



# Pittsburgh Freethought Community

“Promoting Science, Reason, and Humanist Values in the greater Pittsburgh area”

December 28, 2020

President Patrick Catena and  
Council Members  
Allegheny County Council  
436 Grant Street, Room 119  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Re: In support of the proposed Allegheny County Independent Police Review Board

Dear Council President Catena and Council Members,

We members of the Pittsburgh Freethought Community, with over 2,700 stakeholders, are concerned about the lack of accountability in many local police departments in Allegheny County.

An Allegheny County Independent Police Review Board was proposed after Antwon Rose was killed by East Pittsburgh police in 2018, and again after Romir Talley’s killing in December of 2019 by a Wilkesburg policeman. Talley’s family worked for eight months just to get the name of the officer who shot him.

We understand that the Council has jurisdiction only over Allegheny County Police at this time; however, we expect that you will persuade the 100+ local municipalities with their own police forces to join voluntarily. Many of them already receive services and resources such as homicide investigations from the County and should be subject to effective oversight.

A county-wide Independent Police Review Board would expedite investigations into deaths at the hands of police. Please vote to approve the Allegheny County IPRB. Thank you.

Signed,

*Marie Schaub*  
Marie Schaub  
Pittsburgh Freethought Community  
Chair, Public Policy Committee

*Miriam Lindauer*  
Miriam Lindauer  
Pittsburgh Freethought Community  
Director

cc: Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald

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