

**Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission**  
**Communication Subcommittee**  
July 20, 2015, 7:00PM  
Room 152, Fairfax County Government Center  
**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call To Order**

Ms. Merni Fitzgerald, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 7:00PM on July 20, 2015.

**II. Members/Others Present**

a) The following members were present:

Merni Fitzgerald; Lucy Caldwell; Daniela Cockayne; Darryl Dennis; Darryl Drevna; Doug Kay; Jose Santos; Patrick Smaldore; Dave Statter; Tim Thompson, Eric Clingan, Tom Ryan

b) The following members were absent:

Tony Castrilli; Mary Kimm; John Wallace, Brennan Murphy

c) Others Present:

Captain Ed O'Carroll, FCPD PIO Director; Claudia Arko, County Legislative Liaison; Lindsey Doane, Chairman's Office; George Becerra; John Lovaas; Gordon Dean, Dave Rohrer, Public Safety Director, Lisa Popham

**I. Approval Of Minutes From Last Meeting**

The minutes from the June 13, 2015 meeting were approved.

**II. Open Issues**

a) Discussion on communications review of FCPD PIO operations; Dave Rohrer introduced Lindsay Miller, from PERF, who answered questions about the study. Many will be included in the study and its strength will be community engagement. Participants will likely include: elected officials, members of the news media, Office of Public Affairs, FCPD public information officers, and others. There will be community meetings and community focus groups, as well. The process will take 60 days or so; it is anticipated to be completed/presented on Oct. 27.

- b. Colonel Tom Ryan and Director of PIO, Captain Ed O'Carroll, updated the group on FCPD communications developments
1. FCPD is in the final stages of developing a job description for a Communications Director (civilian)
  2. Social media tools are being utilized with greater frequency and variety; a Tweet-a-long with Animal Control Officers was held last week to show the public the function and the internal workings of the ACO job; the difficulties, the dangers, the unique moment-to-moment nature of the job. Other such initiatives are being planned, to include other entities in the department, such as recruitment and academy students. The FCPD is establishing social media goals for 2016 to drastically increase the number of tweets over past years.
  3. The final edits are being placed on a planned web posting of Officer Involved shooting incidents. In the interest of transparency, FCPD will post these on the public website in the near future.
  4. The FCPD is now re-writing the general orders (GO) that relate to PIO and the release of information. These GO's, 401 and 401.2, are being updated to include social media and are being written with less of a focus on mass media "response" and more of a focus on information being released directly to the community. The department is also establishing clear internal SOP's that will be used by internal FCPD PIOs. These procedures will guide release of public information with clear guidelines on what, when, and how information will be released; social media and community engagement issues will be addressed.
  5. A new social media tool, currently solely used by the Office of Public Affairs, called "Periscope" will be increasingly used by FCPD PIO. This is a form of live-streaming, real-time, that can be used successfully for live news conferences.

### III. Discussion of Recommendations for Subcommittee's Final Report

1. A close look, and extensive discussion, on the first and last paragraphs of the proposed report submission; all agreed that opening and closing would incorporate edits from committee members via emails to Merni.
2. Discussion on recommendation of creation of a Community Engagement Team.
3. Discussion of FOIA and importance of re-writing former County Executive's memo to all County employees on this issue. Needs to be

updated to help educate all County staff on the critical importance of community conversation, information and FOIA requests.

4. Extensive discussion of FCPD policy on release of names of officers/personnel involved in on-duty shootings. In some locales, names are released within 48 hours of the incident; in others, it may be a week or more. The final recommendation, suggested by Lt. Colonel Ryan, cited emotional trauma to officers/families, and that one week was preferable over the groups initial inclination to suggest a 48 hour suggestion. The group consented to Lt. Col. Ryan but stated that public expectation was that names and pertinent details should be released sooner rather than later; the group urged that expediency be considered in these cases.
5. Other discussions included, crime analysis be made available to the public on a quarterly basis at specific stations, an emphasis on local data for local residents and neighborhoods.
6. A suggestion was made to fund and staff the Police PIO 24/7 and for the agency to re-align resources to supply more information to the public whenever they need/request it.
7. The FCPD should be THE trusted source for information; with social media this is a possible and realistic goal.
8. A suggestion was made to physically re-locate the FCPD FOIA function/personnel from the Internal Affairs Bureau to the FCPD PIO. This staff will work directly for the new Civilian PIO.
9. The FCPD PIO needs to clarify and publicly post the disclosure process on officer involved shootings. They are obligated to do so. Where possible, it is recommended that the PIO release police reports, such as the Seattle PD.

### **III. Adjournment**

Ms. Merni Fitzgerald, Chairwoman, adjourned the meeting at 10:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Lucy H. Caldwell