

**POLICE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Monday, September 19, 2011
Olney Recreation Center
A St & E Spencer St, Philadelphia, PA 19120



Present:, Branson, Cavanaugh, Chaudhary, Garcia, Goldfein, Haynes, Islam, Kung, Volz,

Absent (Excused): Castillo-Perez, Crumlish, James

Absent (Unexcused): Burley, Meade, Phillips, Spraggins

Staff: Johnson, Anderson, Michael

Counsel: Chentis, Hayes

Chair Mu'min Islam called the meeting to order at 6:24 pm

REGULAR SESSION

1. **Review of Minutes of August and July 2011** – Minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote, Deputy Director Anderson verified that the August Minutes and September meeting agenda were posted on the Commission website on September 12, 2011.
2. **Chair's Report – Chair Islam** gave a brief introduction of the Commission's role as the oversight agency for the Philadelphia Police Department. The Chairman discussed ongoing efforts to create a permanent Police Advisory Commission under the City Charter. Chair and Commissioner Goldfein discussed the PAC Executive Committee's efforts at brokering a meeting with the Mayor's Chief of Staff, Suzanne Biemiller in later September.
3. **Secretary's Report** – Secretary Volz noted Commissioner Natalia Salgado has tendered her resignation. Deputy Mayor Gillison will be notified.
4. **Report of Executive Director** - The Executive Director reported that the Commission has received 11 complaints in September to date, which brings the 2011 total to 75 complaints to date which is 30 less complaints than we received to date in September 2010. There are currently 220 active investigations (177 full investigations, 43 audits). Transcripts have been ordered in the Matter of Anthony Abrams. The Executive Director presented a list of agencies that have been contacted regarding the hearing on immigration, which will be held in City Council Chambers. We are working with Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez in this effort. The Executive Director also suggested an alternative approach that will help the Commission be more informed about police-community meetings: individual commissioners can attend meetings in the districts where they live, and provide brief reports to the full commission each month. A motion to accept this procedure was made and approved unanimously. The Executive Director also agreed to provide hard copies of his report during monthly meetings. The Executive Director and Chair will also be attending a 14th District Captain's meeting in late September.

5. **Abrams Panel** – Commissioner Goldfein noted that the panel hearing has been left open as members wait to hear if the subject officer will appear for testimony. Counsel Hayes reported that FOP attorney believes Officer Burke may return to work in approximately six to eight weeks.
6. **Report of Counsel** – Counsel Michael Hayes noted that he is attempting to schedule October 3rd or October 5th as dates for review of the District Attorney’s Nizah Morris file, but hasn't received a response Counsel Hayes will continue these discussions with Todd Moser of the DA’s office. The date for the meeting will be reported in the July meeting.

Report of Standing and Ad Hoc Committees:

A. Operating Procedures Committee (Volz) The Committee is making changes to Article V, Section D, and a variety of changes to improve the listing of community meetings, such as providing a meeting schedule 3 months ahead of time. There was extensive discussion, and the changes were tabled until October.

B. Public Relations Committee (Goldfein) Commissioner Goldfein noted that the committee is continuing its work a new brochure.

C. Investigatory Review Committee (Goldfein) Commissioner Goldfein noted that the IRC will meet on October 12 to review cases from the last two months. Commissioner Kung and others asked about the history of decisions to de-emphasize public hearings, and also posed the question to the IRC. Commissioner Cavanaugh noted that the experience of the committee suggests no reasoning for holding either more or less hearings, which are always high-priority cases.

D. Personnel Committee - Report waived.

E. Mediation Committee – Report waived

New Business – Commissioner Volz raised the issue of an interpreter for the hearing-impaired that could be utilized at Commission meetings and other events. The matter was submitted to counsel for further investigation.

PUBLIC SESSION

- **1700 Church Lane** – Several residents of the block attended the meeting and discussed ongoing problems getting police to address a variety of problems posed by a condemned home which is being illegally occupied. The 35th District Community Relations Officer (Jackson) promised to bring the matter to the attention of Capt. McCloskey. Representatives from Councilwoman Tasco's office and members of Town Watch and 35th District Police Advisory Council were present and also agreed to work on a solution.

Adjournment – The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:25pm