

TAC Work Overview for 2021

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.

Much like the previous year, 2021 has proven to be one of many challenges for our community, challenges which have not only helped bring focus to the inequities present in our current public safety system, but also the difficulties inherent in changing that system without fully understanding the challenges within it. Compared to 2020, the TAC shifted back towards its central mission of focusing on training reform, recognizing the importance of training in shifting police culture, improving the services offered to the community, and ensuring officers are best equipped with the tools needed to keep themselves healthy and effective, both physically and mentally. The TAC remains committed to doing its part to create a better police bureau which equitably serves all of the communities of Portland. Below, please find a summary of individual TAC recommendations, resolutions, and reports for 2021.

Leadership

Recognizing the importance of leadership in public safety reform, the TAC focused this year on PPB leadership training, especially for those shifting from on the street to administrative leadership positions. By creating leaders with flexibility and strong supervisory skills, it is the belief of that TAC that PPB will better be able to fulfill its mission of providing a public safety organization that is respected, trustworthy, equitable, and internally healthy and cohesive.

Recommendation: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/783630>

Education

In recent years the PPB has lowered its minimum education requirements in an attempt to increase new officer recruitment. The TAC has pushed back on this change by requesting the education requirement be raised again, but also recommending an alternative two year apprenticeship based avenue for those without an Associate's degree via the Public Safety Support Specialist (PS3) program.

Recommendation: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/783562>

Officer Intervention Training

The TAC is a strong supporter of the PPB's new Active Bystander for Law Enforcement (ABLE) training and provided important feedback during the training development process.

ABLE training, developed by the Georgetown University Law School Innovative Policing Program teaches officers on how to effectively speak up when they see other officer's acting in a way which could break PPB policies and procedures or creates a risk of harm.

Feedback: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/797000>

Crowd Control

Given the events of 2020 and early 2021, the TAC took a special interest in crowd control training, reviewing crowd control training dry-runs multiple times and adding a much needed community lens to the development of training. Important focus area of the TAC included ensuring officers are given explicit training on legal requirements regarding the use of force during crowd control situations and are properly trained in de-escalation techniques.

Feedback 1: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/784888>

Feedback 2: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/784890>

Feedback 3: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/784889>

Feedback 4: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/784891>

Supporting Equity

The TAC continued to support the adoption of policies meant to promote and center equity in the work of the PPB and partnered with the PPB's Office of Inclusion of Equity to integrate the principles of equity into all types of police training. It is the belief of the TAC equity cannot just be a check the box endeavor, but must be an aspect of all work done by the PPB.

Resolution: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/783564>

Support: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/783566>

Public Safety Support Specialists

The TAC continued promoting the expansion and greater utilization of the PS3 program as an unarmed alternative to sworn officers when responding to low priority and low risk calls for service. In 2021, City Council voted to expand the program to 36 PS3s.

Resolution: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/783563>

Core Patrol Services Reform

In 2021, the Mayor's Office asked the Portland Committee on Community Engaged Policing (PCCEP) to create a set of recommendations regarding the PPB's core patrol services. To support this effort, the TAC provided a set of recommendations to the PCCEP based upon its years of work, many of which were incorporated into the PCCEP's final recommendations.

Resolution: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/783565>

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: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/783054>