

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

Police Committee

Issue Briefing

Topic: Memorandum of Understanding – Police and Minority Relations Committee

Prepared By: Michael J. McGrath, Superintendent of Police

Date: November 11, 2019

- I. Action To Be Considered By The Board:** Authorize a Cooperation Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Police and Minority Relations Committee (PMRC) and the Township of Lower Merion.
- II. Why This Issue Requires Board Consideration:** The authorization of this agreement requires the approval of the Board of Commissioners.
- III. Current Policy Or Practice (If Applicable):** This request is consistent with past practice and policy.
- IV. Other Relevant Background Information:** In 2016, the Township contracted Major Ben's Consulting, LLC to review and analyze the Township's Police and Community Relations Program. Various recommendations were proposed in the final report issued in July 2017, including recommendations for restructuring the then titled Police and Community Relations Committee. Working with the community, Commissioners and the Police Department, the committee revised their By-laws, restructured their meetings and renamed the committee the "Police and Minority Relations Committee" to emphasis the committee's primary goals and mission.

In addition, the consultant's report recommended that the committee establish a more formal relationship with the Township as it continued its mission. After much debate, the committee, working with the community, proposed the Memorandum of Understanding which is meant to establish the roles and responsibilities of the partnership between the committee and the Township. The Board of the PMRC has approved the proposed draft and it has been reviewed by the Police Department, the Township Staff and the Township Solicitor. The responsibilities incorporated in the MOU are mutually agreed upon.

- V. Impact On Township Finances:** This action will have no impact on Township Finances.
- VI. Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends the adoption of this agreement.