



POLICING ADVISORY COMMISSION

Monday, November 14, 2022

6:30PM to 8:20PM

[Meeting Virtually](#)

Meeting Minutes

Commission members present: Christina DeLane, Laurie Ekstrand, Ruhama Endishaw, Robin Gaster, Ty McKinney, Vernon Ricks, Eric Sterling [7 attendees]

Commission members absent: Cherri Branson (on leave of absence), Jenn Lynn [2 absent]

Ex-officio members present: Sgt. Cate Brewer (FOP) [1 attendee]

Support staff: Susan Farag, Nazeefa Hossain, Logan Anbinder [3 staff]

Guests: Capt. Stacey Flynn (MCPD), C. M. James III (no affiliation), Karla (no affiliation provided), Heidi Rhodes (JUFJ) [4 attendees]

Meeting was called to order at 6:32PM.

I. Attendance and Administrative Items (6:32PM)

- Ms. Farag took attendance and began recording the meeting. Mr. Sterling confirmed that five PAC members were present, which represents a quorum. (Ms. DeLane and Ms. Endishaw joined shortly after this time.)
- Total attendees: 17

II. Please welcome the newest Commissioner, Christina DeLane (6:36PM)

- Mr. Sterling welcomed Ms. DeLane to the PAC. Ms. DeLane introduced herself.

III. Discuss PAC Chair and Vice-Chair Positions (6:37PM)

- **VOTE:** The PAC moved to elect a new chair and vice-chair since Ms. Branson is on a leave of absence as she serves as an interim Planning Board member. Mr. Ricks moved that Mr. Sterling be nominated as chair, and there were no other nominations. Mr. Sterling was elected by a vote of 7-0. Mr. McKinney was nominated as vice-chair, and there were no other nominations. Mr. McKinney was elected by a vote of 7-0.

Policing Advisory Commission

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IV. New Business (6:46PM)

- Mr. McKinney and Ms. Ekstrand spoke about their experiences with the virtual reality training system at the Maryland Police Training Center.
 - Mr. McKinney expressed the pros of the system, which include its ability to improve officer retention, support data collection, and its cost effectiveness. He expressed that one con includes the limited number of systems, though the number is expanding. Mr. McKinney encouraged commissioners to write their thoughts on the system so the PAC can determine whether to support wider implementation of such a system.
 - Ms. Ekstrand shared that the system is flexible and allows for the officer leading the training to react to increase the level of immersion of the training. She indicated that she would like to be more analytical about the information being collected during the training.
 - Mr. Sterling expressed concerns that the possible outcomes of the training scenario might be unrealistically limiting relative to the number and type of options that an officer would have in real-life to resolve the scenario.
 - Mr. McKinney indicated that he would review various VR systems and would like to coordinate with the appropriate MCPD representative regarding the assessment of these systems.
- Mr. Sterling raised discussion of the PAC's required annual meeting.
 - The PAC discussed holding the meeting on the subject of traffic enforcement.
 - Mr. Ricks expressed a wish to provide specific guidelines for public comments to encourage that the comments are relevant to the PAC's work. Mr. Sterling suggested that there could be value in allowing the public to share any concerns, regardless of their strict relevance to the PAC.
 - Mr. Ricks also expressed a concern that this topic and type of forum is more properly the domain of the Police Accountability Board. Mr. Sterling suggested that the PAC still has a duty to work in this area.
 - **VOTE:** Mr. Gaster moved and Mr. McKinney seconded that the subject of the forum be traffic enforcement. The motion passed by a vote of 5-1, with one abstention (Mr. Ricks voted no and Ms. DeLane abstained).
 - The PAC discussed a potential date for the forum. Mr. Gaster expressed concern that the next regular PAC meeting date (December 12th) was too soon and would not permit new Councilmembers to easily attend. Mr. Gaster suggested that the public forum instead be held on the PAC's following meeting date of January 9th, 2023.
 - **ACTION:** Ms. Farag will investigate whether the meeting can be held in a hybrid format.
 - **ACTION:** Mr. Sterling requested volunteers for an ad hoc public forum committee to organize the public forum. The committee will consist of Mr. Sterling, Mr. Gaster, and Ms. Ekstrand.
- **VOTE:** The minutes from the October meeting were approved without objection, subject to the addition of more detail about the actions of specific PAC members in order to provide greater clarity.
- Mr. Gaster offered to draft a letter on behalf of the PAC responding to the draft ELE4A audit.
 - **VOTE:** Mr. McKinney moved to accept Mr. Gaster's offer on behalf of the PAC; Ms. Ekstrand seconded. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

- **ACTION:** Ms. Farag will circulate the Council's firearms report regarding concealed carry policies. She also reminded the PAC that the committee's annual report must still be completed.

V. Meeting Adjourned at 7:49PM.