The Advisory Committee on Police Community Relations met remotely via Zoom, Thursday, June 18, 2020, with proper notice posted. The chair member Burnside called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL - Present: Ali, Allen, Boone, Burch (6:19 p.m.), Burnside, Ford Jackson, King, Marion, Nguyen, Parks (6:32 p.m.), City Manager Urich, Wilson, and Zagardo (Guest: Nina Gougis to replace outgoing NAACP member Jackson. Absent: Draper (excused), Begner, and Brewer. The chair acknowledged a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Member King motioned to approve the March 12, 2020 minutes; seconded by member Allen. Minutes were unanimously approved.

WELCOME – The chair welcomed those in attendance and read the Governor J. B. Pritzker’s Executive Orders 2020-07 and 2020-39 on the provisions of the Open Meetings Act to allow members of a public body to be physically present during a meeting on the recommendation of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on social distancing of at least six feet between persons when City Hall is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. However, to fulfill the requirements and recommendations to comply with the Open Meetings Act for the Advisory Committee on Police Community Relations that meets at 5:30 p.m., the notice and agenda were posted on the City’s website and other news media outlets with proper notice that the public may email their comments to Jojackson@peoriagov.org by 2 p.m., June 18, 2020, to be read at the meeting.

Councilwoman Ali, along with member Jackson, welcomed and introduced newest member Ms. Nina Gougis appointed by Mayor Ardis at the June 23, 2020 Council meeting. Ms. Gougis would replace outgoing member Donald Jackson as the NAACP representative, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023.

The chair commented on the current climate of civil unrest and protests and how important it was for the Advisory Committee on Police Community Relations to assist and navigate through some of the difficult time on what the committee can do to help.

GENERAL POLICE UPDATE – Chief Marion spoke on his comments against the police officers’ actions that incurred in Minneapolis, and the few days of civil unrests in Peoria.

Scheduled to hire eight male officers, 2-African Americans, 1-Asian, 5-whites who are scheduled to attend the Academy in September. The department foresee officers to retire this fall/winter of 2020-21 and have a scheduled test in July to start a new pool to fill the foreseen vacancies.

There was discussion on demographics and diversity on the 149 applications received in January, recruitment, and hiring of minorities. City Manager Urich informed the committee of a telephone conversation with Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth, and suggested committee members provide him a list of the barriers preventing minorities to be hired as police officers. He would address them to Representative Gordon-Booth when they meet in Springfield, Illinois. Member King suggested she would work with the committee members to provide the needed information to present to City Manager Urich and Representative Gordon-Booth.

Councilwoman Ali suggested a subcommittee of volunteers that would solicit information from the committee to put together the list because it would need to be done sooner than later.
The City Manager mentioned on the agenda at the next City Council meeting the item for a pilot project for new recruits.

The City Manager recommended the Human Resources Coordinator Debra Bush to attend the next meeting to explain the hiring process to the committee. Chief Marion recommended two African American commissioned personnel Sergeant Stinson and Officer Franklin to attend and share their insight on what they went through to become a Peoria Police Officer and have free-will to answer the committee’s questions. Councilwoman Ali and member King agreed with recommendation.

The chair Burnside asked for volunteers to compose a list of the barriers and obstacles to Representative Gordon-Booth. Members that volunteered were: Jackson, Burch, Boone, King, Allen, Zagardo and Ms. Gougis volunteered.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – The chair Burnside asked member Allen to report on the committee’s 12-month calendar planner. Member Allen suggested and motioned to defer to the next meeting; seconded by member Boone. Motion unanimously approved.

The chair Burnside followed up on the discussion on PCAVs new group Community Policing Advisory Committee. Member Ford, a member of PCAV, provided additional insight to the creation of the group and how it was established under the umbrella of PCAV. Due to COVID 19, the group had not met. Recently, the group met and had elections of officers to become effective July 2020. Member Ford expressed and understood the confusion on the committee’s name, and at their July meeting to consider a new name.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Elections** - The chair Burnside opened the floor to accept nominations for chair. Member Burnside nominated Andre Allen; seconded by member Wilson. The chair announced three times for other nomination and after hearing no other nominations, the floor was closed for nominations. Member Allen was unanimously approved as the new chair.

The chair Burnside opened the floor to accept nominations for vice chair. Councilwoman Ali nominated Janice Zagardo; seconded by member Jackson. The chair announced three times for other nomination and after hearing no other nominations, the floor was closed for nominations. Member Zagardo was unanimously approved as the new vice chair.

**CITIZEN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE** - No comments from citizens.

**ADJOURNMENT** – The chair Burnside asked for a motion to adjourn. Member Allen motioned to adjourn the June 18, 2020 remote meeting via Zoom; seconded by member King. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

_______________________
Terry Burnside, chair

_______________________
Loren Marion, member

_______________________
Megan Nguyen, member