Board of Supervisors
Safety and Security Committee

April 8, 2025 9:30 a.m.
Government Center Conference Room 11

Board of Supervisors (Board) Members present:

Rodney Lusk, Franconia District (Committee Chair) – In Person
James Walkinshaw, Braddock District (Vice Chair) – In Person
Jeff McKay, Chairman – Absent
James Bierman, Dranesville District – In Person
Walter Alcorn, Hunter Mill District – In Person
Andres Jimenez, Mason District – In Person
Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District – In Person
Dalia Palchik, Providence District – In Person
Pat Herrity, Springfield District – Absent
Kathy Smith, Sully District – In Person

The Safety and Security Committee (Committee) meeting was called to order at **9:34 a.m.**

Office of Independent Police Auditor (OIPA) 2024 Annual Report: 9:35 a.m.

Richard G. Schott, Independent Police Auditor, presented on the Office of the Independent Police Auditor's 2024 Annual Report. He summarized 100 active cases including reviews of FCPD investigations into officer-involved shootings, in-custody deaths, and serious injuries, and complaints into uses of force.

Mr. Schott published incident reports in 2024 on three officer-involved shootings and two in-custody deaths. He found that the FCPD's internal investigations met the standards of being complete, thorough, objective, impartial, and accurate. He also summarized his conclusions after reviewing 18 investigations into public complaints of excessive force. Mr. Schott summarized the five recommendations he made to FCPD in 2024 and noted that one was implemented, one was not, and three were still pending.

Members asked Mr. Schott questions about his plan for addressing his high case load and an anticipated timeline, his recommendation to incorporate non-criminal factors into General Order 540 when determining whether force was objectively reasonable during a non-criminal situation, and his recommendation about examining the use of vehicle forfeiture in response to individuals fleeing the police by vehicle. Discussion ensued on his recommendation to explore the expansion of a purely civilian response to mental health calls, shifting from his previous recommendation to more fully implement a co-response model. Board members requested that the Auditor share the literature that he has found on the growing number of non-police response programs and their outcomes.

Police Civilian Review Panel (PCRP) 2024 Annual Report: 10:16 a.m.

Cheri Belkowitz, the Past Chair of the Police Civilian Review Panel (Panel), presented a broad overview of her tenure as Panel Chair and outlined changes in the Office of the Police Civilian Review Panel staff and Panel member positions. Ms. Belkowitz highlighted the effectiveness of training completed in the past year and future training for Panel members. She also briefly reviewed the data on complaints and allegations contained in the Annual Report.

Ms. Belkowitz shared her thoughts about the Panel possibly having investigative authority and made personal recommendations regarding training police officers being cautious when children are present during the arrests of parents. Ms. Belkowitz also provided her opinion regarding methods used by the Fairfax County Police Department Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) when investigating allegations of racial bias in police officers and the possibility of incorporation of restorative justice in the complaint process. Ms. Belkowitz also recommended arrestees be offered the option of an officer of the same-sex officer for body searches when possible. In addition, Ms. Belkowitz expressed her opinion that there should be public comment during all of the Panel's monthly meetings.

Supervisor Smith firmly expressed her objection to the Panel having investigative authority. Ms. Belkowitz shared her concerns regarding the fact that the Panel only reviewed the information provided by IAB. She said there was no way to know if IAB did not provide the Panel members with all the information associated with an investigation. Supervisors Bierman and Smith emphasized the credibility of IAB and their investigations.

In response to Ms. Belkowitz's previous recommendation, Supervisor Bierman read previous panel findings on a case that mentioned that investigative questioning could be different. Supervisor Bierman asked if there was a recommendation on how the questioning of officers in bias investigations should be changed. Ms. Belkowitz followed up by saying she contacted other police departments, oversight bodies, and IAB but no one had any recommendations on different questions. Panel Liaison Miles stated he and IAB are currently discussing changes IAB has instituted and may be instituting to bolster bias investigations. Supervisor Palchik suggested that the Chief Equity Officer be involved in the discussion of questioning in bias investigations. Supervisor Bierman asked if the Panel Recommendations Matrix was up to date, and Ms. Belkowitz said that it was currently up to date.

Supervisor Storck said the community should be provided with additional information and resources concerning interacting with the Magistrate's Office.

Additional Information: N/A

The Committee meeting adjourned at **10:59 a.m.**

The next Committee meeting is May 20, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.