

# **Allegheny County Council**

*County of Allegheny  
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## **Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, December 14, 2006**

**4:30 PM**

**REVISED**

**Conference Room 1**

## **Special Committee on Government Reform**

*Rich Fitzgerald, Chair -- Committee of the Whole*

REVISED

I. Call to Order

**Summary:** *Meeting called to order at 4:30 p.m.*

**Invited Guests:**

**William Mullen, Acting Sheriff**

**Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee**

**Charles Moffatt, Superintendent, County Police**

**Steve Bland, CEO, Port Authority**

**William McAuley, Chief of Port Authority Police**

**Frank Aggazio, Executive Director, Housing Authority**

**Mike Vogel, Chief of Public Safety for Housing Authority**

**Summary:** *Invited Guests or Designees Present: Steve Bland, CEO Port Authority, William McAuley, Chief of Port Authority Police, Superintendent Charles Moffatt, County Police, Sheriff William Mullen, Allegheny County Sheriff, Frank Aggazio, Executive Director, Housing Authority, Mike Vogel, Chief of Public Safety for Housing Authority*

*Council Staff Present: Jennifer Liptak, Stephanie Buka*

II. Roll Call

***Roll Call:*** Present: Jim Burn, Susan Caldwell, Joan Cleary, John DeFazio, Matt Drozd, Dave Fawcett, Michael Finnerty, Chuck Martoni, Jan Rea, William Robinson, Chair Rich Fitzgerald, Council Member Bob Macey, and Council Member Bob Macey  
Absent: Brenda Frazier, and Vince Gastgeb

III. Agenda Items

**Ordinance**

**2915-06**

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, urging the General Assembly to explicitly authorize Second Class Counties to consolidate existing County, Port Authority and Housing Authority Police forces into a single law enforcement entity.

**Sponsors:** Dave Fawcett, Susan Caldwell, Matt Drozd, Vince Gastgeb, Jan Rea and Rich Fitzgerald

**Summary:** *The Chair indicated that he would discuss bill no. 2915-06, 2919-06, 2920-06, 2901-06 together.*

*The Chair asked what functions the County Police handle. Per Superintendent Moffatt, 285 personnel, \$28 million budget, they patrol the Parks, Pgh. International Airport, investigative services for Allegheny County, Narcotics, Detective Unit broken into 3 units, including Homicide, Bomb Squad, they have Accident Investigators, 22 person*

*SWAT team, they work with Region 13 as well. They operate the County Police Academy, with the exception of the City, they have their own Academy. The County police are invited usually by other jurisdictions. They have bomb dogs that help other local law enforcement agencies.*

*The Chair asked what Sheriff's Office functions included. Sheriff Mullen said there are 150 Sheriff Deputy's currently, \$11.6 million budget, 3 different divisions, Security, Transportation (transporting prisoners and watching prisoners in hospitals), Investigative Branch serves warrants, there are two shifts that serve criminal warrants. They work with the County police, they have people assigned to task forces, assigned to FBI, Marshall's Task Force, they receive asset forfeitures and now they can get new equipment. They generally get along really well with the Fugitive Task Force and the County police.*

*A discussion continued regarding the four bills before the committee.*

*The Chair held the bills in committee.*

**Action:**      **A motion was made that this matter be Held in Committee. The motion carried unanimously.**

**2919-06**

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing an independent audit of the Allegheny County Port Authority Police and the Allegheny County Housing Authority Police preceding the consolidation of the existing County, Port Authority and Housing Authority Police forces into a single law enforcement entity.

**Sponsors:**      Vince Gastgeb, Susan Caldwell, Matt Drozd, Dave Fawcett, Jan Rea, Rich Fitzgerald and Joan Cleary

**Summary:**      *Please refer to the action minutes for bill no. 2915-06.*

**Action:**      **A motion was made that this matter be Held in Committee. The motion carried unanimously.**

**2920-06**

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division 2, entitled "County Government Operations," by the creation of a new Chapter 280, entitled "Allegheny County Police Department", and authorizing the consolidation of the existing County, Port Authority and Housing Authority Police forces into a single law enforcement entity.

**Sponsors:**      Vince Gastgeb, Susan Caldwell, Matt Drozd, Dave Fawcett, Jan Rea, Rich Fitzgerald and Joan Cleary

**Summary:**      *Please refer to the action minutes for bill no. 2915-06.*

**Action:**      **A motion was made that this matter be Held in Committee. The motion carried unanimously.**

**2901-06**

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania directing that a referendum question amending Article III, Section 2 of the Allegheny County Home Rule Charter, pursuant to the Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law and Second Class County Charter Law, be placed on the May, 2007 Municipal Primary ballot.

**Sponsors:** William Russell Robinson

**Summary:** *Please refer to the action minutes for bill no. 2915-06.*

**Action:** **A motion was made that this matter be Held in Committee. The motion carried unanimously.**

**2513-06**

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, providing for the creation of an Allegheny County Citizens' Election System Advisory Panel in order to identify, anticipate, and remedy any issues arising from the implementation of a new voting system in Allegheny County.

**Sponsors:** William Russell Robinson

**Summary:**

*The Chair read the bill.*

*Council Member Robinson indicated that there are some dates in the ordinance that would need to be changed because the dates have passed. This bill has been in committee for a long time thus the change is needed to move forward. It was not his intent to undermine the elections board. This bill was intended to assist this council with their election issues.*

*It will help provide an avenue for input from citizens regarding the election process and will give Council a chance to get some reports to assist us in making our decisions regarding areas such as funding for the elections department.*

*A discussion ensued regarding the bill.*

*The Chair held the bill in committee.*

**Action:** **A motion was made that this matter be Held in Committee. The motion carried unanimously.**

**IV. Adjournment**

**Summary:** *Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.*