

REPORT – PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
September 6, 2023

The Standing Committee on Public Safety to which was referred the following reports as follows:

#1 on agenda

having considered the same, report UNFAVORABLE by Motion of Councilor Thompson, 2nd by Councilor Farwell.

MINUTES – PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
September 6, 2023

The Standing Committee on Public Safety was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Councilor Farwell with Councilors Asack and Thompson present.

Agenda read into the record.

The Committee first considered the following:

#1 on agenda

Comments by Councilor Farwell
(CFO unable to attend due to attending school committee meeting)

Petition Read into Agenda.

Comments by Gamaliel Lauture
(concerned citizen, visionary advocate for Brockton, vital role in ensuring safety and trust of the community, with subpoena power, allowing citizens to decide the fate of the ordinance, essential step, subpoena witnesses and evidence, democratic vote whether this board should be established, POST Commission as part of criminal justice reform act of 2020, Boston by City Ordinance has a separate commission, internal oversight panel, report to the Mayor, recommendations for a police review board, access to list to problem officers, instrument on unity, bridge gap, can we afford to wait any long, communities without closure, will send a powerful message to citizens, transparency, place ordinance on the ballot for the upcoming election, let the citizens have their voices heard,)

Comments by Councilor Farwell
(Letter from Police: concerns of police patrol union, no good reason to create in Brockton, state commission for all police officers, in opposition, already a painful process in the state, tax payer funds already expended by POST Commission, another agency to be funded by tax payers, conflicts, more difficult to attract new candidates, police chief role in Brockton, POST Commission is already notified, another level added, do not want officers second guessing themselves in split second decisions due to oversight, signed by Derek Salamone, President of the Brockton Police Patrolmen Union)

(did some research, please to see work of POST Commission publishing officers' names due to violation, funding is excessive, state level)

Comments by Gamaliel Lauture
(11 officers from Brockton, we know that there are much more that are not being reported, lack of evidence at time from the people submitting report, acts as a

barrier, facts from ACLU on studies, participation, neutrality, objectivity, more likely to collaborate, need legislative powers to do so, language is based on Boston's ordinance, funding is a scaled down version from Boston's operations)

Comments by Councilor Asack

(few issues with subpoena power, funding, struggling to get more police, hiring issue, maybe in the future, right now we need to focus on building police force, considers letter from police union, hope they could come speak on the matter)

Comments by Councilor Thompson

(read the petition, and listen to comments, POST Commission just passed, currently implemented, give it time to work, collaboration was multiple yearlong effort, we support police department, bad actors, POST Commissions to help address those problems in our police department, considers conflicts and officers acting, real concerns, allow for POST Commission to be implemented and tested, thinks this is premature)

Comments by Gamaliel Lauture

(POST Commission is not operated by Brockton, main purpose is certification, training, and development of peace officers, discipline, not just Boston, better environment, win-win, narrative of union is a bit short sighted)

Comments by Councilor Farwell

(gave their lives to get us where we are now, giant leap by state for POST Commission, place on their website for public to file a complaint of misconduct, objective, thinks that's the way to go, would rather by body camera, won't support this, but recognizes what has happened in this Country, not ready to jump over POST Commission)

Comments by Gamaliel Lauture

(POST Commission welcomes CRBs)

Motion to report FAVORABLE by Councilor Thompson, 2nd by Councilor Farwell. Motion failed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Farwell, 2nd by Councilor Thompson at 7:25 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.