



Policing Advisory Commission
Monday, August 24, 2020
Virtual Meeting
7:30 – 9:00 pm
Meeting Minutes

Commission Members Present: Jerome Price, Cherri Branson, Jenn Lynn, Justice Reid, Shabab Ahmed Mirza, Caroline Fredrickson, Nadia Salazar Sandi, Vernon Ricks, Eric Sterling, Alicia Hudson, Robin Gaster, Jasmine Williams

Commission Members Absent: Dalbin Osorio

Ex Officio Members Present: Chief Marcus Jones, Martha Handman (FOP)

Support Staff: Carlos Camacho, Susan Farag, Amanda Mihill, Marlene Michaelson

Guests: Marcos Ferrer

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:45pm after some technical issues.

Minutes Review: None, as this was the first meeting of the Commission.

Agenda:

1. **Welcome:** Appointed Chair Vernon Ricks welcomed the Commission. Goal of the meeting is for the PAC to get to know one another before the Commission begins its important work.
2. **Attendance:** Susan Farag took attendance.
3. **Introductions:** Ms. Michaelson and the other three support staff introduced themselves to the Commission. [Commission members](#) also took a few minutes to introduce themselves, talk about their background, and their interest in the Commission's scope of work.

**Bios for Ex Officio members included as they do not have bios on the Commission webpage.*

Chief Jones – Great opportunity for the community to work with the department on substantive changes. The Department is already working on reforms. Most important with regards to police reform is communication and education. Looking forward to sharing the department's policies and procedures with the Commission. Also, looking forward to the new Assistant Chief of Police, once hired, to engage with the Commission

Martha (Marti) Handman – Retired attorney. Has 35 years of experience working with police and law enforcement. Represented FOP Lodge for Montgomery County. Has worked with Police agencies to implement police standards across the U.S. Must remember that police have many different mandates that they are asked to carry out simultaneously.

Mr. Sterling made a point of order that introductions focus on people's backgrounds and not on specific agenda points they hope the Commission will address. Seconded by Ms. Branson.

4. Updates

a. Police Department Citizens Academy:

- i. The Citizen Academy training was Initially offered in-person for 15 sessions from September to December. Several Commission members have asked for virtual sessions and the Council has agreed to provide this option. The Citizen Academy has sent a proposed virtual agenda/session topics. The Council is examining if this new proposed structure aligns with the intent of the bill.
- ii. It was previously mentioned that some members of the Commission were interested in learning more on how the police department collected data, and how that informed their policy. Chief Jones mentioned that this was beyond the scope of the citizens academy and has offered to provide a more in-depth briefing to the Commission as part of the Commission's regular work.

b. Task Force for Reimagining Public Safety:

- i. Collaborative approach between the County Executive and the Council. The task force plans to release their final report in January 2021.
- ii. Has five focus areas - 911/311 non-emergency call data; police budget and structure; MCPD programs (particularly training); looking at other county departments, non-profits, and partners that may offer alternative services; and looking at best practices for crisis response, health response.
- iii. Ricks - concerned that this group will be looking at the same issues the Commission will be looking at.
- iv. Gaster – task force will wrap up in January and will provide useful background for the Commission's work. Given the speed and the enormous scope, the Commission will be able to use the task force' work and build upon it.
- v. Branson – any confusion regarding the task forces roles vis-à-vis of the Commission's work should be addressed by someone from the Task Force (e.g. Ms. Caroline Sturgis). The Commission should consider how the Task Force's work will be helpful to the Commission, so that the Commission is not duplicative.
- vi. The Task Force will be doing an audit of the police department and will be eliciting community input
 1. Audit will be done through a special appropriation of 550K
 2. Ms. Farag will send out more information on when the next task force will meet so Commission members can participate
 3. Chief Jones – The audit is a racial audit but will also be broader in scope that will include an overall view of dept (hiring, promotion, internal policies, discipline process, traffic stop data, arrest data, etc.). County Executive will be providing an update on the audit soon.

c. Next Meeting Date is September 14 at 7:30pm

5. Commission Organization (For September Action)

- a. Elect Chair and Vice Chair
- b. Determine Number of Annual Meetings (at least six required)
- c. Formation of Committees.
- d. Public Forum
- e. Annual Report

Sterling – Before the September meeting, perhaps members can share if they are interested in serving as an officer or what certain agenda points will be? Would also be nice to know the budget for the PAC. It will be very

important to reach our diverse community (e.g. non-english speakers).

Ricks – On most commissions and committees the only budget he is aware of is the staff support offered.

Sterling – what he meant by budget is to have the ability to translate and print materials in different languages to reach a broader audience.

Farag – we will look into the capacity we have in translating and printing materials.

Gaster – In previous discussions with Councilmembers, believe there was some mention of the Commission having access to additional resources, if necessary.

Michaelson – Do not have a budget per se for this group but will use our staff resources to aid the Commission, particularly in holding the public forum. The Council has reduced the recently approved budget by \$72 million so financial resources are very limited but we will ensure that the Commission can do its job.

Branson – want to be clear that staff will send out a summary of what has occurred (e.g. minutes). Will be helpful if the minutes appear on the website. One more house-keeping measure – is there a timeline required for Commission members to take the Open Meetings Act?

Farag - We will circulate draft minutes but they will not be made public until after the Commission has approved them during the next meeting.

Montgomery County law requires that all board, commission, and committee members complete the Open Meetings Act training and Parliamentary Procedures training within 90 days of appointment.

6. Meeting Adjourned: Meeting was Adjourned by the Chair at 8:57pm