



PRESS RELEASE

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Virginia Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Releases Report on Police Oversight and Accountability

On June 29, 2023, the Virginia Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Committee) issued a [report](#) on police oversight and accountability in the Commonwealth. The report was issued after a series of public hearings over the course of two years where the Committee heard from individuals, organizations, and professionals with specific knowledge of and experience with the conditions and challenges surrounding law enforcement.

Through this investigation, the Committee explored issues regarding trust and accountability between police and community members, the lack of standardization in policing practices and how they affect the disparities faced by vulnerable communities, as well as an analysis of recent legislative efforts on policing in Virginia. Based on the Committee's findings, the report also includes a set of actionable recommendations directed to both the Commission and key stakeholders in Virginia that is intended to improve policies and procedures in the field of policing, including data-reporting and training.

Committee Chair Raul Danny Vargas stated, "The overwhelming majority of officers are decent, ethical, and dedicated public servants, which makes it all the more devastating when incidents occur that break the covenant of trust between citizens and law enforcement. Every effort must be made to ensure best practices in policing are established, maintained, and followed to avoid these incidents and patterns so as to protect our civil rights and freedoms. The good people of Virginia deserve our collective commitment to a law enforcement system that exists to serve and protect and is devoted to the greatest principles of fairness and equality. The Committee intends that the recommendations put forth in this report are considered by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and relevant stakeholders in the Commonwealth in order to fulfill said principles."

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing an annual federal civil rights enforcement report. The Commission, by Congressional mandate, establishes Advisory Committees in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Territories. Committee members conduct reviews and produce reports and recommendations concerning local civil rights issues, including justice, voting, discrimination, housing, education, and other important themes. For information about the Commission and our Advisory Committees, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on Twitter and Facebook.