

From: Portland Copwatch <copwatch@portlandcopwatch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 10:23 AM
To: Commissioner Hardesty; Commissioner Fritz; Commissioner Fish; Commissioner Eudaly; Wheeler, Mayor; Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: TESTIMONY on item 1124 appointment of PCCEP members

To the members of City Council

I had planned to come down to City Hall to deliver testimony on item 1124 on the appointment of members to the Portland Committee on Community Engaged Policing, but then realized that the appointments are being presented as a "Report." Thus I am assuming the Mayor will be invoking his blanket policy of not taking public comment on Reports, even though taking such testimony is discretionary in City Code.* Setting aside how antithetical this is to a Committee whose name includes the words "Community Engaged," here are the comments about today's appointments.

First, it is our observation at Portland Copwatch that of the 13 people originally appointed to PCCEP by City Council in September 2019, only four remain on the Committee: Lakayana Drury, Lakeesha Dumas, Andrew Kalloch and Patrick Nolen. They were all appointed to two year terms which technically end at the beginning of October 2020. While some of the people who left only had one year terms, most resigned prior to the ends of their terms.

The six people** you are confirming today are all alternate members who have been seated on the PCCEP for at least two months and have already participated in voting despite the guidelines stating clearly that Council confirmation is part of the process.

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/pccep/article/707077>

Section IV at page 3.

Britton Masback, a youth member, has been serving at least since March. His confirmation was originally scheduled back in May (for a term to end June 30, 2020) but was pulled from the agenda due to time constraints.

Steve Trujillo has been serving at least since July.***

Vadim Mozyrsky and Marcia Perez have been serving at least since June.

Elliott Young and Amy Anderson have been serving at least since September.

Portland Copwatch does not have any issues with any of the individual members, but notes that a lot of trouble was taken to devise a system to ensure a diverse group of people sat on the Committee and that there were suitable rules in place to ensure that the people serve either one or two year terms and are re-appointed or replaced through a process that includes community members in at least two way, privately when people help interview applicants and publicly as the City Council affirms appointments.

The fact that all the adult terms are now set to begin on the day of the appointment-- December 4-- means that the alternates were not filling out unexpired terms of resigned members but rather have started a new cycle where December is the beginning of two year terms. Mr. Masback's term ends at the end of August 2020.

We will say that setting a firm date for five of the people to start their terms at the same time should make the City's process of recruiting new members and alternates less sporadic as has been the case in the first year. The idea of staggering terms and

having a sufficient pool of alternates is so that the appointment process only has to happen once a year. Right now the PCCEP website lists only five alternates.

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/pcccep/article/741908>

If resignations continue at the same pace as the first year, this pool is inadequate-- not only did nine members leave the board, some seats were actually filled more than once.

The PCCEP was without a program manager until July of this year, but now that there is one these details should be posted on the website clearly --there are Biographies but no indication of term beginnings or endings.****

We hope that more attention will be paid to following the guidelines adopted by Council as the PCCEP has been touted as a group that is of great importance in creating a Police Bureau that is more responsive to community concerns and free from unconstitutional use of force, bias, and mistreatment of persons with mental health issues.

Thank you
dan handelman
portland copwatch

*- <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/citycode/article/636383>

** - The Council Agenda page lists only five of the six, with Vadim Mozyrsky's name missing:
<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/26997>

*** - researching this was made more difficult because Mr. Trujillo's name is spelled with only one "l" in PCCEP agendas.

****- <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/pcccep/article/705718>