



PRESS RELEASE
March 10, 2022

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Virginia Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Announces Continued Meeting Series:

Police Oversight and Accountability in Virginia

The Virginia Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will continue its 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. In this study, the Committee is examining 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 is also seeking testimony regarding alternative or remedial policies and practice with the potential to address identified areas of concern.

The meetings will take place:

Panel IV: Friday March 25, 2022, from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm EST

Online registration at: <https://bit.ly/3prUBEr>

Telephone access (audio only): 800-360-9505; Access code: 2764 560 0947

Panel V: Monday April 11, 2022, from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm EST

Online registration at: <https://bit.ly/3plk5DC>

Telephone access (audio only): 800-360-9505; Access code: 2760 681 1173

Panel VI: Wednesday April 27, 2022, from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm EST

Online registration at: <https://bit.ly/3lz0Myd>

Telephone access (audio only): 800-360-9505; Access code: 2763 362 5630

These meetings continue an ongoing series through which the Committee is gathering testimony on this topic. The Committee will hear from community members, families, advocates, law enforcement, and government officials.

Members of the public are invited to speak during an open comment period near the end of each meeting. Records from previous meetings, including a video recording and transcript, are available [here](#). The Committee will also accept written testimony submitted to mwojnaroski@usccr.gov throughout the duration of the study.

Closed captions will be provided. Individuals requiring other accommodations should contact the regional program unit at (202) 618-4158 five business days prior to the meeting to make their request.

Committee Chair Raul Danny Vargas said, “The maintenance of good public order is essential to creating an environment where everyone can feel safe and secure in their daily lives as they pursue happiness. However, this must be balanced with the vital need to ensure individual liberties, personal freedoms, civil rights, justice, and fairness are respected. This Committee is determined to explore possible shortcomings in current policies as well as recommendations for best practices that can lead to fair and effective policing for the benefit of all.”

The Virginia Advisory 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](#).