



ADVISORY COMMISSION ON POLICING

Monday, June 10, 2024

6:30pm to 8:00pm

[Meeting Virtually](#)

Commission members present: Petros Bein, Brian Bellamy, Cherri Branson, Kristy Daphnis, Christina DeLane, Mike Donahue, Francisco Javier González, Eva Quittman, John Stephenson, Terry Walsh, Sean Watson [11 members]

Commission members absent: C. Arthur Blair, Capt. Jordan Satinsky

Ex-officio members present: Sgt. Cate Brewer (FOP)

Support staff: Logan Anbinder, Susan Farag

Guests: Heidi Rhodes (Jews United for Justice), Carlene Ponder (CM Mink)

Total attendees: 16

I. Call to Order and Attendance (6:33PM)

- Chair Bellamy called the meeting to order at 6:33PM.

II. Approval of Draft Minutes, May (6:35PM)

- **VOTE:** Vice Chair Branson moved and Mr. Donohue seconded approval of the May minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Workplan Update (6:36PM)

- Vice Chair Branson shared written comments directly with Mx. Quittman. This feedback is now reflected in the latest draft of the workplan.
- **VOTE:** Mx. Quittman moved to adopt the workplan as a guiding document and a living document that could be modified by the Commission as necessary in the coming years. Mr. Donahue seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- **ACTION:** Staff will post the workplan on the website.

IV. Annual Report – Call for Volunteers (6:40PM)

- Mr. Donahue, Mr. González, Vice Chair Branson, Ms. Walsh, and Mx. Quittman will collaborate as a subcommittee on the annual report.
- Mx. Quittman suggested the workplan should include more information about the thought process of the Commission members.
- **ACTION:** Staff will provide templates, links, and other information regarding the annual report.

V. Bill 2-24 – Police – Traffic Stops – Consent Search of Motor Vehicle and Data Collection (“Freedom to Leave Act”) (6:49PM)

- Councilmember Jawando was unable to join in the ACP’s meeting tonight but will be present at the next ACP meeting on July 8.
- Chair Bellamy suggested that after some discussion this evening, a subcommittee be created to compile thoughts on this bill.
- Ms. Walsh suggested the ACP should consider how the bill will address public information regarding the provisions of the bill as well as compilation of information on a dashboard.
- Mx. Quittman suggested the ACP offer clarity on the types of searches that the bill is designed to reduce or eliminate, and research and data regarding the efficacy or lack thereof of those searches. They agreed a subcommittee would be useful to draft recommendations and/or questions for CM Jawando.
- Mr. González inquired whether the ACP's feedback should take the form of general comments on the bill, or whether it should be an endorsement or lack thereof. Council staff clarified that the ACP could respond however they deem appropriate and will share information regarding the previous PAC’s response to other legislation.
- The ACP will develop questions and initial recommendations in advance of the meeting with CM Jawando, and will discuss final comments regarding the bill after that time.
- Commissioners established a subcommittee to discuss the bill, consisting of Mx. Quittman as subcommittee leader, Mr. Stephenson, Mr. Donahue, Vice Chair Branson, Ms. DeLane, and Mr. González. Mr. Watson is also available to participate following his upcoming travel. Ms. Farag indicated that she is willing to assist as necessary.

VI. New Business (7:05PM)

- Vice Chair Branson noted that the vote for Asst. Chief Yamada’s appointment as Chief will be tomorrow morning at the Council; Ms. Farag clarified that this is the interview and not the confirmation vote. Vice Chair Branson noted that some groups have circulated a letter expressing concerns with the potential appointment. Ms. Daphnis inquired who the letter was from; Vice Chair Branson indicated the groups included Jews United for Justice (JUFJ) and Silver Spring Justice Coalition (SSJC). Ms. Rhodes indicated in the chat that Racial Justice NOW was also a signatory.
- Ms. Rhodes was recognized to speak on behalf of JUFJ regarding her organization’s concerns about Asst. Chief Yamada. She indicated concerns regarding lack of community input in the process as well as some concerns regarding Asst. Chief Yamada’s philosophy of policing.
- Mr. Donahue expressed a concern that the process for the selection of the Chief had too few opportunities for input. Mr. Stephenson expressed concerns that some of Asst. Chief Yamada’s goals for the department may not be aligned with a more modern policing approach. He suggested organizing a town hall to allow the public to share additional comments regarding the nomination.
- Mr. González echoed other commissioners’ concerns. He suggested holding additional in-person community meetings related to public safety issues more broadly.
- Ms. Farag indicated that she would try to gather additional information regarding the timing of the confirmation vote.
- A subcommittee was established to address community meetings, including time, location, and subjects. The subcommittee will include Ms. Daphnis, Mr. González, Vice Chair Branson, Ms. Walsh, Ms. DeLane, and Mr. Stephenson.

- Vice Chair Branson suggested that public meetings could take the place of some regular monthly ACP meetings.
- Mr. Donahue noted that MCPD declined to provide further information regarding the Effective Law Enforcement for All (ELE4A) audit. He also commended Ms. Farag for her preparation in the Council's budget worksessions for MCPD. In response to a question from Mr. Donahue, Ms. Farag indicated that she does not have information she can share publicly on MCPD's funding needs in FY24 but noted that there are mechanisms to address any budget shortfall.
- Mr. Donahue also inquired about the status of MCPD's current strategic plan since he could not find a current strategic plan available. He also suggested the ACP request any MCPD response to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) reports for MCPD's Budget division, and if MCPD did not issue a response that a representative from the department attend a future meeting to discuss the department's response. He also suggested the ACP inquire regarding MCPD's response to its Operating Budget Equity Tool score of 3 points out of a possible 11. He also suggested the ACP inquire whether MCPD has any current plans to revise the current vehicular pursuit policy; if so, when that revision started, and what the current status is. He also suggested the ACP inquire more information regarding a summary of MCPD's data collection efforts as mandated by the Council, including the number of responses by the SWAT team from 2019 to 2023, and how many incidents there were of pointing a weapon (OC spray or taser). He also suggested the ACP inquire whether there is a report from the department's professional accountability division for FY24, as well as the division's FY25 workplan.
- Vice Chair Branson supported Mr. Donahue's requests but suggested the ACP send these requests to the County Executive rather than MCPD directly. **VOTE: Ms. Daphnis moved to request these items from the Executive and Vice Chair Branson seconded. This motion passed unanimously (Mr. Donahue was disconnected from the meeting).**
- Ms. DeLane inquired whether there was a procedural opportunity to lobby the Council to oppose the Executive's nomination or to lobby the Executive to rescind his nomination. Vice Chair Branson suggested that if the ACP has concerns, they should articulate those concerns. She suggested that individual commissioners could contact Chair Katz and share their impressions of the interview. Ms. Daphnis suggested that since action may be taken by the Council next week, addressing this matter as a full commission would necessitate a special meeting. Commissioners indicated that they would try to watch the interview; Chair Bellamy requested that commissioners email him to indicate whether they would like to convene a special meeting to discuss a letter regarding the appointment.
- Mr. González moved that the commission invite Asst. Chief William Parker-Loan of the Patrol Services Bureau to brief the ACP on the 2023 Crime Statistics Report, with a focus on the victim and area where rates of crime have changed. Vice Chair Branson seconded; motion passed unanimously. Staff will plan to invite the Asst. Chief to the meeting in August.
- Ms. DeLane thanked Ms. Rhodes for her contribution to the ACP's discussion.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. DeLane moved and Vice Chair Branson moved and seconded adjournment. **Meeting was adjourned at 8:09PM.**