



POLICING ADVISORY COMMISSION

Monday, April 10, 2023

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

Meeting Minutes

Commission members present: Cherri Branson, Ruhama Endishaw, Robin Gaster, Jenn Lynn, Ty McKinney, Vernon Ricks, Eric Sterling [7 attendees]

Commission members absent: Kristy Daphnis, Christina DeLane, Laurie Ekstrand [3 absent]

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

Ex-officio members absent: Capt. Jordan Satinsky (MCPD) [1 absent]

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

Guests: Councilmember Will Jawando, Capt. Brian Dillman (MCPD), Charles M. James III, Robert Landau (SSJC), Dale Phillips, Marisa Van Saanen (CM Jawando) [6 guests]

Mr. Sterling called the meeting to order at 6:35PM.

I. Attendance and Administrative Items

- Council staff took attendance and began recording the meeting. At approximately 6:39PM, a sixth member of the PAC joined the meeting, establishing a quorum.
- Total attendees: 17

II. Guest Speaker – Councilmember Will Jawando – speaking with the PAC about his bill, 12-23, Police – Traffic Stops – Limitations (The Safety and Traffic Equity Policing (STEP) Act)

- Councilmember Jawando spoke about the background and content of the bill. He shared that his intent for this bill is to allow officers to focus on other crimes, specifically the most serious violent crimes. He indicated that the state of Virginia and the city of Philadelphia both passed similar bills.
- The public hearing for this bill is on April 25th.
- Councilmember Jawando answered questions from PAC members, including regarding traffic safety and consent searches.

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- Mr. Gaster asked whether officer searches that do not find anything are tracked, and whether searches that are requested but not approved are tracked. Capt. Dillman responded that the online system can track whether a vehicle was searched, and body worn cameras are active on every traffic stop.
- Ms. Branson indicated that the County conducts a disparity analysis for its procurement practices every five years. She requested information on the amount of money raised from tickets during traffic stops, which is sent to the State and sent back to the County via contributions to the general fund.
 - **ACTION:** Staff will look for this information.

III. STEP Bill Discussion

- Dr. Gaster noted differences of opinion on the bill on the PAC. He suggested retransmitting the PAC's findings and recommendations from a couple of years ago.
- Mr. McKinney suggested reviewing results from similar bills in other jurisdictions. He suggested recommending a sunset provision for the bill.
- Mr. Ricks voiced concerns that the enforcement provisions of the bill, including regarding jaywalking, do not align with what he considers necessary to meet the County's Vision Zero goals.
- Ms. Branson recommended supporting the bill in principle and submitting a report that outlines the recommendations of the traffic study and notes the possible recommendation of some amendments. She recommended noting the difficulty in getting data from MCPD and suggesting some potential data reforms.
- Dr. Gaster suggested circulating the recommendations to review and consider.
- Mr. Sterling recommended submitting a letter to the Council for the public hearing to convey that the PAC appreciated hearing from Councilmember Jawando on this bill, and that the PAC is taking the time to develop a more thorough response before the Public Safety Committee's worksession on the bill in July.
 - Dr. Gaster moved this motion and Ms. Branson seconded.
 - **VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously (7-0).
 - **ACTION:** Staff will draft a letter to this effect and send to the Council.
- Mr. Ricks asked Capt. Dillman how race is recorded by officers in traffic incidents. Capt. Dillman responded that for citations, race is recorded via the officer's observations; for accident reports, the State form does not have a field for race so that is not recorded. Ms. Branson noted that since race is a social construct, the notation of the officer is what matters.

IV. Discussion – Crime and Arrest Data

- Dr. Gaster suggested tabling the discussion on arrest data until the next meeting.

VII. Meeting Adjourned

Dr. Gaster moved to adjourn, Mr. McKinney seconded. **Meeting was adjourned at 8:05PM.**