



Killeen Police Department
3304 Community Boulevard
Killeen, Texas 76542



October 5, 2020

Dear Committee/Community:

I want to thank Taneika Driver-Moultrie, Ron Walker, Bruce Raymond, Luis Wilmot, Jack Ralston, and Assistant Chief Jeff Donohue for their time and commitment with the process of review concerning the service of No-Knock Search Warrants committee at the Killeen Police Department.

The committee consisted of the Killeen Police Department Law Enforcement Officers, and a diverse group of Killeen citizens, and many people in the community that were consulted. Each provided ideas, opinions, wrote emails and letters on this important topic. I would like to say “thank you” for your time.

The purpose of the committee was to encourage community involvement, provide transparency to the public, and acknowledge that with the communities’ help, we can improve our ability to efficiently solve crimes and serve our community. Over a series of in person and online meetings, the committee has worked together to gain a better understanding of the current procedures in place regarding No-Knock search warrants. The task this committee took on was not an easy one; however, I believe we established a system that will be more transparent.

During the committee meetings, the citizens learned about the current procedures that the Killeen Police Department adopted concerning No-Knock search warrants. Another level of assurances is that prior to serving a No-Knock search warrant, any Detectives seeking a No-Knock search warrant must meet with the Police Chief for approval before a No-Knock search warrant can be presented to a judge. Although the citizens were pleased to hear about the extra steps, we take in reference to obtaining our search warrants, we accepted the citizens’ suggestions on how we could better improve our transparency.

The following is a statement I received after several committee meeting:

Chief,

The no-knock search warrant committee has concluded after several successful meetings, emails and discussions. Below is the collective input from the team.

All of them were very happy with the current process that you have adopted on No-Knock search warrants and were very pleased to hear about the extra steps we take before service. They were extra happy to hear about the meeting with the Chief prior to service. They were all in agreement that they do not want the process to change but had some suggestions on how we could improve our transparency.

Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency since 2009



- *Some of them suggested adding the search warrant information (stats) on our website to show the activity and that we don't do them that often. Another layer of transparency like we recently started.*
- *Perhaps even including some information on the website to educate the public on the process and our procedure. Especially about accountability so that the public will know how we address issues.*
- *Prepare a pre-planned response in case a warrant service goes bad.*

Our goal and our mission at the Killeen Police Department is to reduce crime, to reduce the fear of crime, and to enhance public safety. In order to do our jobs efficiently and as safe as possible for everyone, we may sometimes have to conduct a No-Knock search warrant. However, before that takes place, we want you, the community, to understand that there are updated procedures that are followed.


One of the procedures updated include that the “Killeen Police Department do not and will not serve a narcotic only No-Knock search warrant.” Nevertheless, we will continue to conduct No-Knock search warrants on murder suspects, certain hostage situations, violent and dangerous offenders and any exigent circumstances that meet the warrant criteria. As Law Enforcement Officers, we know that in order to enhance public safety, we must hold criminals responsible for their violations. I believe that with help from our citizens we can do that. Please continue to report illegal and dangerous situations to the Police Department or use Bell County Crimes stoppers where you can report a crime anonymously on-line or at 254-526-8477.

I understand the public perception is that we are constantly obtaining and serving No-Knock warrants. However, that is not factually true. Since January 1, 2020, only six No-Knock warrants have been approved and obtained by our police department. In fact, we have only obtained twenty-three search warrants total, six of which were No-Knocks and only four of the six No-Knocks were served. We want the public to have access, to information and the ability to obtain true facts in order to understand what we do. We have uploaded several of our policies, crime statistics, and our agency demographics online for the public to view. This information can be viewed on the Killeen Police Department Website at <https://www.killeentexas.gov/558/Department-Transparency>

When conducting a No-Knock search warrant, our main priority and primary focus is to ensure the safety of our officers and the citizens of Killeen. Therefore, we appreciate the overwhelming support from our community, and we know that that communication between you, the citizens of Killeen, and the Killeen Police Department is extremely important. Thus, we will continue to provide you with information concerning what is going on in the community, so long as that information does not compromise the outcome of a case. The Killeen Police Department will continually review the process of No-Knock warrants to ensure the safety of OUR community.

On behalf of the entire KPD family: Sworn officers, civilian staff, volunteers, and Explorer Post #277, thank you for support.

Sincerely,



Charles Kimble
Chief of Police
Killeen Police Department