

9th POLICE DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PDAC)

*9th Police District Headquarters
401 N 21st Street - Philadelphia PA 19130*

**Meeting Notes – Tuesday, April 27, 2021
Via Zoom**

PRESENT: 9th Police District: Officer Jesse O’Shea, **PDAC Members:** Chet Wichowski (FCA) Wendy Gosfield (RIT-FIT), Colleen Walsh (LSNA and Tivoli), Michael Leigh (Cityview and The Cathedral), Marc Glassman (2601 Parkway, Tina McLintock (CCRA), Patricia Coyne (citizen, retired PCHR), Elaine Petrossian (SGCA), Jonathan Hunter (B.A.R.N), Larry Reynolds (FCA), David Harrison (The Kennedy House.), Fred Blackey (The Kennedy House).

The April 27th, 2021 meeting of the 9th Police District Advisory Council (PDAC) was held via Zoom and called to order at 5:03 pm by Chester Wichowski, Chairman.

OFFICERS OF THE MONTH: Deferred.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: The minutes for the March 30th, 2021 meeting, submitted by Colleen Walsh and previously distributed via email, were approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT: The treasurer’s report for the period since our last meeting, submitted by Treasurer Wendy Gosfield and previously distributed via email, was reviewed. The April 27, 2021 balances are as follows: **Total** balance of \$29,067.36, consisting of: **Bicycle Fund** \$20,893.04 (no activity); **9th District** \$4,802.08 (no activity); and **PDAC** \$3,372.24, including expenses of \$600 for gift certificates for Officer of the Month. Colleen W. asked which restaurants would be good picks for the Officers and P/O O’Shea provided a list including McCrossens, Cherry Street Tavern, Con Murphys, Kite & Key, Bishop’s Collar, and Bar Hyge.

P.A.L. CENTER UPDATE: No report.

PROJECT H.O.M.E./HOMELESS UPDATE: P/O O’Shea reported that a business owner on 15th Street expressed frustration with the situation on 15th Street corridor. Captain Hooven has been working with Homeless Services to continue the progress there and at Aviator Park. 15th and Locust Streets encampment will have signs posted for dismantling; numbers have slightly dwindled. Aviator Park dismantling will be a coordinated effort with SSgt Brooks and Homeless Services.

RACING ON AREA STREETS: Harriet W is glad to know Mayor Kenney is aware of the situation; however, certain details may need to be clarified. ATVs are not the problem here as it is in South Philly. Here it is mostly motorcycles. Can Councilman Clarke include a “strike force” in the budget? Wendy G: The Bicycle Coalition has become involved, has a lot of pull with City Hall, and it may be good to work with them. Close calls with pedestrians are numerous and disturbing. With increase in tourism, the risk increases. Fred B. noted that the issue is primarily souped-up cars and motorcycles at JFK Blvd. Officer O’Shea noted that officers have been sent for street-legal bike training. And a Budget request was submitted for a task force. Red light cameras should be up by May. Michael L asked if police bikes have been added to budget; P/O O’Shea replied not at this time.

Chet W asked if all officers are equipped with tasers, and are they trained for them? P/O O’Shea estimated that about half are equipped and trained. But 9th has more than in other districts.

Elaine P asked why 9th District appears to be further along than City Center in respect to best practices. Discussion followed re co-responders program that was initiated in the 9th District, tasers, and other police procedures.

Fred B described repercussions following the affidavit request that was rescinded by the City. P/O O’Shea noted that all officers received it and were asked to distribute. He has sent questions to PPD, waiting for response. Discussion followed.

Elaine P noted the fatal bicycle accident at B F Parkway and 23rd Street and that the victim was a resident of the 9th District.

B.A.R.N. REPORT: Jonathan H requested support for small businesses. 25% capacity is now allowed; 50% with proper ventilation. Marc G asked about more barricades for outdoor seating due to a recent car incident, trucks blocking street, construction, etc. It was noted that barriers are expensive and more challenging for smaller establishments. P/O O'Shea noted the importance of supporting restaurants with flexibility to ever-changing regs.

A.D.A. REPORT. No report.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT: Officer O'Shea reported that robberies are up 3% from last period, but had 3 arrests recently and 9th district will clear 5 more robberies. Agg. assault down 14%; gun assaults down 15%; residential burglaries are down 9.1%; commercial burglaries are >50% down; theft from auto has increased. PD has a general idea of suspects. No catalytic converter theft during this period.

HUMAN RELATIONS UPDATE: Thank you to Fred B for pizza provided to PD from Kennedy House.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: No report.

AREA NEEDS: Colleen W asked the groups their feelings about returning to in-person meetings since vaccinations are readily available and mentioned the plan/intent for an outdoor executive session. Decision is to remain On Hold.

The evolution and challenges of certain voting mechanisms were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business presented, the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 PM.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held as follows:

Tues, May 25th at 5:00pm.

Via Zoom

Respectfully Submitted by Colleen Walsh

Treasurer’s Report

Please see attached.

Crime Report

Officer Kiefer shared the following comparison of crime statistics for the Ninth District compared to the same time period last year:

	YEAR TO 05/23		
Violent Crime	2020	2021	% Change
Homicide ²	1	0	-100.0%
Robbery/Gun	22	20	-9.1%
Robbery/Other	102	46	-54.9%
Aggravated Assault/Gun	8	17	88.9%
Aggravated Assault/Other	51	42	-17.6%
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME OFFENSES	193	136	-29.5%

Property Crime	2020	2021	% Change
Burglary/Residential	50	45	-10.0%
Burglary/Commercial	47	30	-36.2%
Theft of Motor Vehicle Tag	8	8	0.0%
Theft from Person	24	18	-25.0%
Theft from Auto	218	225	3.2%
Theft	390	256	-34.4%
Retail Theft	549	328	-40.3%
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME OFFENSES	1338	969	-27.6%

Officer Kiefer reported that there was an incident at 15th and Locust, wherein a man, without a permit to carry, shot off a round of bullets and dropped his gun. The man has been arrested by Police.

Officer Kiefer further reported that thefts of catalytic converters continue but are down somewhat. If anyone is spotted under a vehicle outside, please call 911.

Tina McLintock inquired about the investigation of the attack of a woman about a month ago on the 1700 Block of Addison. Officer O’Shea responded that he believes the Police have issued an arrest warrant in that attack but that he would check and report back.

Community Relations

Officer O'Shea reported that morale within the entire Police Department, including the Ninth District, is very low. The Ninth District is planning a catered event for June in an attempt to boost morale.

Homeless Services

Officer O'Shea reported that the encampment at 15th and Locust has been disbanded. Issues with people experiencing homelessness continue on Ionic Street, and new "campers" continue to pop up at 15th and Wood/Callowhill Streets. Issues were reported regarding homeless individuals on the Schuylkill Trail, including a longstanding tent under the ramp to the South Street bridge.

Racing on the Parkway/JFK/Disruptive Vehicular Behavior

Harriet Williams stated that racing on the Parkway continues to be a huge problem. She mentioned that the Queen Village Association pulled together a meeting involving several council members. Immediately following that meeting, other community associations joined in drafting a position paper stating that it is a widescale problem throughout the City, involving a multitude of vehicles (ATVs, dirt bikes, motorcycles, and "souped up" cars) and locations (Rittenhouse, South Broad, North Broad, JFK Boulevard and the Parkway). She acknowledged that the Police Department is doing its best but suggested that a specially funded task force is needed to address the issue. Officer O'Shea agreed. A second meeting to address this issue is scheduled for June 9, 2021, at 6 p.m. Harriett will share the link once received. She encouraged everyone to call their elected officials, since the Mayor and Managing Director have not been addressing this issue.

The City promised to install red-light cameras along the Parkway by May 1, 2021. They are still awaited.

Officer O'Shea clarified that Police cannot chase vehicles, whether legal or illegal, but Police can confiscate illegal vehicles.

Future Meetings

The possibility of moving to face-to-face meetings starting next month was discussed.

Outside Dining

An inquiry was made regarding whether outside dining structures will continue to be allowed once restaurants go to full capacity. Officer O'Shea responded that this is an issue for the Department of Licenses and Inspections to decide.

Treasurer's Report – May 25, 2021

Previous Account Balance as of April 27, 2021 \$29,067.36

PDAC Allocated Funds

Balance as of April 27, 2021	\$3372.24
Receipts	\$0.00
Expenses	\$0.00
Balance as of May 25, 2021	\$3372.24

9th District Allocated Funds

Balance as of April 27, 2021	\$4802.08
Receipts	\$0.00
Expenses	\$0.00
Balance as of May 25, 2021	\$4802.08

9th District Police Bicycle Fund

Balance as of April 27, 2021	\$20,893.04
Receipts	\$0.00
Expenses	\$186.28
Balance as of May 25, 2021	\$20,706.76

Total Funds in PDAC Account (including 9th District, PDAC & Bike)	
As of May 25, 2021	\$28,881.08