Pridgen - Police Advisory Board Reform Recommendations

Whereas the Buffalo Police Advisory Board (BPAB) whose purpose is to advise the Common Council on matters pertaining to the Buffalo Police Department;

Whereas the BPAB has submitted Reform Recommendations to the Council dated June 2020;

Whereas the work of this volunteer board is considered important and in the present global demand for police reform urgent;

Whereas some of the recommendations will necessitate charter revisions through referendum;

Whereas some of the recommendations of the BPAB do not require charter change or referendum;

Whereas these recommendations are important and can be enacted immediately: Now, Therefore Be It

Resolved that The City of Buffalo Common Council-

1) Requests that the task force created pursuant to Council Item 20-706, “Improving BPD Policies,” review the following recommendations, all of which appear on pages 3-5 in totality in the written and attached document;
   a. De-escalation: The BPD use of force de-escalation requirement to be amended to more stringently require de-escalation in a wider variety of circumstances...
   b. Warning before shooting requirement: The BPD police does not currently include this, and the BPAB recommends strongly this be explicitly incorporated into the Use of Force policy.
   c. Requiring other present officers to intervene: The BPD policy does contain a “duty to intervene” that other officers present should intervene, but the BPAB urges the department strengthen this requirement to link with stronger accountability mechanisms.
   d. Mandating a comprehensive report of officers’ action or arrests that included use of force: BPD administration should compile reports for evaluation on a regular (possibly quarterly) basis for assessment of department practice trends and needs of officers (as is the case in Seattle and Indianapolis)
e. Ban on chokeholds or strangle holds: Mayor Brown called on the BPD, on June 4, 2020, to ban the use of chokeholds, and write this into policy.

2) Requests that the Council be updated on the decision of the task for and/or Administration concerning these policy recommendations at the next scheduled Police Advisory Board meeting in the month of July 2020; and

3) Directs that this resolution, upon its passing, be immediately sent to Mayor Brown, Police Commissioner, and BPAB.

The Council has already adopted the resolves (2020 JUN 23).

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:
ADOPTED RESOLVES, REMAINDER TO POLO

RESULT: ADOPTED