

POLICE CONDUCT OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
Sept. 9, 2014
Outreach Committee Chair Report

Chair Brown and Commissioners,

The Outreach Committee met on August 28, 2014. Commissioners Rude and Singleton were present, as well as Committee Clerk Leda Schuster.

The Committee had six items of unfinished business: (1) the PCOC's planned off-site meeting; (2) the Committee's liaison duties with the Civil Rights Commission; (3) the City of Minneapolis Transgender Work Group; (4) the Continuing Legal Education program; (5) invitations to join Outreach meetings; and (6) emails to the PCOC. In addition, the Committee discussed future outreach and engagement ideas and hosting a winter listening session.

I. OLD BUSINESS

A. Off-Site Meeting

The PCOC moved on July 8, 2014, to host its October meeting off-site. The off-site meeting will be held at the Minneapolis Adult Education Center, located at 2225 Lake Street. The Chief's office has confirmed that Chief Janeé Harteau will attend the meeting, and OPCR has confirmed it will present the Quarterly Report for third quarter data. The Outreach Committee and OPCR will begin publicizing the off-site meeting the week of September 8. A draft press release is attached for the PCOC's review. The Outreach Committee requests that Commissioners review the press release and provide any suggested edits to OPCR Committee Clerk Leda Schuster no later than Wednesday, Sept. 10.

The press release will be circulated with local newspapers and distributed by the City's Neighborhood & Community Relations. The Committee requests that each Commissioner personally request that his/her Council member also distribute the press release. Finally, OPCR has secured six radio slots with KFAI and KMOJ (three each) to advertise the off-site meeting and fall appointment cycle.

B. Civil Rights Commission Liaison

There was no new information to report.

C. Minneapolis Transgender Work Group

The Minneapolis Transgender Issues Work Group is hosting a Minneapolis Trans Equity Summit on September 25, 2014, 1:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Policy. The key note speaker is Angelica Ross and focus areas will include police relations, employment, health, civic participation, and public spaces. Commissioners are encouraged to attend.

D. Continuing Legal Education Program

Commissioner Singleton and Legal Analyst Ryan Patrick presented a Continuing Legal Education (“CLE”) program on August 22. The CLE was approved for 1.0 ethics credit and covered the process of filing a complaint, how the PCOC uses audit information to make policy recommendations, and ethical considerations for attorneys representing clients considering filing a complaint. There were 23 attendees, who provided uniformly positive feedback, including the following:

Thank you very much for the extremely informative, transparent, and thoroughly prepared CLE today. The information you presented really brought the OPCR to life and demystified the process. Great work!

I know that OPCR does a lot of hard work, but I didn’t realize how closely you work with the Police Internal Affairs Division. It confirms for me how important it is to have civilians AND police officers reviewing complaints depending on what the Complainant desires. The Program of research and study also seems to fulfill an important role, focusing on best practices for the MPD.

The material was presented with many real world examples that helped the audience engage in the topic and envision circumstances where a complaint might be filed.

E. Invitations to Outreach Meetings

Members of Neighborhoods Organizing for Change attended the August meeting and expressed interest in working with the PCOC. MPD community liaison Sherman Patterson will attend the Outreach Committee’s Sept. 25 meeting. Commissioners Rude and Singleton spoke with several community organizers following the outreach meeting at a community rally in solidarity with Ferguson and are hopeful they will be able to develop the connections they made at the rally.

F. Emails to the PCOC

OPCR and the Outreach Committee developed a new option for commissioners to receive emails. Commissioners who wish to make their email address available on the PCCO website may sign a waiver that releases OPCR and the City from all liability arising from publishing the email address and affirms that the commissioner will act in compliance with the law when using the email address. Outreach Committee members will continue to work with OPCR to develop a finalized version of the waiver. The draft waiver is attached to this report.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Outreach & Engagement Ideas

Commissioner Singleton attended a quarterly Department of Homeland Security roundtable at which local and federal law enforcement officials engaged in frank discussion with members of the Somali community. Community members expressed dissatisfaction on a number of issues and were able to make connections with decision-makers so that further work could be done to address the issues outside the quarterly roundtables. Commissioner Singleton would like to

explore having the PCOC play a similar role by bringing community members together with police department officials to engage in constructive problem solving.

Commissioner Singleton will also be sitting on a panel at a listening session hosted by Council Members Alondra Cano, Elizabeth Glidden, and Abdi Warsame. Other panelists include Minneapolis City Attorney Susan Segal, Professor Dr. Rose Brewer, and author of Prison to Ph.D, Jason Sole. The event will be moderated by Professor Nekima Leby-Pounds and will be held at Sabathani Community Center (310 East 38th St.) on September 18, at 5:30. The event flyer is attached.

B. Winter Listening Session

Commissioner Singleton would like to host a winter listening session in partnership with a community organization. The Committee requests that commissioners provide Outreach Committee members with any input they have on communities with which to partner.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jennifer L. Singleton

Jennifer L. Singleton
PCOC Outreach Committee Chair

POLICE CONDUCT OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

-Waiver of Liability-

This Release and Waiver of Liability (the "Release") executed on (Date) by (Commissioner) releases the Office of Police Conduct Review, the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights, and the City of Minneapolis and each of its directors, employees, and agents (the "City").

(Commissioner) desires to make publically available a personal email account.

(Name) understands that the maintenance of the personal email account posted on the Police Conduct Oversight Commission webpage and distributed at (Commissioner's) request is solely the responsibility of (Commissioner). The City is not responsible for any aspect of maintenance of the personal email address.

1. Waiver and Release: I, the Commissioner, release and forever discharge and hold harmless the City from any and all liability, claims, and demands of whatever kind or nature, either in law or in equity, which arise or may hereafter arise from the publication of the personal email address. I understand and acknowledge that this Release discharges the City from any liability or claim that I may have against the City that may result from the publication of the personal email address.
2. Compliance with Law: I, (Name), assume all responsibilities in maintenance of the personal email account, emails received and sent, and any additional requirements in compliance with MS § 13: the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, MS § 13D: the Minnesota Open Meeting Law, and any other laws which may apply to activities conducted using the published email account.
3. Other: I expressly agree that this Release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the State of Minnesota and that this Release shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Minnesota. I agree that in the event that any clause or provision of this Release is deemed invalid, the enforceability of the remaining provisions of this Release shall not be affected.

By signing below, I express my understanding and intent to enter into this Release and Waiver of Liability willingly and voluntarily.

Name

Date

TALKING POINTS FOR THE OFFSITE MEETING

PRESS RELEASE

The Police Conduct Oversight Commission (PCOC) will mark its first year by holding its October meeting in Minneapolis's Phillips community. The PCOC provides civilian oversight to the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) by auditing cases of police misconduct, advising the MPD on its policies and procedures, and facilitating cultural awareness training for the city's officers.

The PCOC invites the public to join it on October 14, at 6:00 p.m., for its monthly regular meeting. Items on the agenda include an update from Chief Janeé Harteau and a report on police misconduct complaints that were filed and processed in the third quarter of 2014. The PCOC encourages community members to participate in the public comment session by sharing their thoughts on the issues discussed during the meeting.

When: Tuesday, October 14, 2014, at 6:00 p.m.

Where: Minneapolis Adult Education Center
2225 East Lake Street, ROOM 140
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407

To find out more about the PCOC, visit its website at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/civilrights/conductcomm/>. The fall appointment cycle is now open.

To find out how to become a commissioner, visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/WCMS1P-129173>.