



FORT PITT LODGE NO. 1

FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE



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The FOP finds the report, and comments made by the Pittsburgh Community Taskforce for Police Reform (PCTPR) report troubling. The report, generated in response to protests that illegitimately generalize our members and shut down businesses, seeks to undermine the rights of union members via reform. The comments made from the Mayor's office, and the PCTPR does not show neutrality or open-mindedness. It seems to be divisive and agenda driven.

Another issue is the panel stating the FOP did not participate. The FOP participated in the PCTPR review. Historically, the FOP has worked with the Peduto administration to ensure confidence from those citizens seeking protection, assistance, and a safe environment for themselves and their families. Most recently, the FOP committed several hours to PCTPR; this is reflected at Page 41 of the report. President Swartzwelder met with the "Taskforce" for 2 1/2 hours. The FOP's participation in reform is not limited to the PCTPR, but reflected in countless meetings with Pennsylvania State representatives over the past 6 months in Harrisburg.

It is the FOP's belief The Pittsburgh Community Taskforce for Police Reform, and the Peduto administration, has portrayed the FOP as uncooperative, and an obstacle, for ethical and professional policing. This could be further from the truth. Furthermore, the FOP believes this report advocates a larger objective to dilute union rights. The FOP wishes city leaders would recognize our labor union rights and bargain over such issues. It appears as if Mayor Peduto, and some on City Council, seek to use the home rule charter change to circumvent the State of Pennsylvania ACT 111 regarding police officer's bargaining rights. This is appalling, since these are the same elected officials who say they support organized labor.

It is important for the citizens of Pittsburgh to understand the numerous legal issues regarding the home rule charter ballot initiative being voted on this upcoming Election Day. The FOP believes this attempt to violate our members' rights, if passed, will force the FOP to challenge this erosion of our labor and constitutional rights through the courts yet again costing tax payer's even more money in these failed political endeavors. The FOP wishes city leaders would recognize our labor, and constitutional rights, and try to bargain over such issues. Not hide behind vaguely worded ballot questions misrepresenting their intent.

The Pittsburgh Police Fraternal Order of Police Ft Pitt Lodge #1 would like to let the citizens of Pittsburgh know we shall continue to provide ethical and professional policing, while the political maneuvering by the City of Pittsburgh's elected officials continues during this tumultuous and divisive political season.

Respectfully

Patrick L. Knepp

Vice President

FOP Ft Pitt Lodge #1