

POLICE ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

Public meeting, November 16, 2020

Via Zoom conference

Present: Ronda Goldfein, Bilal Qayyum, Mujeeb Chaudhary, Sarah Yeung, George Mosee, Benjamin Geffen, Michael Wehrman, Shawn Aleong,

Absent (excused): n/a

Absent (unexcused): Michael Rahming

Staff: Erace, Hendricks, Grimage, Guy, Zajac

Chair called the meeting to order at 6:02, minutes from October meeting were unanimously approved.

REGULAR SESSION

1. Chair's report – since October meeting PAC has new acting director and CPOC ballot question was approved by voters. PAC wants an active role in shaping how police oversight will function in Philadelphia. Former Director Menos and Acting Director Erace developed a plan that lists what the new agency could look like, which they shared with City Council and which Acting Director Erace will discuss.

2. PAC Update

a) New Police Oversight Commission – PAC suggestions for CPOC

Acting Director Erace went through the plan created and delivered to City Council. The plan is not finalized but is a starting place to show that what oversight might mean in Philadelphia and what it might cost to operate. The plan was based on models of oversight in other cities and also includes ideas unique to Philadelphia. The plan is posted on the PAC website and PAC social media sites. The plan includes the following units:

- Special investigations unit to continue and expand the policy, practice, and custom projects currently done by the PAC.
- Misconduct investigations unit to conduct investigations into complaints against police.
- Community engagement unit to do outreach and constituent services.
- Research and analysis unit to provide analysis on emerging or long-standing issues.
- Audit and monitoring unit to oversee investigations and discipline done by PPD.
- Administrative prosecution unit to have civilians prosecute non-criminal misconduct cases for discipline to help increase public trust in the discipline process.
- Training unit to train staff, community members, and possibly police department personnel.

b) Walter Wallace Jr. Statement from the PAC

Acting Director Erace noted that the PAC's statement on the officer-involved shooting and death of Walter Wallace, Jr., is available to the public via the PAC website and social media. PAC efforts have included informing the community as to what to expect with the investigation into the shooting incident, understanding how the PPD handles incidents that involve people experiencing mental health crises, and questioning what 911 can do better to handle calls that fall outside of a strict law enforcement response. Acting Director Erace introduced PPD Staff Inspector Fran Healy for a presentation on PPD reforms related to crisis calls.

3. New Business

PPD Presentation – Recent and future reforms to 911 emergency response.

- Staff Inspector Healy presented about the Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) program, and how the PPD is working to improve how they handle crisis calls. He noted many of the reforms are a part of the MacArthur Safety and Justice Project, which will hold listening sessions through their public engagement committee around the city to get feedback from residents about the reforms they want to see. The CIT program started in 2007. It is a 40-hour training program. Approximately 3100 PPD officers are CIT trained.
- The PPD has embedded a mental health practitioner in 911 dispatch to begin the process of understanding the volume of crisis calls to build out the program appropriately. The PPD also recently implemented mental health screening for all 911 calls for a 30-day trial period. Radio is tagging more calls as crisis-related now, and officers have more info before they arrive at a call.
- The PPD is also looking to have a pilot co-responder program up and running in end of December 2020 or in January 2021. This program will pair the best PPD CIT officers with clinicians hired by DBHIDS to respond to crisis calls. Inspector Healy noted that the program covers anyone in crisis, not just mental health crises. Once the pilot program occurs and they adjust based on lessons learned, the goal is to expand the co-responder model to 24-hour operation. The goal is to make 911 not just a police response.
- One attendee mentioned that she registered her address with the police department so that any calls to her home are flagged with information about her son who suffers from physical and mental disabilities. Inspector Healy clarified this is the PPD's "premise history system" and the PPD hopes to better publicize this program in the future. The PPD is also working on building out policies that relate to deaf and hard of hearing residents, physical disabilities, and developmental disabilities.
- A commission member noted the importance of documenting each time a CIT officer responds in this capacity, and Inspector Healy noted there is a CIT coordinator at the PPD that follows up each time a crisis call is documented, but each time a CIT officer uses their training would be difficult to track. Acting Director Erace suggested this could be a good topic for the PAC to follow-up on.

4. Public Comment

Two residents expressed concerns about nuisance crimes and also jurisdiction of various law enforcement agencies in the Temple University area. Both residents agreed to provide their contact information to the PAC for follow-up.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

The next public meeting will be on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 6:00 pm via Zoom conference.