

Abolitionist Law Center P.O. Box 8654 Pittsburgh, PA 15221 abolitionistlawcenter.org



Tel. 215.898.8427 Fax 215.573.6783

Advocacy for Racial and Civil Justice Clinic Gittis Legal Clinics 3501 Sansom Street Philadelphia, PA 19104

March 12, 2024

Dear Counsel:

On March 30, 2023, the Judge Strawbridge entered a Consent Decree between Plaintiffs and the City of Philadelphia in *Smith v. City of Philadelphia*, 2:20-cv-03431, in response to the Philadelphia Police Department's racially disparate treatment and violence toward residents of the predominantly Black West Philadelphia community during the May 31, 2020 protests sparked by the police killing of George Floyd. That day, PPD officers used military-style weapons, including rubber bullets, tear gas, and pepper spray, against individuals in West Philadelphia's 52nd Street area, as some were peacefully protesting and others were simply bystanders in and near their homes.

Pursuant to the Consent Decree, the City committed to hosting a bi-annual forum open to the public where a Deputy Commissioner would report use of force incidents in PSA 181 and 182 over the prior six months to community members. (ECF 81). The consent decree provided that the report "given at this meeting will include a written summary of data on stops, frisks, arrests, and any incident for which a Use of Force Report is required under PPD's Directive 10.2" and there would be space for "questions from community members in attendance".

On November 15, 2023, members of the West Philadelphia community met at Lucien E. Blackwell West Philadelphia Library for the second bi-annual report, which was provided by Deputy Commissioner Fran Healy. Several questions were posed to Deputy Commissioner Healy, and this letter memorializes questions posed by members of the community to the PPD to which answers are requested:

- Does PPD track and/or know how many police interactions involve individuals with psychiatric or cognitive issues?
- Were there any disciplinary actions taken against officers related to the events of May 31, 2020 and October 31, 2020? If so, what was the discipline? What bodies are investigating the officers facing discipline?
- What is the demographic information of individuals who were subject to Use of Force in PSA181 and 182?

- It was reported that in 92% of incidents where force was used, someone was arrested. What percentage of these arrests were arrests for the charge "resisting an officer" only?
- Provide the Use of Force data broken down by age, race, gender, disability status
- Within the use of force data, for the individuals arrested, please provide the reason for the arrest. How many arrests led to charges that were later substantiated?
- What studies or other data does consider when determining police staffing in districts?
- How is the Crisis Intervention Team evaluated? What training is required?

We would also like to establish and date and time for the next Police Accountability Forum this spring in May. Please provide some available times for the next forum during the first two weeks in May. We expect that PPD will provide a response regarding each point to Plaintiff's counsel by April 2, 2024.

Sincerely,

Nia O. Holston (PA ID 327384) Bret Grote (PA ID No. 317273) Jamelia N. Morgan (NY ID No. 5351176) Of Counsel* Quinn Cozzens (PA ID No. 323353) Rupalee Rashatwar (PA ID No. 331085) ABOLITIONIST LAW CENTER P.O. Box 8654 Pittsburgh, PA 15221 T: (412) 654-9070 bretgrote@abolitionistlawcenter.org jamelia.morgan@uconn.edu qcozzens@alcenter.org nia@alcenter.org rupalee@alcenter.org

Rachel Kleinman NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC. 40 Rector Street, 5th Floor New York, New York 10006 T: (212) 965-2200 rkleinman@naacpldf.org

Cara McClellan ADVOCACY FOR RACIAL & CIVIL JUSTICE CLINIC (PA ID No. 331129) 3501 Sansom Street Philadelphia, PA 19104-6204 T: 215.764.2164 caralm@law.upenn.edu

David Rudovsky (PA ID No. 15168) Jonathan H. Feinberg (PA ID No. 88227) Susan M. Lin (PA ID No. 94184) KAIRYS, RUDOVSKY, MESSING, FEINBERG & LIN LLP The Cast Iron Building 718 Arch Street, Suite 501 South Philadelphia, PA 19106 T: 215-925-4400 drudovsky@krlawphila.com jfeinberg@krlawphila.com