

4/3/23 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

SUMMARY

During the public participation portion of the meeting, local leaders of NAACP state they are working on a police citizens review board. The mayor states he will take a look at the proposal and then send it to the Public Safety Select Committee (PSSC) if he agrees with it. When the majority of city councilors state they want to hold a special work session to discuss it, the mayor again states the PSSC must consider it first.

Meeting recording link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyMz4QiPaKY&list=PLHNIqu06RcIraw0BAaIBrHZnHGle-pCqa&index=147&t=3s>

Note: *Black text indicates references to the Public Safety Select Committee (PSSC); Gray text indicates unrelated or supporting information*

MEETING TRANSCRIPT

Time: 3:43:51

Mayor Ken Miyagishima (PSSC member): *[Mentions other items before saying the following]* Regarding the citizens review board I had mentioned to Dr Neeson (from the NAACP) that uh if he gives me the information then **I'll take a look at it and then from there if I want to move it forward I'll take it to the Public Safety Committee and then if the Public Safety Committee gives a thumbs up then it comes to city council meeting for a work session so ...**

Time: 4:03:48

Councilor Johana Bencomo: I'll start here actually thank you for that I agree and I would also like work session mayor so I think um that does make four folks [city councilors] who have said that I think the one thing that I do want to note that when I talked to community members who are talking about this Oversight Committee and even though we might not see eye to eye on these things, but **I hear is there is a huge lack of transparency and access to information and your suggestion is to take the decision to a committee that meets privately. So, I feel that it only adds to the confusion about why these decisions are being made privately behind closed doors when we should be having a community wide discussion around what is best for our community,** particularly for me it is around use of force, use of force data and I think that is where we start. Start with how do we collect force of use data and how do we share use of force data. At the end of the day this is about better policing and I deeply believe that is what we are all looking for. Full transparency. Councilor Corin and I have been working on on Research around what would best fit our city and we would love to if you gave us some time present on some of that and bring experts like the ACLU who can help facilitate some of these conversations [councilor mentions other items]

Time: 4:08:4

Mayor Miyagishima: Okay, Councilor Bencomo, I can't just put a blanket work session on this Citizens Review Board. I would like to see a proposal. **It sounds like you want me to just circumvent what we have done in the past two years and that is from (city) council to PRC Committee ... and that is the best we can do as far as Public Safety is ["to vet it"] and to go through and share with us that are members of the Public Safety Committee and then from there to City Council. To go and just, just [makes a noise]. What I am saying is that it is important that we stay consistent and that has been the process in the past and I would strongly suggest that it continue to be that way in the process. Once you do that, you are going to show precedence. You're just going to go "well, let's see and do it this way on this issue and the other way, we'll just go through the regular other way."**

Councilor Bencomo: If I may, mayor, I would just like to say it is not written in stone, but she may be proving me wrong around to bring policies forth. **I also want to point out that Public Safety is not a PRC, a policy review committee and feel like that is the biggest difference between the PRCs versus the Public Select Committees. Which I sit on one as well, the Finance Committee and everything we talk about comes to City Council. So, I just want to make sure for the sake of transparency, that is what I hear people say. Information is not transparent in public enough. I feel like doing this it only makes that worse.**

Mayor Miyagishima: the reason also is that it allows our City Attorney's Office to be able to digest and see exactly what is being proposed and what could be possibly illegal and something that couldn't be done. It gives them a chance to have that ironed out before we go and have a Work Session and a lot of this stuff might not be able to be allowed. That is why I think it is important to run to the process that we have established in the past. Councilor Abeyta, you wanted to say something.

Councilor Tessa Abeyta: In full transparency I'm not one of the four that is agreeing to this but with that being said in our city Charter in section 2.08 procedure in meetings it does say that special meetings may be held at the call of the mayor or for four or more members which in this case that would seem like what is being issued here and is allowed in the charter and when practical upon no less than 12 hours notice to each remember all meetings shall be subject to the state statute regarding open meetings so with that in mind it looks like if there was an issue with legal that we could schedule it you know in a few weeks time but like obviously maybe not next week would be most actual but in a couple weeks to give staff enough time to do that but you know according to the Charter I do believe if there's four more members they can call for that special meeting.

Mayor Miyagishima: Councilor Graham ... *[Councilors continue their reports]*