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City Council

2020 Public Demonstration Responses and Current Crowd Control Management Policies and Practices Briefing

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Title

2020 Public Demonstration Responses and Current Crowd Control Management Policies and Practices Briefing

Recommended Action

Committee Recommendation:

On April 17, 2022 the Community Livability and Public Safety Committee received a briefing on the 2020 Demonstration Responses and Current Crowd Control Management Policies and Practices.

City Manager Recommendation:

Receive a briefing on the 2020 Demonstration Responses and Current Crowd Control Management Policies and Practices.

Report

Issue:

Whether to receive a briefing on the 2020 Demonstration Responses and Current Crowd Control Management Policies and Practices.

Staff Contact:

Rich Allen, Interim Chief, Olympia Police Department, 360.753.8147

Presenter(s):

Rich Allen, Interim Chief, Olympia Police Department

Background and Analysis:

In 2020, more than 70 demonstrations occurred in Olympia, Washington, several of which resulted in injuries to community members and police officers, significant property damage, and widespread disturbances to the community's sense of public safety and security. In order to learn from those events and ensure that the Olympia Police Department (OPD) follows best practices for public demonstrations and crowd management, the City of Olympia commissioned a comprehensive review.

While the review found that OPD's event responses were within its existing policies, the study identified several ways in which the Department could improve. The briefing will include an update on

what the Department is doing to address recommendations identified in the review.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

The community has an expectation that the Olympia Police Department's response to public demonstrations is consistent with best practices, unbiased, and maximizes public safety while protecting community members' First Amendment rights.

Options:

1. Receive the report.
2. Do not receive the report.
3. Receive the report at another time.

Financial Impact:

There is no financial impact related to the briefing.

Attachments:

2020 Demonstration Review Report