

City of Providence
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 4

EFFECTIVE January 19, 2016

WHEREAS, Events in recent months have focused national attention on fractures in trust between some police departments and the communities they are charged with protecting; and

WHEREAS, Forging and maintaining positive police-community relations is vital to the health and safety of Providence's residents; and

WHEREAS, The Interim Report of President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, released in March, explained that, "for the last two decades, policing has become more effective, better equipped, and better organized to tackle crime," yet, "the public's confidence in police work has remained flat, and among some populations of color, confidence has declined"; and

WHEREAS, Renewed national attention on public safety issues has led many police departments and policy leaders to review police training, tactics, and data collection in order to increase efficiency and foster positive relationships with the community; and

WHEREAS, The FBI's Uniform Crime Report annually compiles statistics on the number of police officers deliberately killed in the line of duty and the number of suspects killed in altercations with the police, however, local law enforcement agencies are not required to contribute data for those studies, leaving a gap in available information about violence against and involving police; and

WHEREAS, In an effort to restore public trust and improve law enforcement's effectiveness, some cities, including New Orleans and Baltimore, have enhanced their crime data collection and reporting efforts beyond what is required for FBI Uniform Crime Reporting; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the State of Rhode Island enacted the Comprehensive Community-Police Relationship Act, which requires local police departments to track certain information about motor vehicle stops and other police-community interactions, and provide the results to the State in publicly available reports; and

WHEREAS, As the elected representatives of the people of Providence, the City Council has an obligation to protect public safety and quality of life in our community by ensuring the City's law enforcement officials are employing the most effective practices possible, as well as collecting and reporting the data needed to properly evaluate those practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby establish a Special Commission on Community-Police Relations, the purpose of which shall be to review Providence Police Department training, tactics, and data collection, and make recommendations for improving community-police relations.

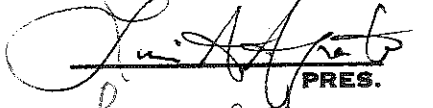

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Special Commission on Community-Police Relations shall consist of one (1) representative appointed by the Mayor; one (1) representative appointed by the City Council President; three (3) members of the public appointed by the City Council, one (1) being a youth from the community, one (1) being an employee of a social service agency and one (1) being someone who works in Family Court; the Commissioner of Public Safety; and the Chief of Police.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, as part of its review, the Special Commission on Community-Police Relations will hold no fewer than three (3) public meetings and, within 180 days, shall present the City Council with a report detailing its findings and recommendations.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JAN 07 2016

READ AND PASSED


PRES.

CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature


Lori L. Hagen
City Clerk