

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING AND STRENGTHENING
COMMUNITY POLICING

Whereas, there is a national crisis in American policing that has reached the city of Morgantown, and

Whereas, 1,000 and more persons in Morgantown demonstrated to express concern with millions of others in the nation and the world about the violent death of George Floyd in Minneapolis due to deadly policing practices, and

Whereas, violence in American policing is systemic and tied to aggressive or unclear law enforcement policies and practices that have disproportionately targeted communities of color and other marginalized groups, and

Whereas, the term "law enforcement" is often misrecognized as a form of policing which can affect the disposition and outlook of officers towards their work and can inhibit community partnerships and community safety, and

Whereas, the City of Morgantown has endeavored to operate its policing according to a Community Policing philosophy which stresses community partnerships and strategies for redirecting crime and disorder, an approach to public safety which provides citizens with more control over the quality of life in our community, and

Whereas, Community Policing respects the rights of individual citizens and residents to express First Amendments rights non-violently, and

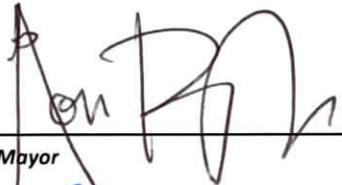
Whereas, the City of Morgantown has made important progress in making Community Policing its mode of public safety under the able leadership of Chief Edward Preston, now retired, to which the City would like to continue:

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Morgantown affirms its progress in Community Policing and resolves to provide continued improvements in its future public safety as follows:

1. Reaffirm and augment the mission and operations of the police department.
2. Establish outcome measures consistent with the community policing mission and regularly report on progress.
3. Strive to add enough racially and ethnically diverse officers to the police department to be at least proportional to the Morgantown population as evidenced through documented recruiting and outreach efforts.
4. Continue to review the background of officer candidates to confirm that any previous experience as an officer was free of improper behaviors and/or excessive use of force as documented from records from previous employers which are transparent enough to make that determination and deny the hiring and/or recertification of officers who, according to federal guidelines, have used unwarranted deadly force.

5. Establish an arrangement with community agencies that enables those agencies to assist the police promptly when needed for follow-up on crisis situations, de-escalations, behavioral and mental health problems, and intoxication with information/referral and other evidence-based problem-solving.
6. Assist officers in becoming more knowledgeable in coping with mental illness and drug related situations and, when possible, allow civilian mental health workers and homeless-service workers to take the lead in crisis situations with communications, containment, and coordination with appropriate care-giving.
7. Divert persons with mental illness from jail custody to specialized courts or care systems as such specialized courts and care systems are created. Utilize the current mental hygiene processes within the state when appropriate.
8. Expand relationships with neighborhoods, commercial establishments, Monongalia County, and West Virginia University and other constituents and partners for the purpose of making public safety more public and more effective.
9. Continue to protect the ability of protesters to exercise their First Amendment Rights nonviolently and to emphasize that violations of property are not to be equated with the violation of human life.
10. Continue the use of body-worn cameras and dash mounted cameras, which are turned on during all citizen interaction, and other means of enhancing transparency, accountability and accessibility by uniformed police in providing public safety services and provide for a means of public request of footage.
11. Continue to require marked police vehicles to be equipped with dashboard cameras.
12. Improve police personnel training by emphasizing best practice antiracism training, training focused on the unique needs of people with disabilities (such as those with sensory processing issues, those who communicate through alternative forms such as sign-language, physical disabilities requiring alternative restraint procedures, and those experiencing mental health crisis) and implicit bias orientation.
13. Re-emphasize in training the use of deadly force only as a last resort when necessary to prevent death or serious bodily injury and establish a clear prohibition by Morgantown Police on the use of the chokehold or other carotid artery holds in restraining or subduing a resistant individual or in bringing an unlawful situation under control.
14. Stress the use of evidence-based preventive and de-escalation intervention skills as well as the establishment of a duty to intervene policy if they see another officer use excessive force.
15. Reduce participation in the aspect of the Federal 1033 program that provides military equipment to local and state police and restrict use of this program for acquisition of military grade tactical assault weapons. Be mindful in choosing which tactical military training is given for use in community policing.
16. Establish diversity liaisons including race, disability, and LGBTQ liaisons to the Police department as resources to assist with plans for training and with the review of cases as needed.
17. Establish a methodology for readily, publicly accessible demographic information regarding arrests and citations, use of force complaints, and harassment complaints.
18. Establish a diverse, qualified, and trained volunteer Community Police Review and Advisory Board to aid the City of Morgantown in its Community Policing practices and efforts, make recommendations for policy changes, investigate allegations of police misconduct, and other improvements.

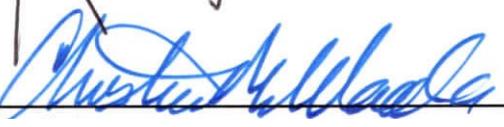
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City Council of Morgantown as of this day adopts the recommendations in this Resolution and authorizes the City Manager to proceed toward their implementation.



Mayor

Date:

The 1st day of September 2020.



City Clerk