



CITY OF YPSILANTI
POLICE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, October 22, 2020 @ 7:00 PM
Zoom Meeting
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Page

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS:

Andy Fanta
Heather Freeling
Kathleen McCormick
Herman Humes
Gail Wolkoff
Colleen Kennedy
Renee Echols

STAFF LIASION:

Police Chief Tony DeGuisti

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3 - 4

- A. Approval of the September 24, 2020 meeting minutes.
[POLICE ADVISORY COMMISSION - 24 Sep 2020 - Minutes](#)

V. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

VI. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

5 - 9

- A. Lawsuit history of the Ypsilanti Police Department.
- B. Wartely complaint/communication.
[Complaint](#)
- C. City Council/Police Advisory Commission Joint Meeting.

11 - 12

- D. Police Department Diversity article discussion.
[Article](#)

13 - 14

- E. New York Times Article: Rochester NY Struggle for Racial Justice Discussion.
[Article](#)
- F. Discussion regarding notices for public meetings.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE

X. ADJOURNMENT



MINUTES POLICE ADVISORY COMMISSION Meeting

7:00 PM - Thursday, September 24, 2020
Zoom Meeting

The POLICE ADVISORY COMMISSION of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Thursday, September 24, 2020, at 7:00 PM, in the Zoom Meeting, with the following members present:

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

I CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm

II ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS:

PRESENT: Andy Fanta, Heather Berkowitz, Kathleen McCormick, Herman Humes, Gail Wolkoff, Colleen Kennedy, Renee Echols

III AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda was approved as submitted

IV APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Approval of the August 27, 2020 Meeting

Commissioner Echols moved, seconded by Commissioner Berkovitz to approve the minutes

Approved: Yes - 7; No - 0; Absent - 0

V PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

VI RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

a) Monthly statistical report - Chief DeGiusti

b) Discussion regarding FOIA request for data

- The hire date of the officer and the date the officer left the force. If they have not left the force then state they are still on the force.
- Why the person left the force if they did not leave the force state that they have not left the force.
- The age of the officer upon hire.
- The race of the officer.

- If they lived in Ypsilanti of Ypsilanti Township during the time they were an officer.
- A list of complaints filed against the officer with dates, places, race of the officer, age of the complainant, race of the complainant, ward of the complainant, ward assignment of the officer if any and any other relevant information like sexual orientation, sexual identity, or gender are involved.
- Uses of force by the officer, the severity of the use of force, and if the use of force resulted in death or long term injury.
- Disciplinary actions taken against the officer.
- Promotions given to the officer.
- How many traffic stops the officer is involved in and the racial breakdown of those stops.
- If the officer was involved in perpetrating any crimes themselves misdemeanor or felony that would be a matter of public record.
- Trainings that the officers were a part of and the dates of those trainings.

- c) Discussion regarding NACOLE:
<https://www.nacole.org>

VII OLD BUSINESS

VIII PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

- a) Police Advisory Commission 2021 Schedule
- b) Neil Gross, New York Times, "Still Guilty of Driving While Black"

IX COMMUNICATIONS

X NEXT MEETING DATE

- a) October 22, 2020

XI ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm



**City of Ypsilanti
Police Advisory Commission**

Commissioners: Andrew Fanta

Chair

Kathleen McCormick

Vice Chair

Heather Berkovitz

Rene Eckles

Herman Humes

Colleen Kennedy

Gail Wolkoff

Staff Liaison: Police Chief Tony DeGiusti

October 19, 2020

Dear Mr. Wartley

Mayor Richardson sent me an email that she had received from you on the 24th September 2020. This email was also sent to:

- 1-John Barr, City Attorney
- 2-Police Chief DeGiusti
- 3-City Manager. Francis McMullan
- 4-Council Member Nicole Brown

While in the body of your email (an electronic complaint you share the fact that this is the third (3rd) time you have mentioned this incident) this email represents the first time the Ypsilanti Police Advisory Commission (Y-PAC) has become aware of the incident.

In reading your complaint it is difficult to determine what the specific issue(s) are that you seek to have addressed.

- 1-Is your complaint one of a simple trespass on your land?
- 2-Does your land contain easements for utilities?
- 3-Is the issue one of who has the responsibility for the care/maintenance of the portion of land in question?
- 4-Is your issue with how the Police conducted themselves upon their arrival?
- 5-We are uncertain as to how (who notified) the police who then responded
- 6-What law were you charged with breaking? What occasioned the police searching you?
- 7-Who demanded that you cut the grass?

The above represent only some of the questions your complaint raises.

I want to assure you that the commission will listen to you. You will be heard. Accordingly, you are welcome to appear at a Y-PAC meeting (22nd October 7 p m or our November meeting on the 19th at 7 p m. Additionally, should you wish to discuss this matter privately with the Chief and myself as Chair of Y-PAC. Please let me know so that the meeting may be scheduled soon.

Very Truly Yours,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Chair of Y-PAC.

Al
Chair Y-PAC

cc
Mayor
City Manager
Council Member Brown
Chief DeGiusti
Y-PAC Commissioners

9/28/2020

Gmail - Fwd: Online Form Submittal: Citizens/Police Complaint Form



Andy Fanta <thelawshop@gmail.com>

Fwd: Online Form Submittal: Citizens/Police Complaint Form

1 message

Lois E. Richardson <missionarylois@gmail.com>
To: thelawshop@gmail.com

Mon, Sep 28, 2020 at 1:51 PM

Here it is. Thanks.

Lois Allen-Richardson
Mayor
City of Ypsilanti
Phone: 734-972-3673
Email: lrichardson@cityofypsilanti.com

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lawrence L. Wartley Jr." <lwartleyjr@aol.com>
Date: September 24, 2020 at 12:18:25 PM EDT

Subject: Fw: Online Form Submittal: Citizens/Police Complaint Form

This is the third time I have inquired about this incident. I spoke with John Barr outside city hall Monday 21 sept 2020. John Barr claimed he would look into it.
Metronet broke laws...no punishment
This day a white male claimed I broke the law...I was illegally searched, assaulted, and illegally detained based on that white males word.

Everyone of you are aware of my justified fear of your association with the Confederacy...and the Confederacy itself. I have the right to protect my property.

You told me the right of way belongs to MDOT. MDOT cuts the grass of areas they are responsible for. Demanding that I cut it is demanding slave labor.

When the police protected that Metronet employee after the company stole my property, and that employee trespassed. Metronet became responsible for maintaining the grass. Demanding that I cut it is demanding slave labor.

I am not a slave!

I want my weapon back!!!

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "noreply@civicplus.com" <noreply@civicplus.com>
To: "lwartleyjr@aol.com" <lwartleyjr@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020, 09:35:16 AM EDT
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Citizens/Police Complaint Form

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=b82bb3b352&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thred-f%3A1679101005235608964&siml=msg-f%3A1679101005235608964>

1/3

Citizens/Police Complaint Form

Citizens/Police Complaint Form

The City of Ypsilanti respects your privacy and will not distribute your personal information except as necessary to resolve your request or complaint. However, you should be aware that this information is subject to the State of Michigan's public disclosure laws and may be disclosed upon request. You are encouraged to provide as much information as possible. It is helpful to the investigators to be able to follow up on information or speak to people involved in the incident to gather evidence. However, if you would like to submit a complaint anonymously, you may omit your identifying information on this form. Please submit this complaint to any of the following: Ypsilanti City Clerk or Manager, Ypsilanti Police Department, Ypsilanti City Attorney, Ypsilanti City Hall Drop Box, or online. Once submitted, this form will be sent to the Ypsilanti City Manager, the Ypsilanti Police Department Chief, and the Ypsilanti City Attorney to be investigated. Within seven days you will receive confirmation of receipt, accompanied with a copy of the complaint, unless submitted anonymously. This complaint will be investigated and findings of the investigation completed within 30 days unless notice is given that more time is needed for the investigation. For any further information please contact the City Clerk's Office (734) 483-1100

Location of Incident	423 South Huron St Ypsilanti Michigan 48197
Incident Date/Time	5/4/2020 1:30 PM
Name of YPD Officer	Ofc Gorman or Dorman, Ofc Kuderko, Sgt Mullender, Lt Murphy
Name of Witnesses or Others Involved	unknown
Witnesses Phone Number	unknown
Ypsilanti Police Department Report/Incident Number if known or applicable	unknown
Statement/Description of Incident	On above date and time I observed a worker from Metronet in violation of Executive Order 2020-4. The worker stepped on my property. I ordered him to get off. He yelled, "This belongs to us!" Metronet has violated the City Charter of Ypsilanti, Health and Safety Laws, Executive Order 2020-4, and my private property. Ofc Kuderko asked what was going on. I have a right to remain silent and did so. Ofc Gorman or Dorman then placed me in handcuffs and assaulted me. At the City Police station I was placed in a filthy room with no Soap, Paper Towel, or Toilet paper. Attempts to get these things were ignored. I asked Sgt Mullender for a a phone call and a copy of receipt for my weapon/property she refused both. Lt Murphy authorized detention, and left me there for four hours. Photographs and recordings available. Ofc Kuderko gave me reason to think there may be Closed Caption footage. It's intimidating being a black man in Ypsi-Tuckey with several white police officers confronting me.

PERMISSIONS

9/28/2020

Gmail - Fwd: Online Form Submittal: Citizens/Police Complaint Form

Are you willing to be contacted by the City for more information? Yes

Do you want your name and contact information disclosed to the YPD? Yes

Would you consider mediation for this complaint? No

IT IS VOLUNTARY, BUT HELPFUL TO KNOW THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT YOU:

Gender Male

Racial/Ethnic Background: African American

Field not completed.

YOUR INFORMATION: DO NOT COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW IF YOU WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS

First Name Lawrence L.

Last Name Wartley Jr.

Address

City Ypsilanti

State Michigan

Zip Code 48197

Phone Number

Fax Number n/a

Email Address

Electronic Signature Agreement I agree.

Electronic Signature Lawrence L. Wartley Jr.

As Communities Diversify, Police Don't Keep Pace

By LAUREN LEATHERBY
and RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr.

Amid a national outcry over the lack of diversity in institutions across the United States, new federal data show that rank-and-file officers in hundreds of police departments are considerably more white than the communities they serve.

Of 467 local police departments with at least 100 officers that reported data for both 2007 and 2016, more than two-thirds became whiter relative to their communities between those years, according to a New York Times analysis.

Some departments — including many of the largest, like New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston and Dallas — narrowed the gap between the share of white police officers and white residents when comparing 2016 with 2007. But most police forces did not keep pace with the changing demographics of their cities, as the charts above show.

The widening racial gap means that at a time when the nation's population is growing more diverse, residents more often meet officers who don't look like them.

There were efforts among many police forces, especially in urban areas, to recruit and hire more officers of color from 2007 to 2016, the most recent year for which federal data is available. And there have been decades-long gains in the number of officers who are not white.

Indeed, from 1997 to 2016, estimates of the proportion of officers of color across the coun-

try rose by 6 percentage points, to almost 28 percent, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, with the biggest police forces growing more diverse.

But few cities reached the point where the demographics of their police departments better reflected their communities. Nationwide, the share of white officers exceeds the share of the white population, and the gap has grown larger over time. Black and Hispanic groups remain underrepresented in the police force.

While many police departments became more diverse, Black officers often continued to be less represented. Diversity gains were instead fueled by growing numbers of Hispanic and Asian-American officers, a decline in the number of white officers, or a combination of both.

Many of the largest police departments struggled to retain Black officers, with the share of Black officers who left policing jobs in 2016 outpacing the share of new hires who were Black, the Times analysis of the federal data shows.

Policing experts have attributed at least some of that gap to national outrage and fallout over the deaths of Black men at the hands of the police in recent years. Those deaths, many of which happened in police custody and were filmed by witnesses, have made retaining and recruiting Black officers more difficult, they said.

"It has been really daunting in the post-Ferguson era to maintain and increase the diversity of departments," said Chuck Wexler, executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum, a nonprofit in Washington, D.C., referring to the half-dozen years since Michael Brown, 18, was shot and killed by a white police officer in Ferguson, Mo.

Before Ryan Tillman joined the Chino, Calif., force in 2014, he had had unpleasant encounters with the police, including a decade ago when an off-duty officer waved him down in an upscale neighborhood of a neighboring city. The officer told Mr. Tillman, who is Black, that he didn't belong there, and that he would call in on-duty officers if he didn't leave.

Still, Mr. Tillman wanted to become a police officer, and he is now a corporal who supervises patrol officers. He said that while there are white officers who don't understand the experience

of African-Americans, there are also Black people "who won't be able to understand because they've never walked in the shoes of officers."

That inability to understand each other's perspective affects recruitment, especially in the current environment. "There are a lot of minorities who just don't like police," Mr. Tillman said. "And if you do have one who wants to be a police officer, they're afraid to come out and tell people that they want to do that."

As America becomes more diverse and the rank and file of police departments doesn't fully reflect the communities they serve, "policing is no longer a profession that people view as something they want to get into," said Rashawn Ray, a policing expert at the Brookings Institution and a professor at the University of Maryland.

"When you have a police department that's not diverse or you have a police department that doesn't live in local communities — and by local communities I mean often Black, Latino or low-income communities — what happens is that Black and Latino

youth, low-income youth, they never see police officers unless they're doing something to them or to people who they love and care about," Mr. Ray said. "Why would you want to go into a profession where every time you see somebody, they're harassing somebody or arresting somebody?"

Researchers say it is difficult to draw firm conclusions about Black officers from the federal data. On the one hand, the Bureau of Justice Statistics estimated that the proportion of Black officers at local police departments across the country fell by half a percentage point, to 11.4 percent, between 2013 and 2016. But given the limitations of the data — all large departments were included but agencies with fewer than 100 officers were only sampled — researchers can't say for sure how the numbers of Black officers have changed.

Notwithstanding the challenges in recruiting Black officers, Mr. Wexler and other experts say they are not surprised that some larger cities have taken greater steps than many smaller ones toward demographic parity in their police forces.

Urban areas often have more resources, and more political will, to pursue greater diversity in the ranks, they said.

The new data also echo earlier findings of significant differences in the past dozen or so years in how many urban areas approach policing and criminal justice compared with smaller jurisdictions: The national trend toward lower incarceration rates, for example, has seemingly bypassed many smaller cities and rural areas, which continue to pack jails and prisons, even as their urban counterparts take ever-more-consequential steps to reduce incarceration rolls.

Researchers have found that greater diversity in police departments and local government boosts trust in those institutions in nonwhite neighborhoods. Some have also found that white officers are more likely than Black officers to use guns or other force in neighborhoods where the majority of residents are not white.

Yet experts also caution that having more people of color as law enforcement officers does not always mean more equitable policing.

For example, according to the data, Chicago's 12,000-member police department grew more diverse in 2016 compared with 2007, relative to the city it serves.

But the shift in demographics did not necessarily translate to improved relationships with Black and Hispanic communities and other communities of color. In January 2017, the Department of Justice released a scathing report concluding that the use of excessive force among Chicago police officers was rampant, and aimed primarily at Black and Hispanic residents.

In contrast, the police department in Camden County, N.J., is vastly whiter than the community it patrols. In 2016, slightly more than half its force of 364 officers was white, even though it patrols an area that is only 6 percent white.

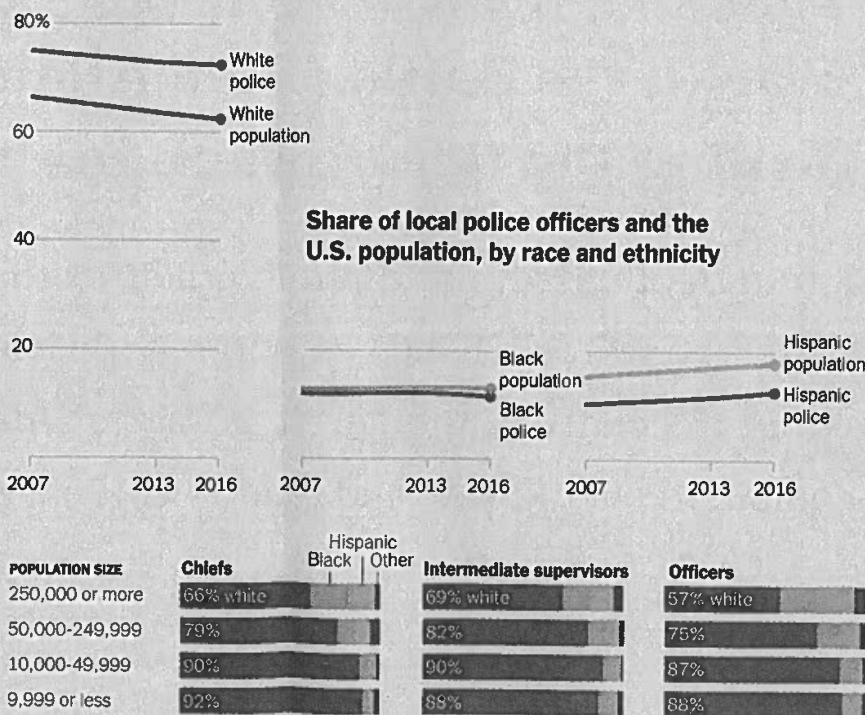
Yet Camden, whose chief is also white, has gained a reputation as one of the most progressive departments in the country, following a decision seven years ago to disband and rebuild the city's police department. The new force patrols inside the city of Camden, where homicides and excessive-force complaints against officers have fallen significantly in recent years.

Mr. Ray, of the Brookings Institution, said his research shows that rank-and-file officers, regardless of race, were similarly likely to use force against Black people. But he said there was evidence that excessive-force complaints decline when police departments have chiefs who are not white, or when a lot of nonwhite officers are in high-ranking positions.

"There is some other research that shows that the race of the police chief, or upper management, does matter in terms of decreasing police killings," Mr. Ray said. "I interpret that to mean that if you have a more diverse upper management in a police force, there are more accountability metrics in place that can lead to officers' being held accountable."

The demographics of those ranks differ significantly by community size. In cities with more than a quarter-million people, almost one-fifth of the police chiefs were Black.

However, the vast majority of local police departments serve communities with fewer than 100,000 people. In those places, just 4 percent of police chiefs were Black, the B.J.S. estimated.



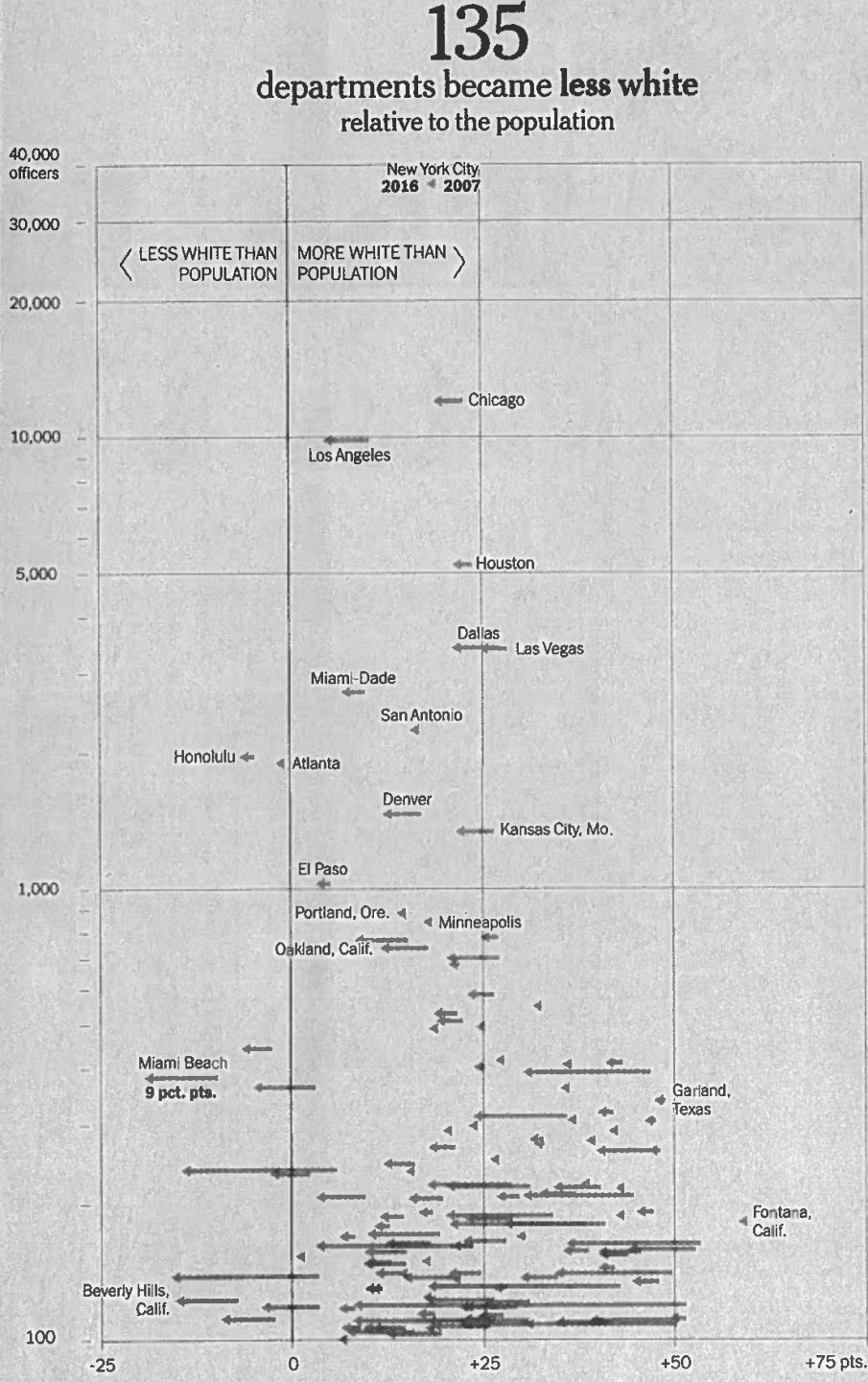
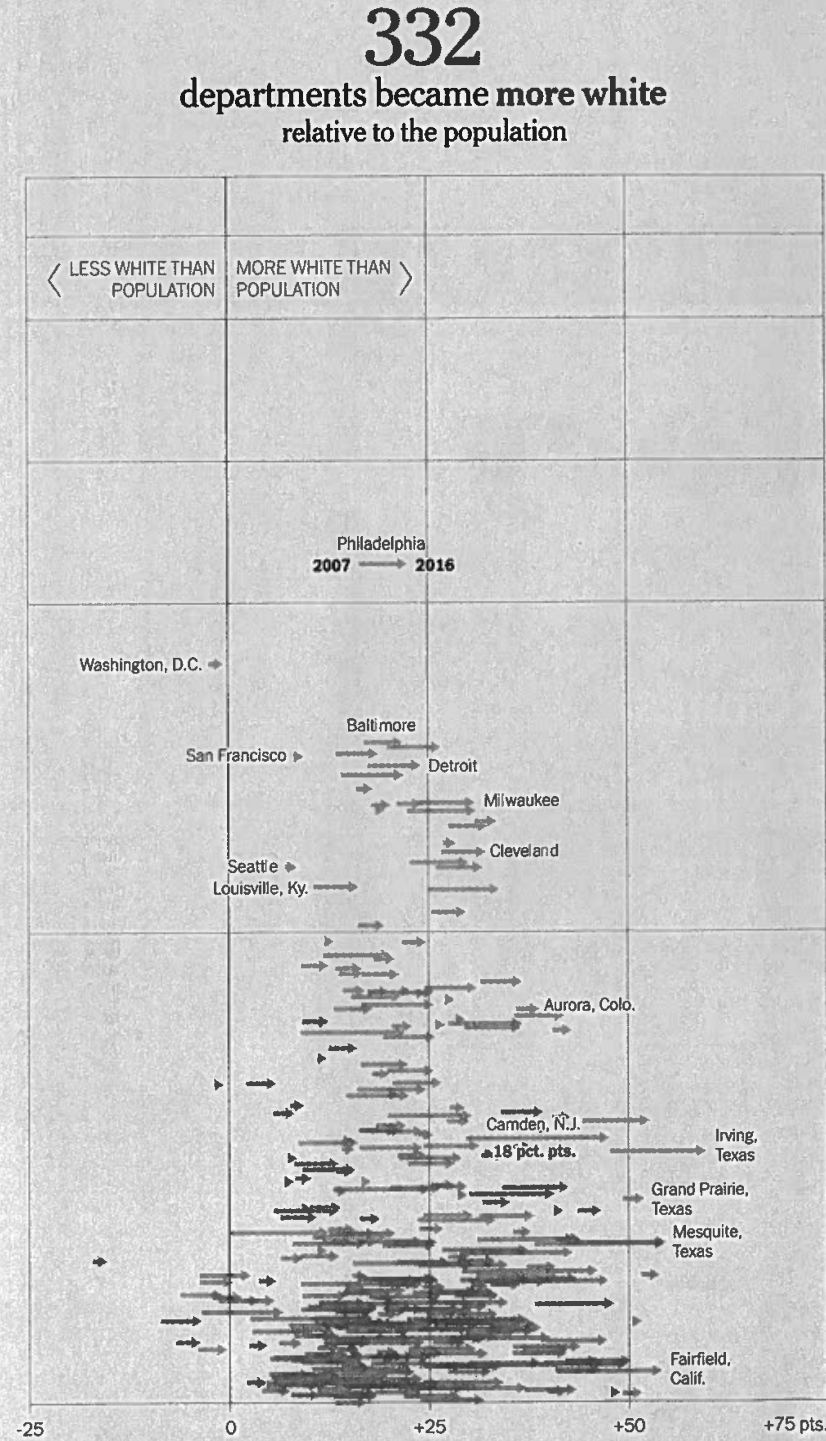
Note: Shows race and ethnicity of police leaders at departments that did not report an "unknown" race or ethnicity.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates; National Center for Health Statistics

LAUREN LEATHERBY/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Methodology

Police department demographics come from the Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) survey collected by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, which is part of the Department of Justice. Figures from the most recent year available — 2016 — were released August 2020. Some departments had a number of officers whose race and ethnicity were unknown. The Times worked with researchers at socialexplorer.com to match the demographics of local police departments with corresponding census data for the same jurisdictions. The analysis of police departments is for those with at least 100 sworn officers in the last three years a survey was collected: 2007, 2013 and 2016. "White" refers to people who are non-Hispanic white, "Black" refers to people who are non-Hispanic Black, and "other" refers to people who are not white, Black or Hispanic.

Struggle for Racial Justice



Sources: Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics, Bureau of Justice Statistics; socialexplorer.com; National Archive of Criminal Justice Data, ICPSR, University of Michigan
Note: The data shown includes local police departments with at least 100 full-time sworn officers. It does not include state departments or sheriff's offices or agencies serving special jurisdictions like schools, airports or parks.

Rochester Case Spotlights Police Failures in Dealing With Mental Illness

By EDGAR SANDOVAL

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — One officer wrote in his arrest report that he knew that Daniel Prude had been “previously suicidal” before his disastrous encounter with police and had spent hours a day earlier in a psychiatric ward.

Police body-camera footage shows that after officers restrained Mr. Prude, they stood around him, smiling and laughing

as he made delusional comments. He could be seen shouting incoherently as he lay naked, handcuffed and hooded, in the street on a frigid night.

A lieutenant later acknowledged in internal police documents that Mr. Prude had “acted in a fashion consistent with an individual in some form of mental distress.”

The death of Mr. Prude, who suffocated after three officers

‘Suicidal’ Suspect and a Deadly Encounter

placed the hood over his head, has intensified scrutiny of the police treatment of Black people, touching off weeks of protests and official soul-searching in this Rust Belt city of 206,000 on Lake Ontario.

But it has also highlighted another deep-seated problem in many police departments: Armed police officers, intensely drilled in techniques to subdue violent suspects, often seem ill-equipped to deal with people who are mentally ill or in a drug-induced delirium.

Around the country, the Prude case has helped to galvanize the debate over police department

Continued on Page A20

From Page A1

training — and whether resources and responsibility for these kinds of cases should be diverted from the police to mental health professionals. Supporters of the movement to defund the police have embraced that shift, but so have others who are opposed to deep cuts in police budgets.

In New York City, there have been several cases in recent years where people in the throes of mental illness died after encounters with responding officers. In general, those with untreated mental illnesses are 16 times more likely to die at the hands of the police than other people, according to the Treatment Advocacy Center, an advocacy nonprofit.

“Every police department in the country should watch the video and try to ask themselves, how could the incident be handled differently,” said Chuck Wexler, executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum, which seeks to improve policing. “These are traditionally the most difficult calls for the police.”

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo urged police departments late last month to respond to the Prude case by working more closely with mental health and substance abuse experts.

“People are dying,” Mr. Cuomo said. “That’s a fact. When all you have is a gun and a badge and the ability to arrest, that’s your only solution to that issue.”

“Redesign your public safety plan,” he said, addressing local governments.

Lawyers for the seven officers involved in Mr. Prude’s arrest said on Thursday that the officers knew Mr. Prude had taken phenylcyclidine, or PCP, and as a result they thought some techniques employed with mentally ill people would not work.

“Many in the media and elsewhere have cast this incident as a mental health event. It was not,” said Matthew Rich, a lawyer for four of the officers. “It was an event that involved the use of a dangerous drug with very serious side effects.”

Still, internal police documents show that from the moment that the officers responded to the 911 call on March 23, they knew that

they were dealing with a so-called mental hygiene case involving a person who had not committed a serious crime but instead seemed to be experiencing a psychotic episode.

Mr. Prude had bolted from his brother’s home in nothing but a tank top and long johns after taking PCP — also known as angel dust — which causes hallucinations, his brother, Joe Prude, told the police, according to the internal documents.

But police body-camera footage and written reports indicate that the officers did little to try to soothe Mr. Prude as he grew increasingly frantic after his arrest. The officers did not call for mental health professionals to respond to the scene. Nor did they offer him a blanket or put him in a police car for warmth, though he had stripped off his clothes and was naked.

The officers instead ordered him to lie on his stomach, and he complied, according to body camera footage and police reports. Pointing a Taser, one officer told Mr. Prude to “Chill out, man, don’t move, all right, man?” before handcuffing him with relative ease at 3:16 a.m.

For three minutes, Mr. Prude made delusional comments as the officers stood around him. Then he sat upright and yelled, “Give me that mask, man!” and spat on the ground.

An officer responded by putting a so-called spit hood over Mr. Prude’s head from behind, which seemed to increase his panic.

“That would scare anybody, even someone in their right mind,” said Melanie Funchess, an official with a Rochester nonprofit that provides mental health services.

The footage showed that one officer pressed Mr. Prude’s hooded head down, apparently trying to get him to be less agitated, while a second pressed down on his back and a third pinned down his legs.

Shortly after, Mr. Prude went into cardiac arrest before he was taken away by an ambulance.

Four weeks after Mr. Prude’s March 30 death, a police internal investigation cleared the officers — and said nothing about whether they were properly trained in how to handle an emotionally disturbed person or someone suffering from mental illness.

The investigation concluded that the officers’ actions “appear to be appropriate and consistent with their training.” The officers, the investigation noted, had all recently been certified in “defensive tactics” and “ground control” techniques.

The seven officers involved in the Prude case were suspended last month, but only after the police body-camera footage was made public by Mr. Prude’s family.

The Rochester Police Department declined repeated requests to discuss the training that officers receive on mental health. The Rochester police chief at the time of the Prude encounter, La’Ron Singletary, has denied that police officers did anything wrong. He was dismissed last month by the city’s mayor, Lovely Warren.

Ms. Warren, a Democrat whose leadership has come scrutiny in recent weeks, was indicted on Oct. 2 on two unrelated felony campaign charges tied to when she was running for a second term in 2017.

Training manuals in Rochester do not specify under what circumstances officers are allowed to use a spit hood, a loose breathable fabric sack that can be placed over a person’s head to prevent biting or spitting.

The city and county do have mental health professionals on call whom the Rochester police can summon in such situations, but it is not mandatory for officers to do so.

“They were not dispatched,” said Willie Lightfoot Jr., chairman of the City Council’s Public Safety Committee. “I don’t know why. I am looking for answers.”

The four lawyers representing the officers said they had followed their training precisely, using pinning techniques designed to avoid blocking airways and waiting for an ambulance.

The lawyers said that because their clients knew Mr. Prude was high on PCP, they relied on common physical maneuvers used to control people on drugs rather than softer methods like talking, which are often employed in mental hygiene calls.

The officers had also been taught that PCP can cause a body to overheat, so putting a blanket over Mr. Prude “would have done more harm than good,” said James Nobles, a lawyer for one of the officers.

The officers put a hood over Mr. Prude’s head to protect themselves from possible exposure to the coronavirus, but the hood’s mesh fabric should not have impeded Mr. Prude’s breathing.

“You can see through it, you can hear through it, you can breathe through it,” Mr. Nobles said, don-

ning a so-called spit-sock at a news conference. "I can breathe better through this than I can through any mask that I've worn to prevent the coronavirus."

The lawyers asked that the officers be reinstated. "We offer our sympathies to the family of Mr. Prude, but the officers involved in this incident did not cause his death," Mr. Rich said.

Michael Mazzeo, president of the union representing about 700 Rochester officers, said that after viewing footage, he believed that the officers appear to have followed training protocols.

But Cedric Alexander, a former deputy police chief in Rochester, said the body camera footage demonstrated that the officers mishandled the arrest.

"Once they got him secured, and clearly he was having some crisis, they really should have gotten him off the ground, gotten him into that vehicle, and then taken him immediately into a mental health facility for evaluation," Mr. Alexander said.

Mr. Alexander said he helped design a police training program for responding to the mentally ill in the early 2000s in Rochester. By 2006, the department also had about 45 volunteers who had undergone several hours of training

in handling the mentally unstable.

The training centered on three principles: engage in soft-spoken conversation, de-escalate the situation and transport the person to a mental health facility.

Under the program, violent encounters between the police and local residents in distress fell to "almost zero," said Eric Weaver, a retired sergeant who supervised many of the mental health calls and now teaches similar techniques to other departments.

But Mr. Alexander, who is also a clinical psychologist, said the Rochester police placed less importance on the training after he and Mr. Weaver left in the mid-2000s.

"We left the playbook to continue this program," he said. "It is clear that that never took place."

Last month, after the footage of Mr. Prude's arrest gained national attention, Rochester officials announced plans to form crisis intervention teams that would include clinicians and social workers and would respond to calls of people under mental stress and determine if the police are needed.

"We're trying to work and move into a direction where what happened to the Prude family will never happen again," Councilman Lightfoot said.

In New York City, 16,000 officers have gone through a four days of "crisis intervention training" since 2015, including role playing, lectures and conversations with individuals with mental illness who have had encounters with the police.

Officials with the New York State's Division of Criminal Justice Services said recruits in cities like Rochester are required to take a 20-hour course titled "the Fundamentals of Crisis Intervention," where they learn how to minimize the use of force during mental health calls.

Phillip Atiba Goff, founder of the Center for Policing Equity, a think tank at Yale University, said that while training can help, most officers are ill-equipped to make the right decisions when confronted with mentally ill people.

"There is no way you can train police officers well enough that they can be frontline mental health workers, especially crisis mental health workers," Mr. Goff said. "It's very clear that if there had been a medical expert there, there also would have been different treatment and a different response."