

Draft V.2: Powers and Duties of the Safety & Equity Board:

Initial draft as of 11/22/21 adapted 12/7/21

for consideration by the scope committee and/or the taskforce

Board Duties:

Educate the public about ways to file complaints and get help in doing so.

Develop and sustain a relationship with a town Ombudsman who would help people with joys and concerns to file complaints and compliments and-or connect those persons to others who will help them file a complaint (e.g. PAVE or VCIL or NAACP...).

Report findings about each complaint or compliment to the Select Board and to the Community

Look for patterns and trends in data about police performance and in complaints and compliments, and report them to the Select Board

Recommend policies, procedures and practices based on experiences with complaints and compliments, and perform regular scheduled reviews of policies, etc.

Recommend trainings for BPD members based on the board's reviews and policy work.

Report to the Select Board twice a year recounting and summarizing complaints and compliments, reviews, and recommendations; and training experienced by each board member

Make input in the Police Chief's Annual Review.

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Make budget recommendations to the Select Board for the board's expenses

Welcome and gather feedback from BPD officers evaluating or suggesting specific training experiences.

We noticed that Pittsfield & Cedar Rapids both were closely integrated with the

functioning of the police department. This made us aware that sometimes our board's efforts with data, training, and collaboration would work closely with the BPD. In contrast the Board's work on policies will be more independent, while the Board's review of complaints and the BPD's response to them will be much more independent.