

# LETAC Progress Report:

## Where are we now? Where are we heading?

5/18/2021

**Purpose.** Formed by City Council, the purpose of the Law Enforcement Transparency and Accountability Commission (LETAC) is to make recommendations to Council to promote improved understanding and relationships between the Colorado Springs Police Department and the public. LETAC does not have oversight over CSPD, nor does LETAC investigate police-involved incidents or propose actions against department personnel. Visit [Law Enforcement Transparency and Accountability Commission | Colorado Springs](#) to see complete statements of LETAC's mission and goals, as well as the ordinance that authorized its formation.

**Where are we now?** LETAC is engaged in a “Listening and Learning” phase during which four broad topics have been identified for preliminary exploration. These are:

- **Communications between CSPD and citizens**
- **Racial Bias**
- **Crisis Response Teams**
- **Use of Force**

**LETAC regular meetings are:**  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month, 6-8 PM.  
[Click to Join Meeting\(link is external\)](#)  
via Microsoft Teams.  
Telephone: 720-617-3426  
Conference ID: 629 946 63#

In addition to its regular meetings, LETAC also hosts Listening Sessions for members of the public to comment on any/all aspects of public safety and policing.

### The focus of the May 3 and 17 meetings was Use of Force

LETAC is exploring these questions:

1. Are **use of force** policies and practices sufficient to best meet the needs of our community?
  2. To what extent are mechanisms for **accountability** sufficient to promote public safety?
  3. When law enforcement investigates itself, how do we ensure there is minimal conflict of interest?
- On May 3, LETAC discussed next steps regarding the **Use of Force topic**. In contrast to our earlier twin-session approach to Communications, Racial Bias, Crisis Response Teams, LETAC's CSPD representatives informed the Commission that a Use of Force presentation would take longer than a single 45–60-minute session. Consequently, the Commission has scheduled 2-3 additional presentations from CSPD on Use of Force during the first halves of its next regular meetings. On May 17, CSPD presented policies for specific Use of Force tools. Commissioners asked CSPD follow-up questions on a number of related issues.
  - LETAC discussed on May 3 the results of a Communications Team work session held on April 29. The Commission reviewed the status of monthly **listening sessions**, during which members of the community offer comments related to public safety. On May 17, the Commission created an official **Communications Coordinator** position to manage logistics and interface with city staff, members of the public, and other entities to promote effective internal and external LETAC communications. A commissioner was elected to fill this position for one year. Currently, city COVID-19 guidelines do not permit city boards and commissions to meet with members of the public in person. However, the Commission will continue planning for a transition to an in-person format for listening sessions in anticipation of less restrictive guidelines.
  - In light of evolving COVID-19 guidelines, the Commission will use a **hybrid format for its regular meetings** beginning on June 7. Each commissioner will choose whether to meet in person or attend remotely. Per current city guidelines, members of the public will continue to access meetings remotely.

**Where are we headed?** At its June 7 meeting, CSPD will continue its presentation on **Use of Force** with a focus on officer training. The Commission will discuss planning for in-person **listening sessions** to be conducted when city COVID guidelines allow. During the second half of its June 7 meeting, LETAC will revisit the topic of **Crisis Response Teams** which was explored initially earlier this year.