

POLICE ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Via Zoom Conference

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

Absent: (Excused): None

Absent (Unexcused): Rahming

Staff: Guy, Grimmage (standing in for Erace)

Counsel: Kivitz

Chair called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM

REGULAR SESSION

1. **Chair's Report** – Ronda Goldfein discussed the CPOC legislation and the need for appropriate funding. Bilal Qayyum also addressed the need to review Act 111, the collective bargaining legislation.
2. **Executive Director's Report** – Taleah Grimmage, standing in for Anthony Erace, presented the Executive Director's report. There have been fewer civilian complaints. As to the Bailey audit, PAC will not be performing it, details will follow at a later time. The CPOC hearing was today. Both Anthony Erace and Bilal Qayyum testified.
3. **Presentations**
 - 1) The C.A.R.E.S Unit of the District Attorney's Office seeks to help families of homicide victims. Myra Maxwell, the Unit Chief, discussed the Crisis Response Program. There are 16 staff members. The unit reaches out to homicide victims' families, and has community based program support. The unit provides continuing support. The unit also works with the Medical Examiner's Office and offers support to the family in identifying the body (presently telephone support due to COVID). The unit also works with the Victim Witness Services Unit, although the community based programs help the families with the actual paperwork for available financial compensation.
 - 2) Keziah Cameron, the Director of Victim Services with the District Attorney's Office, also presented. This unit is limited to helping families only as the case progresses through the criminal process. Contact is made with the victims' families and survivors within the first 48 hours.
 - 3) Officer Tracy Lewis of PPD Victim Services discussed police resources for victims. The PPD Victim Services Unit acts as a liaison for victims with the criminal justice system. PPD works closely with the D.A.'s Office and appropriate advocacy groups (e.g. W.O.A.R). The unit works closely with the Philadelphia Commission on Human

Relations regarding hate crimes, provides safety advice for communities, trains, works with victim compensation, makes referrals, and provides everything it can based on each victim's needs. PA Victim's Compensation requires that the victim be the victim of a Title 18 crime, that the crime is promptly reported (with some exceptions), and that the party cooperates with the police through the criminal process. There is a cap around \$35,000. The PPD has developed a handout summarizing available services and compensation. The unit also has interpreters to address the needs of all citizens.

4. **Public Comment** - The public had questions concerning the difference between compensation and restitution. Restitution requires a guilty plea or conviction; victim's compensation may be granted even in cases where this is no arrest. Community and faith organizations interested in assisting/volunteering can reach out directly to Myra Maxwell. Victim Services assists all victims of crime, not just families of homicide victims. One public comment addressed the increase of "revenge crimes". There was additional discussion concerning Act 111 and arbitrations.

7:30 PM – The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be June 21, 2021, at 6:00 PM and will be held via Zoom:
<https://tinyurl.com/PACJune21>