



Social justice activist Cory Hunt (pictured speaking in Chico June 10, 2020, during a “people’s town hall” on policing and racial injustice) has concerns about the new PCAB after serving on the city’s Policing Ad Hoc Committee last year. CN&R FILE PHOTO

predecessor, Kirk Trostle, for the League of Women Voters. “It’s the goal of a community advisory board to build trust and two-way communication, but in the past, there’s been no two-way communication. Hopefully this one will move forward with that intention.”

She and Hunt, an activist who co-founded Justice 4 Desmond Phillips, represented reform-minded Chicoans on the Policing Ad Hoc Committee, which also included Brown (then vice mayor), Reynolds, Madden, two other police officers and a lawyer.

Hunt told the CN&R by phone that he had felt marginalized on the committee, which he said Chico Police and supporters dominated. Discovering that Schwab “already had created the agenda with the police” instead of developing the plan with the full committee “was off-putting ... made me lose a lot of faith in the possibilities of what could happen in that.”

As such, he has low expectations for Madden’s PCAB.

“Public relations—that’s what it seems like this whole advisory board is,” Hunt said, “this whole public relations stand, where they’re just trying to get a better light on [the department], create a perception around them of positivity. With the committee, I just wanted everybody to be involved—and they’re still not letting everybody be involved.”

“I’ve been hesitant to speak on this, because I don’t want to detract from anybody trying to get work done on this. But being on the committee gave me a very microscopic view of how entrenched the power structure is.... Police have been trying to protect themselves from reform for a long time.”

Madden pledged openness, saying he introduced his command officers (captains and lieutenants) to PCAB, conveyed to the department his commitment to the board and accorded board members access to information they require, including confidential (e.g., personnel files, etc.).

“I know, working inside a police organization a long time, what’s important to the chief of police is important to your staff,” Madden said. “I make it clear anytime I promote somebody or hire somebody that the badge, the authority, comes from the state [but] the power, the responsibility of being a police officer, comes from your community.” □

#### Who’s on board

##### Chico’s Police Community Advisory Board:

**Antonio Arreguin-Bermudez**, Chico State professor

**Gloria Halley**, Butte County Office of Education administrator

**Scott Kennelly**, Butte County Behavioral Health director

**Michael Lo**, financial adviser and Community Housing Improvement Program board member

**Matt Madden**, Chico police chief

**Kasey Reynolds**, Chico vice mayor

**Tray Robinson**, diversity and inclusion officer at Butte College (newly hired from Chico State)

**Jovanni Tricerri**, North Valley Community Foundation vice president

**Tom van Overbeek**, developer and Downtown Chico Business Association board member

**Julia Yarbough**, former broadcast journalist and former Chico Police spokesperson

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