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**Complaint and Internal Investigation Committee Releases Findings**

ERIE, PA (July 22, 2010) At the direction of Mayor Joseph Sinnott, a task force was convened in the spring, 2010 charged with reviewing the complaint and internal investigation process of the Erie Police Department (EPD). The Complaint and Internal Investigation Committee (CIIC) was formed at the recommendation of the Review Panel consisting of Elvage G. Murphy, Michael Palmisano and Bernard Teodorski in the fall of 2009. Members of the CIIC are: Bishop Dwane Brock, Chair; Laura Schaaf, Mayoral Assistant; Fred Rush, Coordinator of Community Initiatives; Patrick Cappabianca, Erie City Council; Judge Stephanie Domitrovich, Detective Sergeant Ken Kensill, Fraternal Order of Police; Karen Weston, Gannon University; Larry Schneider, Signal-Tech and Lieutenant General “Gus” Pagonis, US Army (retired).

Chief Franklin began by presenting the policies and procedures currently in place for complaints and internal investigations. After a thorough examination of that process, the task force reviewed a draft of the revised policies related to citizen complaints. Included in the draft were:

1. the expanded development of the process as a whole
2. more clearly defined investigative procedures
3. more clearly defined mediation process
4. addition of data collection and statistical reporting of complaint outcomes/types
5. the creation of four forms to better communicate the complaint/investigation process
  - a. Acknowledge of Citizen Complaint Report
  - b. Conclusion and Findings of Citizen Complaint Report
  - c. Police/Citizen Mediation Report
  - d. Officer Notification of Investigative Inquiry

Discussion of the work submitted by Chief Franklin resulted in the task force suggesting the following be incorporated:

1. expanded distribution of the Citizen Complaint form
2. outcome of the internal investigation more clearly defined in correspondence to the complainant
3. creation of a brochure and public awareness campaign to better educate the community in regards to the citizen complaint procedures and subsequent outcomes
4. minor changes to the artwork and language included in the brochure

Complaint and Internal Investigation Committee Releases Findings  
Page 2

The final task of the task force was to compare the draft of the Complaint and Internal Investigative Process and Procedures to the recommendations of the Review Panel of the fall, 2009. In their report, the Review Panel made fifteen recommendations. Chief Franklin presented the task force with a final document detailing each recommendation and the action proposed or taken.

As an appointed body we recognize that police-community-relations are an ongoing and constant endeavor, but one necessary in order to lay the groundwork for a trusting relationship. It is our hope that our work and these documents will facilitate better understanding for all as part of an on-going process of building a stronger community.

As committee chair, Bishop Dwane Brock, of the Victory Christian Center, (814) 874-3091 will be able to answer any questions.

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