



OFFICE OF POLICING REFORM AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee Responses

August 26, 2021

-
- 1. "What community proposals are you reviewing or advocating for beyond the task force report?"**

Our top priority is implementing Mayor Turner's Task Force Recommendations. However, the needs of the community are constantly changing, and this office is evolving to take on new policy proposals.

- 2. "Are you willing to meet or coordinate a walkthrough of the existing police union contract that's formally referred to as the meet and confer agreement for the public? I know that will be greatly appreciated by me and many others."**

The Meet and Confer agreement is handled by the City of Houston Legal department and is outside the outside the scope of the authority given to this office by Executive Order 1-5.

- 3. "With only three complaints filed. How is this new complaint process being publicized? Will fliers be distributed by officers? I know the HPD website about complaints haven't been updated to reflect this new process. It is still affidavit. So, I'm wondering when those changes will be made."**

The Office is currently working on various community engagement strategies to bring more awareness of the new process.

- 4. "It sounds like you oversee the transparency hub. A big part of transparency is making the data downloadable for external parties to do their own analysis. Can you make this happen? And also, who is the appropriate person to speak about modification to the transparency on those dashboards?"**

The data on the police transparency hub is provided directly by the Houston Police Department and published in the same format without modifications to enhance transparency with the public. Please contact the Office of Policing Reform and Accountability with any request for downloadable data from our transparency hub and/or recommended changes.

5. **"What are your office's plans to facilitate conversation about the HPD budget? Since that was a fundamental reform request that was explicitly left out of the task force's report and the task force's report..."**

The Office of Policing Reform and Accountability is working closely with the Houston Police Department to ensure that funds are being allocated for the community policing initiatives.

6. **What research are you using to guide your work? I'm really interested in kind of hearing where you're coming from in terms of the research."**

The Office of Policing Reform and Accountability communicates with various offices throughout the state and country to gain a deeper understanding of what processes and lessons their programs have endured. The knowledge of many similar programs successes and failures has been of great help to our department in carrying out a stronger initiative here in Houston.

7. **"How is the Office of Police Reform and Accountability going to hold police accountable for their misconduct? A survey by the National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement found that 38 of 64 oversight groups have no independent investigate real authority and are limited to doing audits or reviews to determine whether internal affairs investigators have been through or followed policy... Oversight Boards and departments are tied by red tape which limit their investigative powers. How is this going to be any different? Please remove the problem to eliminate the 180 rule. The 48-hour rule. At the very least the police union contract should be open to the public and allow the public discourse. Invite the public to participate. If not, cancel the whole union contracts. These are the only remedies to reduce police violence and murders."**

Pursuant to executive order 1-5, the Office of Policing Reform and Accountability can investigate allegations of police misconduct as identified by the Board, independent of IAD.

8. **"When officers are in violation [resident muffle] where is the transparency on what's occurring for each officer?"**

On the City of Houston's Police Transparency website located at www.houstontx.gov/policetransparency you may find the dashboard showing the disciplinary actions for HPD officers. The HPD Disciplinary Actions dashboard allows you to view a history of disciplinary actions, the reasons for the discipline, and the outcomes of the action. Additionally, the dashboard provides this data down to the individual officer, as well as how long they have been on HPD's force at the time of discipline.