



PRESS RELEASE
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**Virginia Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Announces Study:
*Police Oversight and Accountability in Virginia***

The Virginia Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene a series of public meetings to discuss police oversight and accountability in the state, and its impact on the equal protection of civilians in the administration of justice. The Committee will consider the impact of law enforcement accountability on disparities based on race, color, sex, national origin, religion, and/or disability status that exist throughout the criminal justice system. The Committee will also seek testimony regarding alternative or remedial policies and practice with the potential to address identified concerns.

The Committee will hear testimony from community members, families, advocates, law enforcement, and government officials. Members of the public will be invited to speak during an open comment period near the end of each meeting. The Committee's first two panel discussions will take place:

Panel I: Friday, July 16, 2021 at 2:00-4:00p ET

To join online (audio/visual), register at: <https://bit.ly/3cAEe26>

To join by phone (audio only), dial: 800-360-9505 USA Toll Free; Access code: 199 424 2063

Panel II: Friday, August 18, 2021 at 12:00-2:00p ET

To join online (audio/visual), register at: <https://bit.ly/3iF0346>

To join by phone (audio only): 800-360-9505 USA Toll Free; Access code: 199 689 4714

The Committee will hear testimony from additional speakers throughout the fall of 2021. Exact dates and times of additional panels are forthcoming. Please consult the federal register or visit www.usccr.gov for further information. The Committee will accept written testimony submitted to mwojnaroski@usccr.gov throughout the duration of the study.

Closed captions will be provided. People who are deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing may also follow the proceedings by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 and providing the Service with the above listed conference call number and access code. Individuals requiring other accommodations should contact the regional program unit at (202) 618-4158 five business days prior to the meeting to request them.

Committee Chair K. Shiek Pal said, "For the past several years, questions about police oversight and accountability - particularly in the context of communities of color - have played a pivotal role in our national dialogue about peace, equity, and justice. But the long history of the intersections

between law enforcement and civil rights extends much further back in our nation's story, and implicates fundamental questions of accountability, training, recruitment, and representation. This is a critical and timely topic for us to examine, with ramifications across this diverse Commonwealth, and I am eager to tackle this important work.”

The Virginia Committee will issue findings and recommendations in a report to the Commission after all testimony has been received.

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For information about the Commission, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).