

TAC Work Overview for 2020

TAC Website: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/61449>

The mission of the Portland Police Bureau's (PPB) Training Advisory Council (TAC) is to provide ongoing advice to the Chief of Police and the Training Division in order to continuously improve training standards, practices, and outcomes through the examination of training philosophy, content, delivery, tactics, policy, equipment, and facilities.

As an organization, the TAC is pragmatic in its approach to achieving significant change via fully integrated reform focused training. Resolutions and recommendations are built on a strong foundation of research and dialogue, focusing on the overarching and long-term issues present in our current public safety system. It strives to understand and navigate the nuances of complex issues in order to support reforms which take into account all factors involved.

The past year has proven to be one of many challenges for our community, challenges which have brought a renewed and much needed focus on the inequities present in our current public safety system. In response to this need for change, the TAC has shifted its work to a broader focus on understanding the sources of these inequities and beginning the process of creating a long-term vision and training strategies to overcome them. The TAC is fully committed to not only examining ways to modify existing institutional structures to mitigate issues, but also exploring the creation of entirely new approaches to the providing of public safety services to the communities of Portland. Below, please find a summary of individual TAC recommendations, resolutions, and reports for 2020.

Public Safety Long-Term Vision

The TAC is a strong proponent that we as a community must create a long-term vision for what we want our public safety system to look like in five to ten years. Specifically focusing on identifying the sources of inequity in our current system and creating strategies to overcome and mitigate them. The TAC believes that changes must be built on solid foundations of up-to-date data and information, and that proper change management practices must be utilized.

Resolution 1: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/763832>

Resolution 2: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/763831>

Report: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/768117>

Public Safety Support Specialists

A primary focus of the TAC in 2020 was promoting the expansion and greater utilization of the Public Safety Support Specialist (PS3) program, unarmed public safety officials, as an alternative to sworn officers when responding to low priority and low risk calls for service. The TAC believes that an expansion of this program will create benefits for the community, allow for the more efficient use of public safety resources, and create new avenues for PPB recruitment and training, including creating a more diverse bureau.

Recommendation 1: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/763833>

Recommendation 2: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/778337>

Fully Integrating Equity Principles

The TAC believes strongly that the principles of equity cannot be just a check the box endeavor, but must be fully integrated into every aspect of the PPB's training and culture. Towards this, the TAC supported prioritizing the hiring of an equity analyst and equity training specialist, despite ongoing budget cuts.

Resolution: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/765709>

Creating Partnerships

The TAC has endeavored over the past year to form partnerships with other community advisory groups which focus on our city's public safety system. Though historically communication between these groups has been limited, the TAC has been a strong proponent of opening lines of communication in order to create a fuller dialogue and provide avenues of mutual support and increased community input.

Support 1: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/763835>

Support 2: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/763836>

Support 3: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/763837>

Support 4: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/765710>

Overview of Historical and Current Police Data

In order to establish important historic and present-day context, the TAC prepared a report outlining and comparing publicly available police data over time. While this data highlights a number of positive trends, including significant drops in the use of force, it also helps bring focus to current and continuing issues both internally for the bureau and regarding its interactions with the general public and specific communities.

Report 1: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/765707>

Report 2: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/765706>

Patterns in the Use of Force

To better highlight possible areas of concern, the TAC carried out a statistical analysis of use of force data for 2019 in order to identify any significant differences in the force used against specific communities. The report identifies several key concerns regarding the levels of force experienced by some communities compared to others.

Report: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/763834>

Demographic Data Inclusion

To help establish a public sense of transparency, the TAC pushed for the inclusion of city demographic data with the PPB's quarterly and annual Force Data Summaries, resulting in a compromise solution where a link to the data is provided in the reports.

Resolution: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/765708>

Vehicle Operations

In January of this year the TAC had the opportunity of providing feedback regarding vehicle operations in-service training received by PPB sworn officers.

Resolution: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/756738>