

Police and Minority Relations Committee
2020 Annual Report
Presented to the
Lower Merion Board of Commissioners
August 2, 2021

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.

2020 activity was severely limited by the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal to create a Youth Advisory Council was deferred. Outreach to youth was restricted as school went virtual, and the community center was closed for most of the year.

The committee met on January 27th before the virus was widespread. March began the statewide shutdown, and the April 27th meeting was cancelled, while we worked to set up virtual meetings in the pandemic environment. Technical glitches required the committee to postpone the July 27th meeting until August 17th. The October meeting was also rescheduled for November 16th.

The committee was contacted by a township resident who made cloth masks in her grandson's memory, and she requested that the Police and Minority Relations Committee distribute them to minorities in the township, which we did. The effort was named the Miles Project, in honor of her grandson.

The committee was advised of the Lower Merion Human Relations Commission's goals to start a Student commission, and to develop a Community Forum on Race. The Police and Minority Relations Committee expressed interest in collaborating on these efforts.

The annual meeting was held on November 16th. As there were no term expirations for board officers, elections were not needed. The 2019 officers continued to serve in 2020, and include: Christine Anderson, President; Robin Thomas, Vice President, and Maryam Phillips, Secretary.

The PMRC may be reached at any time with the following contact information:

- The website address is **policeminorityrelations.org**.
- Feedback/contact form (on website): **<http://policeminorityrelations.org/contact>**
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