

POLICE CONDUCT OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
April 8, 2014
Outreach Committee Chair Report

Chair Brown and Commissioners:

The Outreach Committee held its second meeting on March 27, 2014. All members of the Committee were present (Commissioners Giraud-Isaacson, Rude, and Singleton), as well as Chair Brown, OPCR Director Browne, and OPCR Legal Analyst Patrick.

The Committee revisited four issues discussed at its inaugural meeting: (1) development of a strategic outreach plan; (2) planning the PCOC's first community listening session; (3) beginning the Committee's liaison duties with the Civil Rights Commission; and (4) coordination of outreach opportunities at local festivals. The Committee also discussed two new items of business: (1) participation in the planning committee for the Civil Rights Department celebratory event to mark the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act; and (2) participation in the newly formed City of Minneapolis Transgender Work Group.

Strategic Outreach Plan

At the Committee's initial meeting, I presented a draft strategic plan for the Committee's consideration. At the most recent meeting, Commissioners Giraud-Isaacson and Rude provided their input on the draft plan, and as a Committee, we developed a comprehensive strategic plan to guide our efforts:

GOALS

Short Term

6 months – 1 year

- Hold an initial listening session
- Issue a press release regarding PCOC and the listening session, with distribution to neighborhood associations
- Connect with the Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights
- Meet with each precinct inspector to discuss current MPD outreach efforts and possible coordinated outreach activities

Intermediate

1–2 years

- Establish regular listening sessions
- Establish targeted listening sessions by partnering with local organizations
- Develop precinct-specific outreach strategies
- Develop a media strategy to increase public awareness and participation, including possible public service announcements, televised PCOC meetings (resources permitting), and periodic PCOC regular meetings at community sites

Long Term

3–5 years

- Establish regular back and forth between the community and PCOC
 - Further develop listening sessions to include representatives from relevant stakeholders, including MPD and community leaders
 - Further develop and implement collaborative outreach strategies with each MPD precinct
-

First PCOC Listening Session

The Committee, with input from Chair Brown and OPCR staff, established the basic details and timeline of its proposal for the PCOC’s first listening session. The Committee moved to recommend that the PCOC host the following listening session:

When: June 14, 2014

Where: UROC (Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center)
2001 Plymouth Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Format: Light breakfast

Brief introduction of the PCOC and its basic purpose by Chair Brown

PowerPoint presentation to accompany Chair Brown’s presentation and with instructions for participation (name, neighborhood, and topic to address)

Community members provided an opportunity to speak (time limits per speaker depending on number of attendees wishing to speak)

Written comments available, either to be read out loud by commissioners or left in a comment box and used to inform future research and recommendations

Provide attendees with bookmarks

The Committee intends this listening session to be an opportunity for the community to be heard. Thus, while commissioners may direct community members to resources, we should be careful to limit our comments so that we do not dominate the conversation.

The Committee envisions the following timeline in preparing for the UROC listening session:

April 8, 2014 PCOC meeting: Input and questions from full PCOC;
Motion to host the above listening session

May 13, 2014 PCOC meeting: Committee report regarding listening session topic(s),
guidelines for PCOC commissioners, and full event details

June 10, 2014 PCOC meeting: Review of final event details;
Preview of PowerPoint

Civil Rights Commission Liaison

Committee Chair Singleton has been added to the Civil Rights Commission agenda for its meeting to be held on April 21, 2014.

Festival Outreach Opportunities

OPCR staff will provide the Outreach Committee with information regarding Minneapolis festivals, and will alert us to festivals that OPCR and/or Civil Rights Department staff plan to attend. Committee members and OPCR staff discussed handing out wristbands as a way to initiate conversations and track the number of community members reached (by counting the number of wristbands distributed).

Civil Rights Act 50th Anniversary Celebration Event

The Civil Rights Department is planning an event to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the July 2, 1964, passage of the Civil Rights Act. Commissioners Giraud-Isaacson and Rude expressed interest in participating on the planning committee and agreed to contact Interim Assistant Director Toni Newborn to learn further details of this opportunity.

Minneapolis Transgender Work Group

The City of Minneapolis recently convened a Transgender Work Group that will work to ensure the City is a safe and welcoming place for the transgender and gender non-confirming community. One issue the work group will address is relations between this community and MPD. The Committee agreed to explore the potential for its involvement with the work group. The Committee invites the PCOC's input into any and all of the items discussed above, and will continue to inform commissioners of outreach opportunities as they arise.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jennifer L. Singleton

Jennifer L. Singleton
PCOC Outreach Committee Chair