore, staff recommends that the Committee direct its feedback on topics covered in the presentation. Staff can also respond to any questions related to the May 22, 2024, PAAC meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Submitted by:
Scott Eberle
Lieutenant, San Rafael Police Department

ATTACHMENTS:

1. May 22, 2024- [Item 2B](#), MENTAL HEALTH AND ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE



**July 17, 2024
Item 2b**

TITLE: Domestic Violence Response in San Rafael

RECOMMENDATION: Accept the report.

BACKGROUND:

Domestic violence is a serious issue affecting individuals and families across the globe. Effective management of domestic violence cases requires a coordinated response from law enforcement agencies and support organizations such as centers for domestic violence.

The community of San Rafael, unfortunately, is not immune from the problem of domestic violence. In 2023, the San Rafael Police Department (SRPD) took 212 Domestic Violence Related cases. Sixty-Seven of them included a dangerous weapon, and nine of them involved strangulation. This represents approximately 2.5% of the total cases SRPD took during that time frame.

SRPD is dedicated to delivering compassionate, victim-centered services that hold offenders accountable while connecting victims to further assistance. Recognizing the complexity of this issue, we collaborate with various victim services. The [Center for Domestic Peace](#) is the primary service center in Marin County that focuses on supporting victims with assistance, prevention, and education to end domestic violence. They work closely with the SRPD to provide comprehensive care.

DISCUSSION:

Law Enforcement Response to Domestic Violence

Initial Response

When law enforcement officers respond to a domestic violence call, their primary objectives are to ensure the safety of the victim, prevent further harm, and gather evidence. The steps typically include:

1. Assessment of the Situation: Upon arrival, officers assess the situation to determine the immediate danger. If necessary, this includes separating the involved parties to prevent further violence.
2. Ensuring Safety: Officers prioritize the safety of the victim and any children present. They may provide medical assistance or arrange for emergency shelter if needed.
3. Evidence Collection: Officers gather evidence, which may include photographing injuries, documenting the scene, and collecting witness statements.
4. Arrest and Legal Action: Depending on the severity of the incident and the evidence collected, officers may arrest the perpetrator. They also provide the victim with information

on obtaining restraining orders and other legal protections.

Follow-Up

Following the initial response, law enforcement agencies may engage in follow-up actions, including:

1. **Reporting and Documentation:** Detailed reports are filed to document the incident, which is crucial for any subsequent legal proceedings.
2. **Referrals:** Officers refer victims to the [Center for Domestic Peace](#), other support services, and victim advocacy programs for ongoing assistance.

Role of Domestic Violence Centers

Domestic violence centers play a crucial role in providing immediate and long-term support to victims. Their services include:

1. **Emergency Shelter:** Safe and confidential housing is provided for victims and their children, offering a secure environment away from the abuser.
2. **Crisis Counseling:** Professional counselors offer emotional support, help victims process their experiences, and develop safety plans.
3. **Medical and Legal Assistance:** Centers often provide or coordinate medical care and legal advocacy to help victims navigate the complexities of the legal system.

Beyond immediate crisis intervention, domestic violence centers offer long-term support to help victims rebuild their lives. Some services offered are counseling and therapy, support groups, housing and employment assistance, and education and skill building.

Training for Law Enforcement

Domestic violence centers, along with the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) approved and in-house training, play a crucial role in educating and training law enforcement personnel to enhance their response to these incidents. Some of the training includes attending to our shift-change briefings, along with multi-day advance training.

The trainings are conducted to educate officers on the dynamics of domestic violence, victim behavior, and effective intervention strategies. Practical exercises and simulations are often used in training to help officers practice their responses to various domestic violence scenarios, enhancing their decision-making skills in real-life situations.

Effective handling of domestic violence cases requires a collaborative approach between law enforcement and domestic violence centers. Law enforcement agencies are responsible for immediate intervention, ensuring safety and legal action, while domestic violence centers provide crucial ongoing support and services to victims. Additionally, through comprehensive training programs, domestic violence centers, like the [Center for Domestic Peace](#), enhance the ability of law enforcement officers to respond to these incidents sensitively and effectively. Together, these efforts contribute to the safety, healing, and empowerment of domestic violence victims.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with accepting this report.

Submitted by:

Scott Eberle

Lieutenant

ATTACHMENTS:

None.



**July 17, 2024
Item 2c**

TITLE: 2023 Community Survey Data

RECOMMENDATION: Accept the report.

BACKGROUND:

In an effort to gauge community perspectives on policing, the City hosted a series of community meetings from October 2022 to March 2023. These hybrid sessions, conducted in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese, drew significant participation, with around 200 community members attending. Participants engaged in in-person and virtual breakout sessions facilitated by trusted community facilitators. In these sessions, participants shared personal experiences with the San Rafael Police Department (SRPD) and offered insights into their perceptions of safety and security. Facilitators then consolidated these discussions, highlighting prevalent concerns and themes for formal consideration by the SRPD.

From these interactions, five key themes were identified for the SRPD:

- Building community trust.
- Enhancing transparency and accountability.
- Diversifying the police force.
- Improving cultural competence and empathy.
- Increasing police visibility to enhance feelings of public safety.

To address the community's call for enhanced accountability, the City Council tasked staff with forming the Police Advisory and Accountability Committee (PAAC). To align the PAAC with community priorities, staff developed a survey to understand residents' priorities for the committee. Surveys were collected from July 17, 2023, to September 22, 2023. The survey was made accessible to residents digitally and physically, if needed, in English and Spanish, and promoted through social media, Snapshot the City's bi-weekly newsletter, and flyers (Virtual Survey).

In a collaborative effort with the City Council, staff organized four community conversations, each corresponding to one of the City's four City Council districts. These sessions allowed attendees to take part in an interactive version of the survey, creating an opportunity for residents to engage with their elected officials about the PAAC and the survey (Open House). Moreover, staff partnered with Voces del Canal, an advocacy group from the Canal neighborhood, to survey Canal residents in Spanish (VDC Survey).

DISCUSSION:

The City collected over 300 survey responses from the community. The survey analysis revealed several priorities for the PAAC, including concerns related to speeding, domestic violence,

homelessness, substance abuse and overdose, parking, teen safety, and the formation of neighborhood watch groups. Notable mentions in the survey findings include:

- Enhancing the feeling of safety in the community
- Addressing mental health concerns
- Ensuring women's safety
- Combating elder abuse

Residents also had the opportunity to submit additional priorities for the PAAC, which included quicker response times from the Police Department, theft reduction, pedestrian safety, equal application of the law, housing, and other relevant topics.

The survey, along with its extensive feedback, serves as an invaluable resource for the Police Advisory and Accountability Committee. It enables them better to understand the concerns and priorities of our community as they work to enhance public safety and law enforcement accountability.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with accepting this report.

Submitted by:
Walter Gonzalez
Management Analyst

ATTACHMENTS:

1. PAAC Community Outreach Survey Data - 2023

2023 Police Advisory and Accountability Committee Survey Questions and Responses

1. What is your preferred language?

Language	VDC Survey	Virtual Survey	Open House
Spanish	231	13	25
English	8	28	9

2. Do you own a business or work in San Rafael?*

Do you own a business or work in San Rafael?	VDC Survey	Virtual Survey	Open House
Yes	159	18	-
No	93	33	-

3. Do you live in San Rafael?*

Do you live in San Rafael?	VDC Survey	Virtual Survey	Open House
Yes	243	37	-
No	7	4	-

***Note:** The Open House survey did not collect information for questions two and three

4. What would you like the Police Advisory and Accountability Committee to focus on?

	Initiatives	VDC Survey	Virtual Survey	Open House	Total
A	Cultural competency training	34	12	12	58
B	Speeding	151	5	13	169
C	Pretext Stops	19	6	5	30
D	Elder Abuse	33	2	4	38
E	Domestic Violence	85	6	6	97
F	Diversifying the workforce	12	5	13	30
G	Homelessness	64	15	9	88
H	Substance abuse and overdose	62	5	7	74
I	Feeling of Safety	33	9	5	46
J	Parking	84	3	4	91
K	Mental Health	49	8	-	57
L	Quality of Life	27	2	-	29
M	Partnering with neighborhood groups	23	6	5	34
N	Teen Driving	22	-	3	25
O	Teen Safety	59	-	9	68
P	Safety Specific to Women	32	2	6	40
Q	Male aggression and catcalling	23	-	3	26
R	Starting neighborhood watch groups	63	2	8	73
S	Other:	27	11	3	41
T*	Build trust with the community	-	-	13	13
U*	Burglary and other property crimes	-	-	5	5
V*	Additional training to PD staff; specify	-	-	1	1

*Note: Questions T, U, and V were only asked to Open House Participants

S. Others, explain;

- PD officers should be in the Canal more frequently (2x)
- Stops/signage/cameras
- Cameras and signage/stops
- Pedestrian crosswalks and stops
- Prevent people from drinking alcoholic beverages in the streets and at the parks
- Lights and cameras
- Work to support those near Medway and Hoover (homelessness)
- Housing for homeless residents

- Mental health services for those who need support
- Graffiti abatement
- Activities for youth
- Security for pedestrians
- Care for older adults
- No violence against Latinos
- Speeding
- Affordable housing
- PD needs to be more attentive
- No more violence
- Police should arrive when called
- Need more PD presence at Alboro near the daycare
- Community outreach- explain what PD does, mini PD Citizen Academy
- An area of focus that is important is the inter-relations of San Rafael, County, and State
- E-bikes
- Housing, and the police need to be more attentive
- Housing
- Move people
- Trash!
- Racially biased policing in San Rafael
- Police misconduct
- Catching thieves
- Theft, particularly bicycles, and packages
- What are pre-text stops?
- Adopt the MV bias by proxy educational campaign in town will increase inclusivity, reduce racism, and make our towns more welcoming to non-white residents; and cost benefit of reducing 911 calls; low-cost way to increase safety and comfort; I know this is an issue that's important to all constituents and police department; benefits the police.
- Equal application of the law (unlike the brutal episode in the Canal July, 2022, involving Daisy Mazariegos and Brandon Nail v. Julio Jimenez Lopez)

V. Additional training for SRPD

- Cultural competency
- Implicit bias
- When to intervene when another officer is violating someone's rights
- Organize an event, not a FB-led PowerPoint, very chaotic