



AGENDA SUMMARY EUREKA CITY COUNCIL

TITLE: Bill No. 986-C.S. Citizens Advisory Board to the Chief of Police

DEPARTMENT: Police

PREPARED BY: Stephen Watson, Chief of Police

PRESENTED FOR: Action Information only Discussion

RECOMMENDATION

Waive reading, read by Title only and introduce Bill No. 986-C.S., an Ordinance of the City of Eureka adding Citizens Advisory Board to Title III, Chapter 33 sections 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206 and 207.

FISCAL IMPACT

No Fiscal Impact Included in Budget Additional Appropriation

COUNCIL GOALS/STRATEGIC VISION

N/A

DISCUSSION

At the July 7, 2015, Eureka City Council meeting, former Eureka Police Department (EPD) Chief Andrew Mills introduced the first six appointed members of the newly created Eureka Chief's Advisory Panel (CAP).

The purpose of the panel was to provide counsel and feedback to the Chief of Police and, in turn, the police department. The panel had access to a wide range of information at the department including policies, procedures, tactics, training, critical incident and personnel investigations. Through this review process, the panel made recommendations to the Chief in their advisory capacity. The CAP is intended to achieve increased transparency and legitimacy around police operations with the panel's intimate access to the department and its actions.

Council received a presentation on the CAP from members of the panel and Chief Watson on August 4, 2020. Following the presentation, Council provided feedback and direction to staff to formally establish a Citizens Advisory Board (CAB or Board) in the Eureka Municipal Code. The proposed ordinance, under Bill No. 986-C.S., will add the Citizens Advisory Board to the City of Eureka Municipal Code under Title III (Administration), Chapter 33: Other Departments, Boards and Commissions.

Some key elements of the new CAB ordinance include:

- The Board will consist of either 5 or 7 members at the discretion of the Mayor with the approval of the City Council. Members are appointed by the Mayor with recommendations from the Chief of Police subject to confirmation by the Council.
- The Board will hold regular meetings and establish a regular time of meeting in coordination with the Chief of Police. The Board will meet not less than quarterly and may hold additional meetings as necessary. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the Chief of Police or the chairperson.
- The Board will provide an annual report to Council. Additional reports will be provided as deemed necessary or by request from Council or the Chief of Police.
- The Chief of Police and designated Captain will serve as liaisons to the Board and point of contact responsible for coordinating the board's requests.
- The Human Resources Director will serve as a liaison to the Board for the purposes of ensuring that employee matters adhere to the City's Personnel Rule and Regulations.
- The Board will serve as an advisory body to the Chief of Police. The Board will give counsel, support, advice, and recommendations to the Chief of Police for the purpose of improving transparency and accountability while building trust and fostering strong police-community relations. This will include review of the complaint process as permitted by law.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

- City Attorney
- City Clerk/Information Services
- Community Services
- Finance
- Fire
- Development Services
- Human Resources
- Police
- Public Works