

## **POLICE ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES**

Monday, December 14, 2020

Via Zoom Conference

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

**Absent (Excused):** Geffen

**Absent (Unexcused):** Rahming

**Staff:** Erace, Hendricks, Guy

**Counsel:** Kivitz

**Chair called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM**

### **REGULAR SESSION**

1. **Chair's Report** – Ronda Goldfein introduced Megan Meiris and Donna Ellis, who interpreted for the deaf and hard of hearing throughout the meeting. She also discussed the new civilian oversight entity.
2. **Executive Director's Report** – Anthony Erace summarized the past year for PAC: 122 complaints were received; PAC submitted numerous reports; the new Mediation program; the firearms and Facebook reviews; the URFB and GVI reports. It was a busy and productive year for PAC. Civilian oversight of the police is being reimagined due to the ballot initiative, and PAC is in touch with City Council to help shape it. PAC's recommendations are found on its website.

Samantha Williams, the Director of Legislation and Policy for Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr., thanked Anthony Erace for his feedback. City Council is drafting additional legislation to shape the new commission so that it represents all of the neighborhoods it serves. Funding is also being discussed, perhaps the biggest issue in light of how COVID has affected the city. Ms. Williams was receptive to members of the community contacting her committee re: ideas and suggestions (Samantha.Williams@phila.gov). There will be a public safety hearing once a draft procedure is prepared.

### **3. PPD Presentation**

1. Matt White from PPD presented on Directive 7.20 – Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals – Providing Effective Communication. He discussed the DOJ report and its impact on PPD, including that PPD recognized that it needed equipment and training in this area, and a written policy in order to better communicate with and to serve this population of crime victims. The PPD added video phones and telecommunication equipment. He thanked Neil McDevitt and Robin Ahern for their assistance. There is an ADA form that can now be completed by a person with a disability, identifying the nature of the disability. This form attaches to the resident property address. It is maintained in confidence by the PPD and held within the radio system. There is also a laminated

communication card each officer now has; it includes pictures that an officer can point to (e.g., an automobile for a traffic stop), and other information for brief interactions with people who are deaf or hard of hearing. It is not a substitute for an interpreter.

**4. Public Comment**

The public had comments and questions for Matt White, including at what point it is decided by police to call for an interpreter. (If a person requests a certified interpreter, the officer must call for one). There was a question regarding whether there is a system in place that allows a mental health response for non-violent offenders. The PPD is reviewing its policy now. One question concerned how to identify multiple or overlapping disabilities on the ADA form (multiple check boxes). Several commissioners also had questions, including regarding training and protocols in place for dealing with citizens who have disabilities other than hearing. There was a question regarding status of the Walter Wallace review. PAC will inquire further.

**7:30 PM – The meeting was adjourned.**

The next meeting will be January 25, 2021, at 6:00 PM and will be held via [Zoom](#).