



# **Recommended Model of Community Oversight of the MVPD**

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# Background

- National and local calls for greater police accountability
- Desire for greater community involvement in public safety matters
- Exploration of Community-police oversight models to enhance public safety in Mountain View



# Primary Oversight Models

Oversight Model	Primary Function	Key Model Characteristics	Common Community Factors
<b>Investigative Agencies</b>	Conduct independent investigations of complaints against police. Make findings on validity of complaints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Staffed by professional investigators</li><li>• Authority to make disciplinary decisions or recommend discipline</li><li>• No public input opportunities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Significant erosion of trust and goodwill</li><li>• Controversial events</li></ul>
<b>Auditing/ Monitoring Agencies</b>	Perform systematic reviews of police operations and internal investigations. Recommend improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Staffed by professional auditors</li><li>• Typically make recommendations to police chiefs, city administrators, and elected officials</li><li>• Few public input opportunities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Significant erosion of trust and goodwill</li><li>• Little collaboration between community and police</li></ul>



# Primary Oversight Models

Oversight Model	Primary Function	Key Model Characteristics	Common Community Factors
<b>Temporary Task Forces</b>	For a fixed period of time, evaluate police department policies and practices. Recommend improvements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comprised of appointed community members who represent diverse perspectives</li><li>• Operate for a limited term</li><li>• Limited non-member input opportunities</li><li>• Make recommendations to elected officials and/or city administrators</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Greatly strained community-police relations</li><li>• Controversial events</li></ul>
<b>Review Boards and Commissions</b>	Inform, review, discuss and make public safety recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comprised of community members</li><li>• Varied characteristics</li><li>• Include opportunities for non-board/commission members of the public to provide input</li><li>• Make recommendations to police chiefs, city administrators, and elected officials</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strained but not broken community-police relations</li><li>• Meaningful opportunities for collaboration to improve transparency, trust, and public safety</li></ul>



# Assessing a Mountain View Model

- Best oversight model is that which best fits the community's culture and addresses the communities needs:
  - Where does public trust and accountability of MVPD need to be increased?
  - How might a community-police oversight body accomplish increased public trust and accountability?
- Examined:
  - Mountain View Crime Statistics
  - MVPD Contact and Use-of-Force Data
  - Community feedback on policing



# Assessing a Mountain View Model

## Mountain View Crime Statistics

- Are there crime matters that suggest a need for additional oversight of MVPD?
  - Property crimes are the most prominent crime
  - Mountain View is a relatively safe community
  - Community members may discuss crime concerns with MVPD through various channels
  - A community advisory board could provide an enhanced opportunity for the community to discuss crime concerns with MVPD



# Assessing a Mountain View Model

## MVPD Contact Data

Does contact data suggest the need for additional oversight?

- People of Black and Hispanic races represent a larger proportion of MVPD contacts than their proportions of Mountain View's population
- Unknown whether this is due to bias in policing
- City and MVPD are committed to further exploring contact data
- Hired a Research Fellow in collaboration with Stanford University
- An oversight board where community members could share their concerns about policing and make improvement recommendations could enhance efforts to identify and address



# Assessing a Mountain View Model

## MVPD Use of Force Data

Does use of force data suggest the need for additional oversight?

- MVPD has a low use of force-to-arrest-ratio
- From 2015 to 2019, MVPD made 8,408 arrests and had 145 documented uses of force (less than 2 percent of arrests)
  - Uncontrolled takedowns were the most common uses of force (37%)
  - No firearm, carotid restraints, pepper spray, or K-9 uses of force nor documented major injuries or fatalities
- A community advisory board could provide an opportunity for the community to discuss and provide input on MVPDs use of force policy





# Assessing a Mountain View Model

## Community Feedback on Policing

Does the community call for additional police oversight?

- Various engagement efforts since June
  - Staff meetings with groups and individuals
  - Social media input
  - Public comments at REI and Council meetings
  - HRC Listening Forums
  - MVPDx educational forums
- Both positive and negative feedback
- Desire for increased community input on policing matters



# Recommended Public Safety Advisory Board

- While there are not significant, widespread breaches in public trust of MVPD, there are still opportunities for improvement.
  - Negative interactions with police officers experienced by some community members and
  - Overrepresentation of Blacks and Hispanics in MVPD Contacts.
- There are shared interest from the community, MVPD, and City leadership for Mountain View to lead by example and engage in continuous improvement to sustain and enhance positive, collaborative community-police relations, and effective/equitable police services.
- The Review Boards and Commissions model is the most appropriate model for community-police oversight for Mountain View.



# Recommended Public Safety Advisory Board

- The body acts solely in an advisory capacity and is tasked with holding public forums and providing input and recommendations to the Police Chief and City Council on public safety matters, including development of community policing concepts, increasing public awareness of public safety matters, furthering MVPD engagement and transparency efforts, and identifying best practices.
- The body has up to seven members who are appointed by the City Council .
- As a guiding principle, the City Council should strive to appoint members who bring diverse community representation to the PSAB (Mountain View residents from different neighborhoods, of varying ages, races, professions, cultures, etc.).
- The body should be staffed by a member of police command staff and a City employee from outside the Police Department designated by the City Manager.



# Subcommittee Feedback Sought

1. Does the Subcommittee agree with staff's recommendation to create a Public Safety Advisory Board (PSAB)?
2. Does the Subcommittee have feedback regarding the characteristics of the PSAB?

## Next Steps:

- Present the Subcommittee recommendation to the full City Council December 1, 2020.
- Appoint staff liaisons
- Recruit members for Council appointment