

# Task Force for the Establishment of the Civilian Review Board: Recommendations

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# Independently Receive and Investigate All Complaints

- Independent investigations ensure due process for all parties involved
- Ensures timely resolution of complaints
- Builds community confidence and trust
- Investigating and receiving all complaints is a best practice that ensures that decisions about seriousness aren't arbitrarily or unfairly determined

# Subpoena Power

- The power to compel documents, evidence, and testimony is necessary for a CRB to perform its duties
- Many jurisdictions create MOU's between the police department and CRB to outline a process for timely transfer of relevant information
- Subpoena power can supplement this in cases in which that information is not provided in a timely manner

# Intake of Previous Complaints

- There is no precedent under VA law for adjudicating complaints prior to the formation of a CRB
- Likewise, officers couldn't be disciplined for cases that have already been processed through internal affairs
- Intake of previous complaints is important because many reported discomfort with filing a complaint with the police; intake of prior complaints can help us better understand community concerns.

# Make Binding Disciplinary Decisions

- Community members largest concern with creating a CRB is that is actually has power to oversee the police
- Decisions on discipline will be viewed as fair and impartial
- There is no data that suggests taking civilian input in deciding disciplinary decisions results in harsher punishments overall, but in cases where CRB's disagree with internal affairs, Chief's typically overrule the CRB and accept the internal affairs findings

# Review RPD Policy and Make Policy Recommendations

- Improves community and police relationships by allowing the community to have input on how they are policed through policy changes
- Improves transparency, by providing explanation to the community as to why a policy is in place or why it should be changed.
- Will empower RPD to incorporate the communities perspective into data gathering and decision making

# Auditing Police Data and Make Public Reports

- Increases public confidence in the oversight agency
- Allows the community to ask questions that are important to them
- True transparency means an office accountable to the public has access to RPD records and can independently audit them
- Allows the CRB to communicate important trends in policing to the public

# Review RPD Budget and Make Budgetary Recommendations

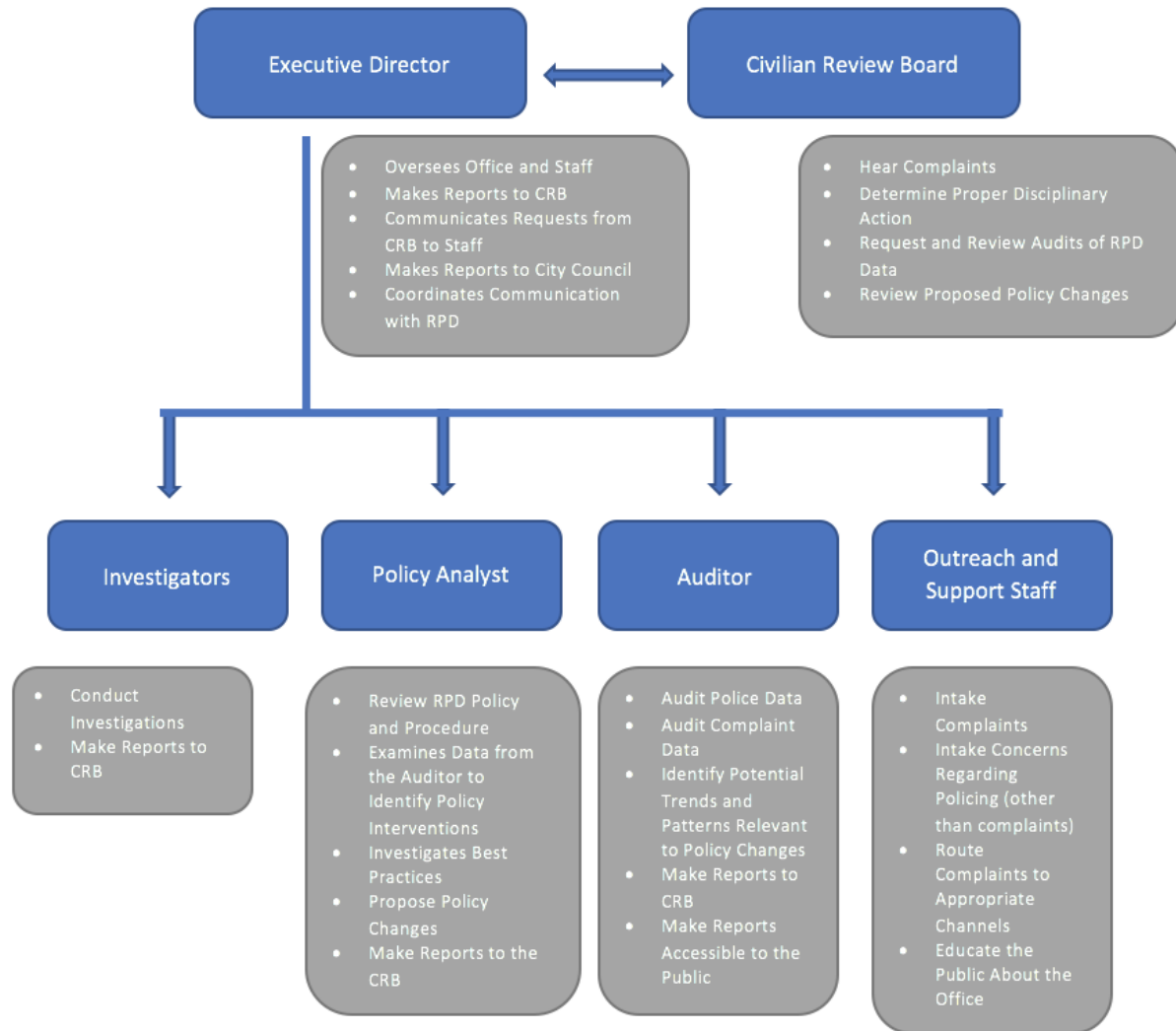
- Communities deserve a say in how they want the police to serve their communities
- Budget recommendations may be necessary given changes in policy
- While much of RPD's budget is fixed, discretionary dollars should be reviewed
- Examples- surveillance, purchases of military equipment, overtime budgets, mental health services allocations



# Why a Community Office of Police Accountability?

- The average citizen is not capable of fulfilling every role the CRB needs to provide effective oversight
- Trust with the Richmond community and RPD has been broken, and to repair community relations, there has to be an investment in outreach, transparency, and accountability
- The work of the task force indicates this is only possible through the implementation of an office that regularly engages in this efforts alongside a meaningful CRB

# Department of Community Oversight and Police Accountability: Structure and Roles



Ultimately, the police should be held accountable to the standards of our community. That should be reflected in police policies and procedures. There has to be accountability when that standard is not held.

Questions and Comments?

Thank you!