

# Bellevue Police Advisory Council Charter

## Purpose

The Bellevue Police Advisory Council's purpose is to allow members of Bellevue's diverse communities to provide recommendations to the Bellevue Police Department regarding community policing issues. This group will represent community members from a broad cross-section of Bellevue. The council's purpose is advisory only. It is not considered a “governing body” under the Open Public Meetings Act. Council members provide input and feedback on police initiatives and significant incidents. All councils will meet quarterly to review proposed police department policies and provide feedback to the Chief of Police on community policing issues. The individual councils may meet more frequently, if necessary, at the request of the Chief or individual council members.

The PRPM Major in the Office of the Chief will lead the meetings on behalf of the Chief of Police.

## Mission Statement

The Police Advisory Council brings together the community and police personnel to exchange ideas and information on police services. Its purpose is to strengthen the department—community relationship through trust, respect, and mutual understanding. The councils provide input and feedback on police initiatives and significant incidents, helping to ensure we meet the needs of all the Bellevue communities we serve.

## Vision Statement

As a result of fulfilling the council's mission, it is envisioned that the council's actions will produce:

- A safer, equitable, and more peaceful community.
- Improved crime prevention and law enforcement services.
- Improved relationships between the community and police.
- Improved communication between the community and police.
- Increased transparency from the Police Department.
- Strong community trust in the Police Department.

## Scope of Work

The Bellevue Police Advisory Councils are only one component of the department's community engagement efforts. The department commits to seeking their input and considering their recommendations to help guide our policies and strategies related to community policing.

The advisory councils aim to strengthen the department's relationship with the community through trust, respect, and mutual understanding.

# Bellevue Police Advisory Council Charter

The Advisory Council shall:

- Assist in setting department priorities for community policing through review of community policing materials, assessment of the effectiveness of strategies, and recommendations for improvement.
- Collaborate with the department on projects, provide guidance on best practices and approaches, help identify barriers between police officers and members of the community, and develop strategies to eliminate those barriers.
- Through the PRPM, provide feedback and make recommendations on departmental policies and decisions that may affect their communities.
  - This communication can be verbal or via email.
- Provide feedback on the effect and implementation of police programs.
- Serve as an active advisory council member and advocate in the community for the council's work. Help promote positive community relations between the Bellevue Police Department and Bellevue residents. Participate in public meetings.
- Advisory Council members will not be provided access to investigative materials, internal affairs investigations, or personnel files. The advisory council may review police operations, significant criminal investigations, and internal affairs investigations after they are completed and consistent with Washington state law to provide comment and advice to the Chief of Police.
- Have the opportunity for behind-the-scenes experiences and training sessions with the Bellevue Police Department.

## Council Membership

The Bellevue Police Advisory Council will consist of the following individual Advisory Councils. Once constituted, council members are expected to serve for at least two years. Nothing prohibits a committee member in good standing from serving beyond two years.

- African American Advisory Council
- Asian Pacific Islander Advisory Council
- Interfaith Advisory Council
- Latin/Hispanic Advisory Council
- LGBTQI Advisory Council
- South Asian Advisory Council
- Muslim Advisory Council

# Bellevue Police Advisory Council Charter

## Role of the Advisory Group

- To advise the Police on policy issues brought before the council.
- To make recommendations to the Chief of Police to support the successful implementation of community policing.
- To serve as the community's voice to the Chief of Police concerning policing issues.
- To serve as a public review and involved body for the Bellevue Police Department on issues related to community policing and public relations.
- To cultivate trust in the Bellevue Police Department and build a better police/community relationship.

## Role of Individual Members

- To represent a stakeholder group in providing input that reflects the concerns, visions, and ideas of each group.
- To report back to stakeholder groups with information on council activities and gather input from groups to share with the council.
- To suggest issues to be brought before the council.
- To be an active advocate for community policing.

## Role of Police Command Representative

- To recommend issues for the Chief to consider be brought before the council.
- To lead meetings.
- To provide resources to carry out tasks for the council.
- To listen to issues raised, share them with appropriate staff, and report back to the council with progress made on recommendations.

## Non-Related Issues

- The councils will not involve themselves in any political activity.
- The councils will not involve themselves in complaints on officers or officer discipline. (General police and procedural matters may be discussed.)

## Membership Criteria

To be accepted as a candidate and maintained as a member, all members of the council must meet the following criteria:

- Shall reside within Bellevue city limits; this requirement may be waived for the representative of the Bellevue business community, the Bellevue School District, or a student currently attending a college, university, or career development center in the City of Bellevue

# Bellevue Police Advisory Council Charter

- A criminal history/background check will be conducted. Criminal history, including persons with active Protection Orders (PO), No-Contact Orders (NCO), and Extreme-Risk Protection Orders (ERPO), will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- Is expected to either attend one Bellevue Police Department training each year (i.e., Department In-Service, Defensive Tactics, SWAT, CDU); or
- Participate in an interview panel or assessment center.
- Attendance at a training session or participation in an assessment or interview panel will be coordinated through the PRPM or their designee.

If a member cannot fulfill their commitment, they will be replaced by another member from the community they represent.

The Bellevue Chief of Police or the Chief's designee will make the final decision on council candidates.