



POLICING ADVISORY COMMISSION

Monday, February 13, 2023

6:30pm to 8:00pm
[Meeting Virtually](#)

Meeting Minutes

Commission members present: Kristy Daphnis, Laurie Ekstrand, Robin Gaster, Jenn Lynn, Ty McKinney, Vernon Ricks, Eric Sterling [7 attendees]

Commission members absent: Cherri Branson (on leave of absence), Christina DeLane, Ruhama Endishaw [3 absent]

Ex-officio members present: Sgt. Cate Brewer (FOP), Capt. Jordan Satinsky (MCPD) [2 attendees]

Support staff: Logan Anbinder, Susan Farag [2 staff]

Guests: Heidi Rhodes (Jews United For Justice), Marilyn Pierre [2 guests]

Meeting was called to order at 6:34PM

I. Attendance and Administrative Items

- Council staff took attendance and began recording the meeting. Mr. Gaster confirmed that 7 PAC members were present, which represents a quorum.
- Total attendees: 13
- **VOTE:** Mr. Ricks moved, and Dr. Gaster seconded, to approve the January minutes subject to any corrections. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

II. Review of January 9 [Public Hearing](#) on Traffic Enforcement

- Commissioners discussed whether additional follow-up was warranted to take action on/convey speaker comments to other entities within the County.
 - Commissioners discussed what details from the hearing should be included in a potential follow-up report. Dr. Gaster and Ms. Ekstrand expressed the opinion that the PAC's previous traffic report could be revised to address the fact that more vigorous enforcement against dangerous driving and major offenses, as supported by the community, could be achieved by redirecting MCPD resources to those issues and away from more minor traffic offenses.

Policing Advisory Commission

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- Ms. Ekstrand asked about possibility of MCPD noting cars with lights out and contacting them after the fact instead of stopping them to issue a repair order. Sgt. Brewer advised that she is not aware of local jurisdictions that participate in this practice and expressed concern that such enforcement would be insufficient to ensure safety in the short term (e.g. before the driver receives the notice).
- Mr. Sterling suggested that the state of Maryland could consider a law that would allow citizen footage of specific unsafe traffic behaviors (e.g. dramatic speeding) to be used towards the issuance of a citation. Sgt. Brewer suggested such a video may be inadmissible due to evidentiary rules but could be used to provide information for an officer to respond in real time.
- Ms. Ekstrand expressed interest in reviewing additional data regarding the efficaciousness of speed cameras.
- Mr. Sterling requested agreement among the commission that the PAC supports the use and proliferation of speed cameras. PAC members agreed.
- **ACTION:** Dr. Gaster will write up his thoughts on items from the forum that the PAC would like additional clarification on.

III. Consideration of proposal to request data from MCPD on crimes report, arrests and clearances for last 10 years. -- Dr. Gaster

- In response to increased concerns about violent crime in Silver Spring, Dr. Gaster reviewed crime data and determined that crime has increased in non-late nighttime periods over past six years, while it has decreased during late nighttime periods. He suggested that concerns about late night establishments (e.g. hookah lounges) might be misplaced.
- Dr. Gaster indicated that crime data goes back 5 years but arrest data only goes back 30 days and there is no public record of clearance data. He also expressed concern that MCPD does not track any outcome data beyond arrests
- Dr. Gaster moved and Ms. Ekstrand seconded sending Dr. Gaster's request for crime and arrest data to MCPD.
 - Capt. Satinsky indicated that post-arrest outcome data would be kept with the State's Attorney's office. He advised that the County crime data is in the NIBRS database and other data is with the Dept. of Corrections.
 - Since NIBRS does not have case-level data, Dr. Gaster expressed interest in requesting case-level data from MCPD. Dr. Gaster and Capt. Satinsky agreed to discuss further.
 - **VOTE:** PAC voted unanimously (7-0) to send the data request drafted by Dr. Gaster to MCPD.
 - **ACTION:** PAC staff will transmit data request to MCPD on PAC's behalf.

V. Report on presentation to U.S. Dept. of Justice (DOJ), "Directed Autism Behavioral Health Crisis Response," – Jenn Lynn

- Ms. Lynn discussed differences in funding sources between autism/IDD (intellectual & developmental disabilities) and mental health crises.
- Ms. Lynn discussed the importance of families with members who have autism/IDD to engage with and develop relationships with responders in order to enhance familiarity with the

individual in advance of a potential crisis. She has been placed on a DOJ workgroup to encourage the adoption of this practice nationally.

- Councilmember Albornoz will be introducing a bill to create a commission specifically for individuals with autism/IDD. Ms. Lynn indicated that she will be following the development of this PAC and will advocate for a PAC representative on this commission.
- Mr. Sterling noted the privilege inherent in being able to establish a relationship with emergency responders in advance of a crisis incident.
- Ms. Daphnis motioned that the PAC deliver a letter to the Council recommending the creation of a liaison position on any IDD commission that is developed. Mr. Ricks seconded.
- **VOTE:** The aforementioned motion passed 6-0-1 (Ms. Daphnis abstaining).
- **ACTION:** The PAC will develop a letter to this effect.

VI. Consider Statement on Tyre Nichols' death.

- Mr. McKinney expressed support for the PAC issuing a statement regarding the death of Tyre Nichols. He expressed agreement with the statement that was issued by Chief Jones, but spoke in favor of the PAC issuing an additional statement so that the public has heard from and been reassured by the PAC directly.
- Ms. Lynn expressed concerns about issuing the statement, including the timing of the statement and that issuing a statement might elicit additional fear from the community.
- Mr. Ricks supported Ms. Lynn's concerns and suggested that if the PAC makes a statement, it not be tied to this specific incident.
- Dr. Gaster expressed sympathy with Mr. McKinney's concerns and uncertainty that the community would like to hear specifically from the PAC regarding this incident. He expressed concern that the proposed statement links MCPD unnecessarily to the Tyre Nichols case. Mr. McKinney replied that the purpose of the statement would be reassurance that the PAC is taking steps to avoid a similar situation in the County, and expressed that this statement is not designed to specifically link MCPD with this case.
- Mr. Sterling spoke in favor of the statement and suggested that it commends MCPD, addresses community concerns, and discusses accomplishments regarding policing within the County.
- Ms. Ekstrand spoke in favor of the statement and suggested an amendment to the statement as drafted.
- Mr. Ricks expressed sympathy with Mr. McKinney's concerns but expressed concern that the statement would be made outdated by a future police incident. Mr. McKinney replied that the statement is not intended to assure the community that an incident will not happen in the County, but instead that the County is taking steps to avoid an incident.
- Mr. McKinney moved, and Dr. Gaster seconded, adding this conclusion to the pre-drafted statement: "The PAC supports the MCPD's positive steps. We are well aware these issues will need continued work and vigilance"
- **VOTE:** The aforementioned motion passed 5-1-1 (Ms. Lynn voting against, Mr. Ricks abstaining).
- **ACTION:** Staff will post statement on the PAC website.

VII. New Business

- There have been some discussions with Ms. Endishaw about a youth forum. She is not present so it may be discussed at a later date.
- Ms. Ekstrand raised the issue of body-worn camera footage review—previously MCPD was in the process of developing a policy and Ms. Ekstrand indicated that she would like to hear from MCPD in order to provide feedback before procedures are finalized.
- **ACTION:** Staff will discuss with Mr. Sterling the addition of this item to next month's agenda as old business.
- Mr. Sterling indicated interest in holding future PAC meetings in person.
- **ACTION:** Staff will identify location for future hybrid meetings.

VIII. Adjourn

Mr. McKinney moved to adjourn and Mr. Ricks seconded. Motion passed unanimously; **meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.**