POLICE ADVISORY COMMISSION
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA POLICE

Philadelphia Police Department and Police Advisory Commission

Response to Recommendations on Implementing a Community-Police Complaint Mediation Program

In June 2019, the Police Advisory Commission (PAC) delivered a report and recommendations on implementing a Community-Police Complaint Mediation program to the Philadelphia Police Department (PPD). The report was delivered in three phases: a written report, followed by a PowerPoint presentation with Q&A session and live mediation prototype, and finally, a meeting to discuss the merits of piloting a complaint mediation program. This program proposal received universal support from both former and current PPD leadership. In February 2020, in one of her first acts as the new leader of the PPD, Commissioner Danielle Outlaw signed off on the implementation of a Community-Police Complaint Mediation program. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, both the PAC and PPD were forced to delay the announcement of this partnership.

Since receiving the PAC report, PPD Leadership has worked closely with the PAC to establish a broad framework for a pilot complaint mediation program. Many of the PAC recommendations have been discussed throughout the entire process and will continue to drive discussion as program components become formalized.

At this time, the PAC and PPD would like to continue to move forward with piloting a Community-Police Complaint Mediation program. Due to the current pandemic and subsequent Covid-19 regulations, the PAC anticipates a slow roll-out and is hopeful that eligible cases will begin to move through the process in late fall 2020.

The program will become a part of the PAC, as similar programs across the country are housed within oversight agencies. The Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations will also join in this multi-agency collaboration to provide mediation services during the pilot phase. The PAC and PPD are dedicated to bringing a comprehensive Community-Police Complaint Mediation program to the residents of Philadelphia, with the intention of strengthening community and police engagement.

Commissioner

Philadelphia Police Department

Executive Director

Police Advisory Commission