

## Ypsilanti Police Advisory Commission (YPAC) 2022 Annual Report

### INTRODUCTION

The Ypsilanti Police Advisory Commission was created by ordinance 1295 in November 2017 (Chapter 2, Article 4, Division 6). The following is the purpose from Sec.2-181:

- To strengthen the relationship between the community of the City of Ypsilanti and the Ypsilanti Police Department.
- To serve as a liaison to enhance community and police relations and serve as an advocate for programs, ideas, and methods to improve the relations between the police and the community
- To Review police complaint investigatory findings, and report to council on the Commission's analysis of these findings
- To collect, review, and audit summary data and compile aggregate statistics relating to individual or community police complaints and other issues of importance
- To educate the public about complaint process, and ensure and recommend ways to make the process accessible to all
- To make recommendations to the City Manager about organizational matters and procedures.
- To participate in annual review of the Ypsilanti Police Department's Citizen Police Academy.
- To consult and advise the City Manager on the Ypsilanti Police Department's strategic plan.
- Per Chapter 78- 49(6), the Commission must provide an annual report to City Council.

### OPERATIONS:

All boards and commissions were suspended January and February due to Covid. May YPAC did not have quorum. Joint City Council and YPAC meeting was in October at the Ypsilanti Senior Center.

### MEMBERSHIP:

In 2022, the YPAC Commission's memberships was as follows:

- Gail Wolkoff Chair. - Exp. February 1, 2023
- Eric Mohamed - Exp. February 1, 2025
- Kathleen McCormick - Exp. February 1, 2024
- Herman Humes Jr. - Exp. February 1, 2024
- Anthony Morgan - Exp. February 1, 2025
- Renee Echols- resigned April

### OVERVIEW OF THE MEMBERSHIP CHANGES:

- New Commissioner Member Eric Mohamed August
- New Commissioner Member Anthony Morgan October
- City Council liaisons: Council member Morgan left May, Council member Brown left November, Council member Tooson presently is the liaison.

### MEETINGS:

Dates for 2023 Commission meetings are as follows:

January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, May 25, June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26, November 16, December 21

#### MONTHLY PRESENTATIONS:

Monthly statistics for the Police Department by Chief DeGiusti or Lieutenant Yuchasz. These reports include:

- Activity report: statistics for the current period reflected by the past three months, Personnel updates which include hiring and the status of new officers as they progress to be a Full Time Officer
- Department Activity which includes meetings Chief DeGiusti and COPCRU attended
- Citizen Complaints which include a brief scenario, action taken, and status as either founded or unfounded.
- Use of force which includes a brief scenario
- Crime Stats
- Courts and Law Enforcement Management Information System, CLEMIS. The Crime stats compare the same month last year and year to date information. Arrest Stats include comparisons to same time last year and year to date for both adults and children.
- Relevant articles Chief DeGiusti share with the commission.  
After the presentation there is a question-and-answer period concerning the monthly statistics and questions received from the community.
- Crime report and CLEMIS summary of Offenses

#### OTHER PRESENTATIONS:

1. License Plate Readers - What they Do and Don't Do - Chief DeGiusti
2. Traffic Stops in Washtenaw County- Alyshia Dyer, former road patrol officer, and community organizer with WeROC/MOSES and Susan Hooks-Brown, Birth to career advocate, and community organizer with WeROC
3. The RAC Firearm Storage and Security
4. City Manager Francis McMullen information concerning the hiring of the Police Chief.

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Resolutions, recommendations to council and City Manager, and other positive actions:

1. **Resolution No. 2022-001** May 26, 2022 requesting: That the commission urges city council by formal resolution to submit application and become a member of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement's (NACOLE)
2. **Resolution No. 2022-002** May 26, 2022, requesting: That the commission invite an outside expert to present to the commission a balanced, evidence-based perspective on the benefits and possible harms, or risks of:
  - Cameras that aid in police investigations
  - Gunshot detectors.

3. **Email sent** to all members of the police department from Chief DeGiusti concerning the June presentation on Traffic Stops in Washtenaw County

*"All,*

*A policy is being drafted regarding EIV=N messages from SOS. As I'm sure you are all aware any query of a license plate will return an Electronic Insurance Verification message. An EIV=N response should not be used as the sole reason to make a traffic stop. Although it is a requirement that all vehicles operated on Michigan roadways have insurance there are problems with the EIV system. The system is driven basically by the insurance industry and is reliant on the insurance company to submit the information through SOS. This brings about two very important issues: 1) the insurance company may make mistakes in coding the VIN of the vehicle and more importantly 2) insurance companies are only required to report new policies every two weeks so there could be significant delay from the policy being in effect and the actual entry into the system.*

*The good news is that I have looked at our traffic data and this does not appear to be a practice that YPD officers are engaging in. Although the courts have recognized that this is a legal stop we will be looking at this through a procedural justice lens, which means that we need to consider the difference between can we do something and should we do it. Until the formal policy is completed this email will serve as the guidance on this issue. To be clear a query of a license plate that returns an EIV=N message should not be used as the sole reason for a traffic stop. All other insurance violation should continue to be enforced as has been our past practice.*

*If you have any questions regarding this matter feel free to contact me.*

*Tony DeGiusti  
Chief of Police  
City of Ypsilanti Police Department  
505 West Michigan Avenue  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197"*

4. **Discussion** and recommendations given to the City Manager on characteristics of the Police Chief to include in the Job Posting.
- Transparency
  - Commitment the community
  - True open door policy
  - Upper management experience
  - A desire for a diverse police force
  - Invested into breaking barriers, distrust, and biases
  - A person for all
  - Looking for the top people in the field and the statistics to prove it
  - Experience in a community the similar size of Ypsilanti
  - Experience with community policing and values the community knowing local officers
  - A person who is willing to attend community events, a personal individual
  - Believes in family and shows it through compassion
  - A true problem solver open to all ideas and suggestions
  - A person who knows the set the tone of the department

- Takes responsibility that officers are being heard and represented
  - A leader that creates a positive work environment
  - Willing to learn and understand the history and traditions of the community.
  - Adaptive when trying to achieve goals
5. Discussion on the way YPAC would like to be involved in the selection of the Police Chief. This information was given to the City Manager and City Council.
- Equal representation for City Council and YPAC on the hiring committee.
  - YPAC will have an opportunity to review and to add interview questions
6. Discussion regarding the Police Advisory Commission Merging with the Human Relations Commission
- Through a voice vote which carried the motion YPAC will maintain the autonomy from the Human Relations Commission in function and structure.

#### LOOKING FORWARD:

YPAC looks forward to future progress on the following projects and goals:

- Continue to have joint biannual meetings with City Council
- Communication in the City of Ypsilanti newsletter and other modes of sharing information about YPAC
- Increase the attendance and participation at YPAC monthly meetings
- Find commissioners from ward 3
- Build a stronger relationship between residents of Ypsilanti, the police department
- Discussion on public engagement throughout the hiring of the Police Chief.
  - Who are the key stakeholders?
  - How incorporate key stakeholders into the process?

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Wolkoff, YPAC Chair

February 2023

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