

Citizen Advisory Boards

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In sum, a citizen advisory board may review and make recommendations to the police chief about police conduct, misconduct, and related rules and policies.

However, the police chief retains discretion to follow any recommendations or not.

Allowed under HB0415	Prohibited under HB0415
A municipality may establish a board/committee that relates to the provision of law enforcement services if the municipality: Directly appoints the board/committee/entity’s members; and Provides direct oversight of the board/committee/entity	A municipality may NOT establish a board/committee that: Has authority independent of the chief of police; and Has authority to overrule a hiring or appointment proposal of the chief of police. Is required to review or approve a police department’s rules, regulations, policies, or procedures for the rules, regulations, policies, or procedures to take effect. Has authority to veto a new policy, or strike down an existing policy, established under the authority of the chief of police. Is required to review or approve a police department’s budget in order for the budget to take effect; or Has authority to review or approve a contract the police department makes with a police union or other organization

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Currently, the Unified Police Department of Greater Salt Lake, Salt Lake City, West Valley, West Jordan, Murray, South Jordan, South Salt Lake and Provo all have enacted various boards/committees that operate as a civilian check on police.

Cities have enacted these groups in the hope of increasing trust between police officers and the community.

Citizen Advisory Board Review

As a follow-up to the Sept. 26 work session discussion, Chief Russo and I met about citizen advisory boards with police chiefs, city managers, and administrators from South Jordan, West Jordan, Murray, Salt Lake City, South Salt Lake, and Unified Police Department (UPD). Approaches vary among these jurisdictions.

These boards fall into three general areas:

- **Broad Advisory role**
- **Advisory Review role**
- **General public safety role**

Broad Advisory Role

- May include communication bridge between the police and community
- Broad issue review, which might include emergency management, neighborhood watch, and specific issues for which the police chief seeks committee input
- May include insight on policies or other concerns, such as uniform and grooming standards
- May include input on surveys and other suggestions to enhance communication between the department and community

UPD, Provo, West Jordan and South Jordan take this approach.

Advisory Review Role

- Includes an advisory role in assessing citizen complaints of police misconduct
- Includes citizen input on use of force issues and other complaints
- Requires substantial training due to the matters requiring input

Salt Lake City, South Salt Lake and West Valley take this approach.

General Public Safety Role

- Approach is not specific to the police but includes input and review of issues from a public safety perspective
- Committee includes police and fire representatives
- Insights and issues are discussed regarding public safety in general, not specific to one jurisdiction, such as police or fire

Murray is currently pursuing this approach.

Role of the Board	Membership Expectations and Requirements	Length of Service	Information:
CAB reviews problems, policies, and issues that affect the Office of the Sheriff including the Unified Police Department (UPD) and their member communities. After review, CAB makes recommendations to the Sheriff and functions as a communications bridge between the Sheriff and the communities. Emphasizes that it is an advisory board, not a review board.	Board members attend monthly meetings and participate on internal boards and committees that develop policies and review operations for each Division of the Office of the Sheriff. CAB consists of citizens selected throughout SLC County. Applicants are reviewed by the CAB Recruitment Committee. The Committee interviews applicants and presents potential candidate applications to the Board. Applicants undergo a background check and must commit to a minimum of 20 hours of training during the first six months. CAB members must commit to attending 2 meetings per month and assist as needed for community events.	Recommendations are then made to the Sheriff for appointments of 2–3-year terms.	https://updsl.org/page_resources_citizenAdvisoryBoard.php The application is not on the website. Instead, the website provides a city contact person from whom citizens may request an application form.

Unified Police Department of Greater Salt Lake

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Role of the Board	Membership Expectations and Requirements	Length of Service	Information:
The board serves in a strictly advisory role in assessing citizen complaints of police misconduct. All disciplinary authority is retained by the Police Chief. The board provides citizen oversight regarding the use of excessive force, other complaints, and internal police investigations conducted by the police. Complaints to the department regarding excessive force are automatically received and investigated by the board. Complaints of alleged police misconduct not involving excessive force are not automatically reviewed or investigated.	The board meets quarterly and as needed. The board is composed of 14 members (2 from each SLC Council District.) “The Board aims for balanced representation of geographical, professional, racial, gender, and ethnicity.” As a result of the technical knowledge needed for the board, all members are required to complete a “detailed training session.” Members are subject to a background check before being appointed. Members must be 21 years old or older.	Each member is appointed by Mayor Erin Mendenhall, with the advice and consent of the SLC City Council, to a three-year term.	https://www.slc.gov/boards/boards-commissions/police-civilian-review-board/ Here is a link to the application: https://slc.primegov.com/portal/new Form/1 “Community Advocates Group” webpage. See here: http://www.slcpd.com/community-engagement/cag/

Salt Lake City

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Role of the Board	Membership Expectations and Requirements	Length of Service	Information:
The Board reviews the following matters: all uses of force by the West Valley City Police Department, all vehicular pursuits, and all internal affairs investigations of police officers.	Board consists of seven citizen volunteers. The Police Department may not observe or participate in the nomination process. The chairperson is selected by the members of the board. Employees of the city, including but not limited to employees of the Police Department, shall not be permitted to serve as voting members on the board.	Members serve for a two-year term and are nominated from the community.	https://www.wvc-ut.gov/132/Professional-Standards-Review-Board Nominee form: https://www.wvc-ut.gov/FormCenter/Customer-Service-2/Boards-and-Committees-Form-42

West Valley

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Role of the Board	Membership Expectations and Requirements	Length of Service	Information:
Board serves as a liaison between the individuals of the city and the Police Department. CAB meets with the Police Chief on a quarterly basis to address all concerns, share ideas, and review surveys. "Suggestions are noted and if possible implemented."	Application available online	Length of service not provided.	Information from 2020 Annual Report: https://issuu.com/sjccommunityservices/docs/police_annual_report_2020?fr=sZWQ4MTIxNTQxMTc Application for Advisory Boards: <a href="http://www.sjc.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/APPLICATI
ONFORCOMMITTEES.pdf">http://www.sjc.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/APPLICATI ONFORCOMMITTEES.pdf

South Jordan

Role of the Board	Membership Expectations and Requirements	Length of Service	Information:
Started as an informal group created by the Police Chief Designed to be both eyes and ears in the community Meets every other month to discuss various local and national events affecting policing, new policies and procedures, hiring practices, and community concerns/problems. Members also help with training, hiring boards, and special projects.	Members serve at the police chief's invitation. Strives to invite citizens who can speak to and represent various constituencies. Expected that members be courteous to one another and foster an environment that is a safe place to discuss several viewpoints. "We have a wide variety of professional expertise on the board; mental health experts, professors, homeless advocates, Black Lives Matter members, school board members, homemakers, church leaders from different denominations, and retired professionals, to name a few. Each has available perspectives on a variety of issues. "	On average, members serve for two-three years.	Wayne Parker and Police Chief Richard Ferguson

Provo

Role of the Board	Membership Expectations and Requirements	Length of Service	Information:
Board includes Police and Fire Department. The Police Chief and Fire Chief, or designees shall serve as advisors to the Board. The board functions are to become acquainted with operation and activities of the public safety departments. Understanding and communication between the residents and businesses of the City and public safety. To promote the provision of quality public safety services to all residents with sensitivity, culture understanding and racial equity.	Board membership should provide balanced representation in terms of professional, neighborhood, and community interests. Suggested backgrounds, from which expertise might be selected, may include owner or manager of a business located in the City, member of the Murray City School District, urban planning, prior experience in law enforcement, prior experience as a firefighter, experience or involvement in public service activity, and mental or behavioral health. Such experience is not a prerequisite for appointment. Within the first six months of appointment, Board members shall be required to complete training that shall include: The Utah Open and Public Meetings Act, confidentiality, privacy and due process rights of officers and civilians, rights of victims, criminal defendants and suspects, police department policies and procedures, fire department standard operating guidelines, racial equity and trauma- informed interview skills.	Members shall serve for a term of three years. The Board shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the City Council. All seven (7) members shall be at large members. Five (5) of the members shall be residents of the City; and the remaining two members shall live or work in the City.	https://www.murray.utah.gov/1896/Public-Safety-Advisory-Board

Murray City – Public Safety Advisory Board

Role of the Board	Membership Expectations and Requirements	Length of Service	Information:
The Board provides independent review of complaints resulting from specific South Salt Lake Police Department activities. The goal of the Board is to encourage greater communication and accountability between South Salt Lake Police Department and the Community. The Board serves in a strictly advisory role to assess complaints of potential police misconduct resulting from use of force and vehicle pursuit cases and has no independent disciplinary power.	The advisory board member is an individual with experience in law enforcement who is not currently employed with South Salt Lake or related to an employee of the South Salt Lake Police Department. Participates in annual trainings and police department education.	Board Members serve a 2-year term and are compensated \$70 for each meeting attended.	http://www.slcpd.com/resources/civilianreviewboard/

South Salt Lake City