Police and Minority Relations Committee
2019 Annual Report
Presented to the
Lower Merion Board of Commissioners
February 5, 2020

The Police and Community Relations Committee was formed over 30 years ago in response to excessive force during a police stop of Reverend Albert G. Davis, Jr. who was a new pastor in Lower Merion.   Community protest resulted in the establishment of a process to engage in ongoing dialogue and under the leadership of former Superintendent Joe Daly, a group was convened to improve the relationship between the police department and the African-American community of Lower Merion. Despite its longevity, the committee has never had official township status as a board, and after a consultant's study of Lower Merion's police and community relations, the committee was redefined as a private organization in 2018, and re-named to reflect its actual purpose as the Police and **Minority** Relations Committee.

2019 was a year to formalize the re-organization for the Police and Minority Relations Committee. The Committee's accomplishments included:
- adopting new bylaws,
- drafting and executing a formal Memorandum of Understanding with the Township, and
- launching a website for the committee which includes the committee members, purpose, meeting dates and locations, and a form to leave feedback or to report an issue. The website address is **policeminorityrelations.org**.

We received presentations from the Lower Merion Police on Police Stops and Body Worn cameras.

In 2019 we were saddened by the passing of Marie Thornton, who was a long-standing member of the committee. In December we elected three new members to the committee representing the Ardmore and Bryn Mawr areas, and we elected new officers.

A new brochure has been prepared to publicize the committee.

Our major goal for 2020 is to establish a Youth Advisory Committee and we look forward to working with the Police Department over the coming year to develop new relationships between the police and younger residents in Lower Merion.