

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Monday, March 29, 2021

CONTACT:

Name: Shyanne Miller

Email: shyanne.miller@mail.sit.edu

Law Enforcement Accountability Task Force Members Push for Meaningful Amendments to the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights

WILMINGTON — Community advocates and members of the General Assembly's Law Enforcement Accountability Task Force (LEATF) subcommittees sent a letter to legislators today, asking them to act quickly on meaningful amendments to the Law-Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights (LEOBOR).

LEOBOR, a law that gives police officers special protections, hinders the disciplinary process and keeps police misconduct records hidden from the public. Moreover, it ensures that police officers can only be investigated for misconduct by other police officers.

The letter called for LEOBOR amendments that will ensure public access to police misconduct records and allow for the Civilian Review Boards that can effectively monitor, investigate, and respond to police misconduct without undue interference from collective bargaining agreements and the police union. The letter also highlights a lack of involvement of Black and brown communities on the LEATF, and a disproportionate representation of police as task force members in contrast.

Finally, the letter expressed disappointment that no meaningful action has been taken since the taskforce started eight months ago and called for urgency to make meaningful reform happen this year — even in the absence of a final report from the task force.

“Delaware’s secrecy of police disciplinary records allows misconduct to thrive. Recently, the footage of the killing of Lymond Moses was made public by the county executive. It was a historic moment in transparency for Delawareans, but that kind of transparency should not be given at the whim of who happens to be in leadership. It should be a right of the people, engrained in state law.” said Kailyn Richards, at Delaware Center for Justice and member of the Workforce Development Subcommittee.

The letter is signed by Sierra Harris, Crystal Womack, Lynne Kielhorn, Haneef Salaam, Corry Wright, Kailyn Richards, Dalissy Washington, Monica Shockley-Porter, Dr. Yasser A. Payne, a group comprised of community advocates who serve on the LEATF subcommittees.

“People continue to be killed at the hands of police while the task force continues to meet and legislators stand by idly,” said Dr. Yasser Payne, at University of Delaware and member of the Community Policing and Engagement Subcommittee. “Families and individuals whose lives and loved ones have been impacted by our current law enforcement system don’t need a task force

to explore the deep-rooted issues in policing. They live it daily. We must end the practice of police policing themselves now.”