

## **POLICE ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES**

Monday, January 25, 2021

Via Zoom Conference

**Present:** Goldfein (Chair), Wehrman, Mosee, Qayyum, Chaudary, Aleong, Yeung, Geffen

**Absent (Unexcused):** Rahming

**Staff:** Erace, Hendricks, Guy, Zajac, Grimmage

**Counsel:** Kivitz

**Chair called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM**

### **REGULAR SESSION**

1. **Chair's Report** – Ronda Goldfein suggested that post-COVID meetings may also be held virtually.
2. **PAC News** - Bilal Qayyum discussed the gun buy back program held last weekend. Two hundred (200) guns were turned in, and there are plans to repeat the event.
3. **Executive Director's Report** – Anthony Erace said that PAC will be auditing the work product of the Philadelphia police detective involved in the Capitol Building violence, and will be following what actions the PPD takes. PAC is creating a comprehensive report concerning PPD's After Action response to last summer's protests. This will include comments on, and the expansion of recommendations made by the law firm hired to review the police response. PAC is also reviewing the PPD's current Stop and Frisk policy, in light of recent court rulings, and its report will be posted on PAC's website.
4. **Presentation** – Erica Atwood, The Senior Director of the Office of Policy and Strategic Initiatives for Criminal Justice and Public Safety, was welcomed. Her agency will partner with PAC, and she discussed her program, resources, and goal to reduce violence in Philadelphia. She also emphasized the need to strengthen a neighborhood approach.
5. **Public Comment**  
Questions from the community included whether Erica's office lobbies to decriminalize marijuana. Her office does not have the authority to legislate, nor would drug laws be created or amended by local government. However, her office follows the status of low level possession cases, which typically result in treatment outcomes rather than incarceration. One question involved how to measure results. Erica's office is developing a strategy to do so. One measure is a decrease in violence and increase in participation. Her office also coordinates with the school district.  
One community member inquired about measures that can be taken to reduce acts that may currently constitute nuisances, e.g., vehicles that make loud noise, graffiti, open air drug possession. Both agencies will follow up. Further discussion included how communities can be involved, revised actions during COVID, and the co-responder model for 911, the pilot of which is being developed now.

Discussion was also held concerning PAC's audit of the After Action response and report. Although it is not clear why PAC was not engaged initially to undertake the review, PAC will continue to be a vital part of the review process. Its report will offer concrete recommendations, and will be posted on PAC's website when completed. Finally, there was discussion around the developing structure of the new oversight commission.

**7:25 PM – The meeting was adjourned.**

The next meeting will be February 22, 2021, at 6:00 PM and will be held via Zoom.