



# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Meeting Minutes

### Human Rights Commission

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Tuesday, October 6, 2020

5:15 PM

Council Chamber - Virtual

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A recording of this meeting can be viewed by clicking this link (or typing the URL in your web browser address bar):

<https://playback.lifesize.com/#/publicvideo/d9921559-ca18-4e47-af70-6392f359a7f1?vcpubtoken=efb900e9-d4bc-403f-8318-f5be6f9be7ef>

#### Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 5:16pm.

#### Roll Call

#### Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Maye-Cates, seconded by Staats, that these minutes be approved. The motion carried by voice vote.

#### Agenda Items:

**1 Discussion with Chief Kudron of the La Crosse Police Department**

*Question:*

*1. When did the SRO program begin, and for what reasons?*

*- The program began in 1993. The goals were to provide a safe and positive learning environment, cooperation between school, police, students, and parents, and crime prevention. To start, one officer divided his time between Central and Logan high schools.*

*2. Why did the SRO's need to carry weapons, even if they were concealed.*

*- SRO's are still police officers, and their firearm is still part of their uniform. The use of a firearm is the last resort, but police have had to leave their post and respond to a call in the community. There has been a lot of nation dialogue about school shootings and the arming of school staff.*

*3. Have there been any incidents where an SRO has had to use their weapon?*

*- There has not been an incident to Chief Kudron's knowledge. Even street officers have had few times they have needed to use their weapon.*

*4. What is the day-to-day of an SRO? What are their responsibilities?*

*- Captain Melby oversees the SROs. They oversee the beginning and end of the school day to welcome them and be there to see them home. They also oversee a pro-social skill program that teaches goal setting and conflict resolution. Middle school officers teach this as a class.*

*- In Kudron's experience, he worked with students who struggled in the classroom or at home. He created relationships with parents, both with struggling students and who struggled to connect to the school. Sometimes there were fights and he would mitigate the situations. He would help students with oversight from juvenile justice. SROs also help oversee truancy.*

*5. Do SROs get special training?*

*- Yes, there is a national association for SROs. They offer SRO educational courses. Training is in crisis intervention and first-aid. Also, mental health first aid, both for adults and children. They also work with the school districts to identify areas in which officers could benefit from trainings.*

*6. What is being done about mitigating bad complaints? (wrongful detention, e.g)*

*- They look into specific complaints and investigate. Many complaints are about enforcement. Work closely with the system of care, a collaboration between the city, the county, the schools, and the police. SROs refer to the district attorney about the best approach.*

*7. Is there a regular report about the progress of meeting goals?*

*- At the end of each school year, the department reports back to the school about SRO activities. School district is involved in the interview process of the SROs.*

*8. Total cost of the SRO program of the La Crosse School District? What does the contact cost?*

*- \$250,000 for 5 SROs. Not including prevention program with a DARE officer for elementary schools. The SROs are assigned for the school year (9 months).*

*9. Would it be a better use of funding to hire social workers rather than using SROs.*

*-This decision is left up to the school board.*

*10. Are SROs working to combat school to prison pipeline and what techniques do they use for enforcement.*

*- SROs are not using anything out of the ordinary when it comes to detaining.*

*11. Do you have statistics and numbers about student interaction with SROs?*

*-Year to year, the calls for SROs to engage vary. In 2018-19, a high school SRO worked with over 200 calls, at Central. Of those 280 calls, there were 148 juvenile complaints with 9 criminal charges. 23% enforcement rate.*

*12. What is the percentage of calls to police? Is it comparable to SROs?*

- No direct comparison.

13. Do you see an area of opportunity for cooperation for interaction between officers and parents.

-Yes, there is cooperation and there is opportunity for more. General engagement with community members can be enhanced. They are well positioned to interact and engage with minority and under-represented populations. This cooperation can then be extended to officers outside of schools.

## 2 Peter Gorski - Overview of Coulee Tenants United

*Tenants United helps tenants with anything they are struggling with in regards to their housing. Working currently with anyone facing eviction.*

## 3 Approval of Fair Housing Complaint Rubric

**Attachments:**     [LA CROSSE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION Complaint Rubric.docx](#)

*Practice presenting in this manner so parties involved will be prepared.*

*-- Add this to forms.*

*If people miss the meetings, they cannot reschedule to make their case.*

**A motion was made that this General Item be TABLED and amendments will be presented at the next meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.**

## 4 Upcoming Town Hall Meeting October 14th Housing and Lending

*The meeting is the 14th of October 6-8pm.*