

Questions

Public Comment (as of March 9)

<p>Please provide feedback on the proposed hybrid model used in the draft Community Policing Review Board Ordinance for Alexandria.</p>	<p>This seems like an awfully expensive solution to a problem that does not exist within the City of Alexandria. Just because you CAN have a Community Review Board does not mean that you SHOULD. The Alexandria Police Department employs professional law enforcement personnel, accreditation managers, an auditor, and competent internal investigators. They are an accredited agency through CALEA and have been the gold standard for law enforcement in Northern Virginia.</p>
<p>Please review the chart and provide your feedback on any elements of other models that should be considered in Alexandria.</p>	<p>Full Review Board. Least expensive and intrusive for a problem that does not exist in Alexandria.</p>
<p>Please provide any additional feedback you may have.</p>	
<p>Please provide feedback on the proposed hybrid model used in the draft Community Policing Review Board Ordinance for Alexandria.</p>	<p>I conduct performance audits of federal law enforcement agencies and have a couple recommendations for expanding the Board's authority to ensure it can meet the ordinance's goals: 1) Section 2-4-221(d) of the proposed ordinance gives the Board access to all records, documents, and materials as needed. Relevant City/APD officials should also be made available as needed for the Board's reviews, to be interviewed to provide context for these documents. 2) In the current draft of the ordinance, APD must issue a public written statement explaining why it is not implementing a recommendation from the Board. The ordinance should be amended to also require APD to provide public written statements for recommendations that it has implemented, explaining how APD actions meet the recommendation. The Board should then determine whether the recommendation was sufficiently implemented and can be closed, or should remain open as yet unimplemented. Without this addition, the public will not receive closure on many Board recommendations, or assurance that recommendations were fully followed.</p>
<p>Please review the chart and provide your feedback on any elements of other models that should be considered in Alexandria.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Please provide any additional feedback you may have.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<p>Please provide feedback on the proposed hybrid model used in the draft Community Policing Review Board Ordinance for Alexandria.</p>	<p>This is a waste of \$600,000. I really don't think we have a problem with police brutality here in Alexandria. Complaints against police seem like they can be adequately handled by current boards and committees. This seems like money being spent just to be "politically correct." The Holmes Run Trail has needed major fixes (Jordan Street creek bridge and 395 tunnel) for about 2 years now. The money would be much better spent on a project like that, in my opinion. Thank You.</p>
<p>Please review the chart and provide your feedback on any elements of other models that should be considered in Alexandria.</p>	<p>Like I said, I don't think we need this board.</p>
<p>Please provide any additional feedback you may have.</p>	
<p>Please provide feedback on the proposed hybrid model used in the draft Community Policing Review Board Ordinance for Alexandria.</p>	<p>The best option is to continue with the current model APD uses. It is the cheapest and quite frankly the system is not broken. Since it seems that council is determined to make a change, the review board should simply be that, a REVIEW board. The police department should retain all investigative power that it has now, and then present the results of administrative investigations to the board for review. In the middle of COVID-19 budget issues, the City should not be spending \$600,000 to address a non-existent problem. As a City resident, there are better places this money could be spent, or even better, not at all. I challenge all council members to provide specific instances of unaddressed police misconduct IN ALEXANDRIA that necessitate this drastic change to APD. The fact that this came about due to misconduct in the Minneapolis Police Department, which prior to last summer already had two outside entities investigating police misconduct complaints, should tell you how effective any of these proposed options are.</p>
<p>Please review the chart and provide your feedback on any elements of other models that should be considered in Alexandria.</p>	<p>The "Current oversight of Law Enforcement" option is the best option. There is oversight for the most serious of complaints from outside sources ensuring that complaints are handled correctly, however the police department has the ability to operate. The proposed model essentially transfers the management and decision making of APD to the review board, which is insane. If the status quo is not an acceptable option for council, then the most widely used "Full Review Board" option is the only option that makes sense for Alexandria.</p>

<p>Please provide any additional feedback you may have.</p>	<p>I challenge all council members to provide specific instances of unaddressed police misconduct in Alexandria that requires this drastic change to APD. If you are unable to do this in specific terms, involving specific incidents in Alexandria, I would encourage you to stop and rethink if any of this is needed. As local government officials you should be working to address issues occurring in Alexandria. APD needs a review board as much as the Fire Department needs a Mountain Rescue Team. Neither would do anything to address things that happen here. It makes the most sense to begin with the least drastic change and work from there to see if additional changes are needed. Instead, this proposal makes unneeded drastic changes to a City agency that is widely respected under its current model. It is obvious to me now that this resolution was going to be a talking point for Councilman Seifeldein's defunct campaign for Mayor. I ask the other council members to stand up to Councilman Seifeldein and not fall victim to his political aspirations. Your constituents, the residents of Alexandria, do NOT support this proposal.</p>
<p>Please provide feedback on the proposed hybrid model used in the draft Community Policing Review Board Ordinance for Alexandria.</p>	<p>Can we clarify the staffing structure? While I like the idea of investigators and a police auditor those jobs typically aren't great managers of a board, Nor great at responding to public concerns outside of police brutality and yes the board would offset but I think the head of the CPRB should be someone who is a project manager to bring that all together or this model will not operate effectively and develop the support and relationships needed to sustain itself or exhibit product. One of the biggest problems with government is its inability to reach underserved communities and I think a full time staff person should have those abilities.</p>
<p>Please review the chart and provide your feedback on any elements of other models that should be considered in Alexandria.</p>	<p>Hyrbid, with APD conducting review and CRB being able to view the notes and case at hand. That would help with workload and it is most efficient since complaints compared to other cities are low.</p>
<p>Please provide any additional feedback you may have.</p>	
<p>Please provide feedback on the proposed hybrid model used in the draft Community Policing Review Board Ordinance for Alexandria.</p>	<p>I have resided in the City or worked here for more than 50 years. Much of this time I have closely involved with the criminal justice system, including time as an Assistant commonwealth's Attorney and as a Judge of the Circuit Court. For almost all of these years I have urged the creation of such a review board as contemplated by the proposed ordinance and urge the City Council to adopt it. It does not interfere with police functions in such a way as to impair the performance of those functions and gives greater citizen input into the police process, which is badly needed. However, the system will only be as good as the citizens appointed to the Board. I urge Council to insure that fair and unbiased (in either way, for or against police) citizens be appointed without regard to political considerations.</p>
<p>Please review the chart and provide your feedback on any elements of other</p>	

<p>models that should be considered in Alexandria.</p>	
<p>Please provide any additional feedback you may have.</p>	
<p>Please provide feedback on the proposed hybrid model used in the draft Community Policing Review Board Ordinance for Alexandria.</p>	<p>Hello, I believe that the rampant unlawful abuse of the 4th amendment, by unlawfully detaining citizens, to be the number one threat to citizen safety. To be clear, I support the lawful use of detentions when probable cause or reasonable articulable suspicion of a crime is present. Strong accountability for police officers who engage in unlawful detentions would dramatically reduce the use of escalation tactics that are inherent in unlawful detentions. Leadership within law enforcement are aware but continue to pressure the officers on the street to engage in this practice. It's wrong and places the officers on the street in danger, the citizens of our community in danger, all while providing plausible deniability to leadership. If our officers are properly trained on lawful detentions it will benefit our community.</p>
<p>Please review the chart and provide your feedback on any elements of other models that should be considered in Alexandria.</p>	
<p>Please provide any additional feedback you may have.</p>	
<p>Please provide feedback on the proposed hybrid model used in the draft Community Policing Review Board Ordinance for Alexandria.</p>	<p>City Council developed a draft ordinance after considering examples of review boards throughout the country and Alexandria's own needs."</p> <p>Council is yet to provide a valid, fact based argument as to how any citizen review board fits "Alexandria's own needs." Why does Alexandria need any review board at this time? Why does Alexandria need a review board with investigative powers at this time? The answer is there is no need.</p> <p>There is not one piece of the current proposal that I support. The current model is not broken and does not need a \$600k fix. This entire proposal is nothing more than a solution to a non-existent problem. City council should amend the proposal and either maintain the current arrangement or select the Fairfax County model.</p>
<p>Please review the chart and provide your feedback on any elements of other models that should be considered in Alexandria.</p>	<p>The current model should be maintained. APD should maintain their current investigative powers with the assistance of State Police in certain cases.</p>
<p>Please provide any additional feedback you may have.</p>	<p>"A city that hates its police better love its criminals."</p> <p>This review board proposal will create the problem you are attempting to solve. Council will</p>

	<p>create a recruiting and retention nightmare for APD in which the best employees and candidates will not come here. If city leadership openly thinks so little of APD, why would the best and brightest officers want to stay with APD or come to Alexandria to begin with?</p> <p>Furthermore, as seen around the country, crime will skyrocket in Alexandria once this is passed. Officers will do no more than the bare minimum. And who could blame them, knowing that all of their decisions will be sent to a hostile review board to be scrutinized by people who are ignorant to their profession.</p> <p>City council has missed the mark entirely with this proposal. It will have a long lasting negative impact on public safety and quality of life in Alexandria.</p>
<p>Please provide feedback on the proposed hybrid model used in the draft Community Policing Review Board Ordinance for Alexandria.</p>	<p>While I comment the Mayor and City Council for declaring the city's intent to establish a policing review board (CPRB) which puts Alexandria in the forefront of urban policing reform efforts, I do not believe that the proposed "hybrid" model goes far enough. I was able to view the presentations of the staff's draft ordinance and the discussions that were a part of the Community Engagement on the evening of March 3, 2021. I concluded that the model that is being proposed, while perhaps offering a reasonable compromise, is a disappointment. There seems to have been little or no significant consideration of the more robust "investigative" model of review board which would allow for more in-depth investigation of matters brought before the board and also give the board real authority to enforce its recommendations. This model is widely recognized as a more transparent and therefore more trustworthy method of providing civilian review of complaints about police actions. It was not made clear on March 3 why this model is not being more actively considered. I would strongly encourage the Council not to limit its vision of the planned change in approach to policing oversight but to aim to go higher and deeper into real reform rather than settling for a compromise at the very outset.</p>
<p>Please review the chart and provide your feedback on any elements of other models that should be considered in Alexandria.</p>	<p>The availability of binding enforcement authority should be considered.</p>
<p>Please provide feedback on the proposed hybrid model used in the draft Community Policing Review Board Ordinance for Alexandria.</p>	<p>I commend Alexandria's Mayor and City Council for adopting Resolution 2950 on June 9, 2020, declaring their intent to establish a community policing review board (CPRB). As of 2018, only approximately 200 of the over 3000 law enforcement organizations (LEOs) in the United States have established CPRBs, and it is significant the Alexandria Police Department will be among those relatively few LEOs.</p> <p>I viewed staff's presentations to Council on draft CPRB ordinances, and the discussions that followed, that occurred on the September 8, 2020, and January 12, 2021 Council meetings, and attended the Community Engagement presentations on February 27 and March 3, 2021. While staff did not recommend the relatively weak "Review" model of CPRBs, staff also did not recommend the most robust model of CPRBs, that is, the "Investigative" model. The robust Investigative model of CPRBs is recognized as the most transparent model of CPRBs, and the model that engenders the most community trust. While an investigative CPRB is more costly than the proposed "Hybrid" board model, these are not the times to be considering a weaker board model based solely on cost. Potential costs of community trust (and, perhaps, lives) are immeasurable.</p>

	<p>I posed the question to staff during the February 27 Community Engagement meeting about staff's choice of a hybrid board model over an Investigative board model. Unfortunately, the staff member misspoke in her answer, replying that an investigative board would be saddled with such issues as time and attendance violations and computer misuse. To be clear, the span of authority of a board of any model can be codified in an ordinance, and can be limited to those items deemed to be most important to a community, and typically the types of external complaints investigated include use of force, officer-involved shootings/deaths, and abuse of police authority. Many types of internal complaints or violations can be excluded from an ordinance.</p> <p>The September 8 and January 12 Council discussions were focused on aspects of the proposed hybrid board model, and included very little, if any, discussion of the advantages of an investigative board when compared with a hybrid board. It is of the utmost importance that Council fully considers a resolution that puts into place a CPRB of the robust investigative model.</p>
<p>Please review the chart and provide your feedback on any elements of other models that should be considered in Alexandria.</p>	<p>There are some misleading elements in this chart. Some examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Not necessarily accurate to say Full Investigatory Boards use subpoenas "frequently." Boards of this model, as well as hybrid boards, both can and do use them as needed. -Not accurate to say that if an Alexandria CPRB was of the investigatory board model, it would no longer conduct any investigations. The parenthetical statement is the accurate one, and an ordinance can and should define the kinds of complaints investigated by a board. The kinds of complaints investigated should be primarily those that are generated outside of the APD, are serious in nature, and should not be used as a replacement for addressing of more routine internal personnel matters. <p>Further, the absence of binding disciplinary in the proposed model would make the review board even weaker than other hybrid models in the nation, and is in alignment with the weakest board model (the review model). Is this what Alexandria wants, that is, a board that would be so weak that it would not be viewed with any significant amount of trust from the community? Why even stand up such a weak board?</p> <p>The second-to-last argument posed as a "con" to an investigatory board can and should be viewed as a "pro." The point of a strong community board is to be transparent and unbiased, and that includes removing the possibility of the investigated party imposing discipline on itself. There is no way around the issue of bias if the APD is allowed to monitor and police itself. The latter is exactly what has gotten our nation to the place it is regarding the historic and extraordinary negative impact of policing on members of BIPOC communities. The final "con" argument should not be a position that the City would find itself in. It is up to the Mayor and Council to alleviate the possibility of an adversarial relationship.</p> <p>It is extremely concerning that the Council has not had a complete and thorough discussion of the benefits of an investigatory board over the hybrid model currently proposed. To date, it has only discussed the various hybrid models presented to it by staff. To best serve our community, a board of an investigatory model must be fully vetted.</p>
<p>Please provide any additional feedback you may have.</p>	<p>Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments. To reemphasize a point I made in previous sections, a draft ordinance defining an investigatory board model must be discussed and debated by Council, and must be presented to the community in such a way as to gain the most amount of thoughtful input, especially from those historically most marginalized in Alexandria.</p>

<p>Please provide feedback on the proposed hybrid model used in the draft Community Policing Review Board Ordinance for Alexandria.</p>	<p>I am pleased Alexandria is on the cusp of establishing a community policing review board. These boards can be a critical element in providing accountability and increasing trust in policing. We shouldn't be lulled into believing that we are in good shape in Alexandria and these types of measures are unnecessary. Rather, we should welcome this community oversight as another strong indicator that our city is deeply committed to responsive and accountable policing.</p> <p>And a deep commitment to community oversight requires that we give the community review board the maximum investigative powers needed to act when a policing incident is under question. I've watched the last few years when half-measures failed to bring justice to communities. It is still too easy for public leaders in a tough spot to stop short of a thorough investigation and full access to justice. Then the community feels twice misused, first in the incident and then in the investigation.</p> <p>Let's not accept half-measures here in Alexandria and establish a community review board that has the full powers it needs to review any inappropriate or excessive policing. We need a review board with full investigative powers to reassure our community that justice will prevail in every situation. An impartial, empowered review board can deliver that assurance.</p>
<p>Please review the chart and provide your feedback on any elements of other models that should be considered in Alexandria.</p>	