

CHAIR REPORT
Outreach Committee of the
Police Conduct Oversight Commission
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This report begins with a reference to a National Initiative (NI) meeting Commissioner Buss and I attended at the 5th Precinct a few weeks ago. We're all aware that last week Mr. Castile was killed in an encounter with a police officer from St Anthony. There have been protests here and around the country every day since. I was present when I94 got shut down and I'm relieved the protest stayed mostly peaceful. I cannot imagine a time when the goals of the NI are more vital. The PCOC needs to have more involvement with the NI, at least by presenting the program to this community. I believe the NI, new training at the Police Academy, which focuses on de-escalation, and changing policy and procedures at the MPD are the most important issues the PCOC needs to focus on. I'd like us to request Glenn Burt make a presentation to the entire Commission as soon as practicable.

Along this line, the PCOC needs information about the training that was court ordered to take place after the Gang Strike Force was disbanded. Frankly, there are countless policy and education matters that need to be understood, that I'm afraid we're missing. In addition, I've requested the MPD make an attempt to remove an old recruiting video from YouTube because it is completely inappropriate if we are building a police department that acts as guardians and serves with compassion. I understand Council Member Cano has also requested this video be removed. Perhaps now this will happen.

Commissioner Cerrillo and I already were planning to hold a Peace Forum, hopefully in September. We are in the very early planning stages and then we will present the event for approval by the PCOC.

The Bryant Neighborhood Organization is holding a meeting with the MPD later this month and they requested the Outreach Committee be involved. I believe we can obtain information from the MPD that the BNO wants to know about. I am in contact with the criminal specialist handling this event for the MPD and will assist with gathering data.

Along with STAMP MN, I hosted a meeting of professionals to discuss a pilot program focusing on the Joint Responder model. The turnout was fantastic, and gave me the encouragement to continue with this project. Some of the participants included: Judge Carrie Meir (who heads the Hennepin County Mental Health Court), 2 officers from MetroTransit, a representative from the Police Federation, program planners from Dakota County, Council Members and a representative for the Mayor. We have all agreed to collaborate, share information, and try to get this pilot program up and running.

Commissioner Singleton and I will continue to work on this complex project, with our first step being to form a functional work group. We have tentatively planned a meeting of the Work Group for September. I truly feel positive about this project succeeding and I greatly appreciate Commissioner Singleton joining with me on the project even though now I believe it is officially under the purview of the Outreach Committee.

Christine Kendrick of the NOC has requested a meeting with me to discuss the final Body Camera Policy, the Joint Responder pilot program, Open Streets and other events the PCOC is involved in.

I will provide better planning for the Open Streets events we should attend between now and October. The event has a great website and I have also put the dates onto our shared Calendar. Pretty please, I need all the commissioners to attend at least one of these events.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Westphal