

9th POLICE DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PDAC)

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

**Meeting Notes - Tuesday, February 23, 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 Ginnetti (CCRA), Patricia Coyne (citizen, retired PCHR), Elaine Petrossian (SGCA), Jessica Tomchick (CCCVS), Jonathan Hunter (B.A.R.N), Larry Reynolds (FCA).

The February 23, 2021 meeting of the 9th Police District Advisory Council (PDAC) was held via Zoom and called to order at 5:11 pm by Chester Wichowski, Chairman.

OFFICERS OF THE MONTH: Deferred.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The minutes for the January 26, 2020, 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 February 23, 2021 balances are as follows: **Total** balance of \$27,167.36, consisting of: **Bicycle Fund** \$20,893.04; **9th District** \$3,552.08 with receipts of \$100 from a resident at The Kennedy House; and **PDAC** \$2,722.24. P/O O'Shea reported that 16 bikes were tuned up and incidental items such as coats, etc. were purchased with Bicycle funds this past year, still needing 15 helmets. He will request funding.

Chet reminded members to utilize restaurants that have provided certificates in the past for Officer of the Month. Jesse will send a list of restaurants that have patronized the 9th in the past.

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

PROJECT H.O.M.E/HOMELESS UPDATE: No rep from Project Home present.

Officer O'Shea provided a flyer "Homeless Street Outreach", outlining the tasks provided by Outreach Program, and another flyer "Where to Turn During COVID-19", providing resources for homeless individuals. P/O O'Shea reported that captain retrained all officers to identify specific problems, such as mental illness, pan handling, etc. with the homeless individuals. They are getting to know them better, and are in the process of removing a new encampment at 15th & Locust Streets. Services from other city agencies are needed to address the encampment with an effort to limit police role. Police on bicycles have been assigned to that area. The city will be posting a notice on March 1st to clear out the encampment by April 1st. 115 people stay overnight there; the city assures they have beds available for them at a different site.

RACING ON AREA STREETS: Harriet Williams not present. Officer O'Shea reporting for her: No magic bullet, sustained attention of police is important. Keep calling 911 to report this activity to establish data to support new measures. Red light cameras are coming. Parks and Rec coordinating with police enforcement.

PD is working out kinks with this and homeless issues so when warm weather arrives, they can be addressed readily.

The Commissioner's Office has requested list of meeting for PDACs.

B.A.R.N. REPORT: Jonathan H: discussion with Officer O'Shea to gather bar & restaurant owners to facilitate better communications as they begin to reopen. The police may be able to help in sorting out issues with appropriate agencies (L&I, etc., PA LCB, Dept. of Health) to help interpret new rules and regs. It is a work in progress. General consensus with restaurant owners: high marks to the police department for their assistance throughout COVID-19 restrictions.

A.D.A. REPORT. No report.

HUMAN RELATIONS UPDATE: No report.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT: P.O. O'Shea: 5 robberies, one arrest; 4 residential burglaries with one arrest; 8 commercial burglaries with one arrest; 22 thefts from auto, including catalytic converters, one arrest. Property and violent crime is up. Discussed incident at 18th & Vine Streets which occurred Monday, Feb 15: a robbery victim returned fire on suspect who is still in critical condition. Suspects are 17 and 19 year olds and being charged. They are not 9th District residents. 8 porch thefts reported; 1 suspect arrested 5 times.

Catalytic converter theft has died off over past 2 weeks. A flyer from P/O O'Shea showing extra measures that may deter this type of theft was distributed. Chet asked about any info on the purchasers of these parts. Major Crimes Unit took over investigation.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: None.

AREA NEEDS:

Elaine: request list of questions to DA candidates to Elaine, will be interviewing them in March before next PDAC meeting.

Jessica T: Looking for another advocate for the 9th; new one accepted another position.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business presented, the meeting was adjourned at 5:49 PM.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held as follows:

Tues, March 30th at 5:00pm.

Via Zoom

Respectfully Submitted by Colleen Walsh

Treasurer's Report

Please see attached.

Homeless Services

Officer O'Shea reported that the number of persons in the encampment at 15th and Locust has diminished from a high of 115. A meeting was recently held including the Office of Homeless Services (OHS), the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disability Services (DBHIDS), and local businesses.

Officer O'Shea reported that DBHIDS was helpful in connecting a schizophrenic person experiencing homelessness at 16th and Callowhill to behavioral health services without police intervention.

Harriett Williams reported a developing encampment on West River Drive. Colleen Walsh mentioned encampments on the Schuylkill Trail under Market Streets and Chestnut Streets. Chet Wichowski reported another encampment in the azalea garden along the Schuylkill River Trail. Wendy Gosfield reported that individuals experiencing homelessness are also sleeping outside Greenfield School. Officer O'Shea will report all to Captain Hooven, who will contact OHS and DBHIDS.

Frustration was voiced concerning the lack of citywide response to help persons experiencing homelessness, especially those that are mentally ill.

Racing on the Parkway/JFK/Disruptive Vehicular Behavior

Harriett Williams credited the police for handling the issue of vehicles on the apron at the Art Museum, but noted that vehicles are now racing up and down the Parkway, causing very dangerous conditions. Elaine Petrossian suggested that our new state representative should be contacted. Officer O'Shea responded that the state police, unlike Philadelphia Police, can give chase to vehicles. It was noted that the issue of motorcycles and ATVs has become a political hot-button issue.

David Harrison complained of riders of motorized bicycles on sidewalks in Center City. It was noted that this type of behavior is often exhibited by food-delivery bicyclists to avoid traffic. Colleen Walsh mentioned that New York City requires anyone who delivers food on behalf of a restaurant to be licensed.

Colleen Walsh stated that Eakins Oval is undergoing reconstruction and suggested that June may be an ideal time to discuss some changes, such as installation of speed bumps or other deterrents to combat racing on the Parkway.

Frustration was expressed concerning the lack of a Citywide response to this safety issue, as the Ninth District cannot resolve the issue alone.

Bars, Area Restaurants and Nightclubs Report

Jonathan Hunter reported that bars and restaurants are in need of support. Officer O'Shea stated that bars and restaurants can reach out to him directly if the Ninth District can be of assistance.

Crime Report

Officer O'Shea reported that, in March, there have been:

- 2 shootings with 1 arrest
- 5 gunpoint robberies with 4 arrests
- 4 residential burglaries with 0 arrests.

Officer O'Shea reported that, overall, crime is down, except gun assaults and thefts from automobiles. Officer O'Shea encouraged vehicle owners to lock their automobile doors.

Officer O'Shea reported that the co-responders program is being rolled out in Southwest and Center City Philadelphia, including the Ninth District.

Treasurer's Report – March 30, 2021

Previous Account Balance as of February 23, 2021 \$27,067.36

PDAC Allocated Funds

Balance as of February 23, 2021	\$2722.24
Receipts	\$1250.00
Expenses	\$0.00
Balance as of March 30, 2021	\$3972.24

9th District Allocated Funds

Balance as of February 23, 2021	\$3552.08
Receipts	\$1250.00
Expenses	\$0.00
Balance as of March 30, 2021	\$4802.08

9th District Police Bicycle Fund

Balance as of February 23, 2021	\$20,893.04
Receipts	\$0.00
Expenses	\$0.00
Balance as of March 30, 2021	\$20,893.04

Total Funds in PDAC Account (including 9th District, PDAC & Bike)	
As of March 30, 2021	\$29,667.36