

LWVCC Police Accountability Task Force

The League Task Force on Police Accountability was formed in July, 2021 in response to recent legislative mandates for Maryland counties to create Police Advisory Boards (PAB) and Administrative Charging Committees (ACC) to address reports of police misconduct. The intention was to increase civilian participation in a disciplinary process that would replace the previous Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights. The latter was deemed unsatisfactory by reform advocates who felt it did not provide adequate handling of officer misconduct.

The initial focus of the Task Force was spent on gaining knowledge and information, not only about the Police Accountability legislation itself, but also the larger issues of police-community relations, models for police review boards, and best practices, especially community policing.

The Task Force then planned a public forum on the subject of Police Accountability and invited a number of panelists who represented diverse points of view on the subject: Doris McDonald of Calvert Behavioral Health, Lissi Mojica, an advocate for the Hispanic community in Calvert, Denise Plater of the Calvert NAACP, Dr. Melanye Smith, consultant on community policing, Larry Titus, Director of Safety management for CCPS, and Kevin Jackson, Calvert resident and recent college graduate. Dusty Rhoades and Willetta Love from the Big Conversation facilitated the panel discussion, and questions from the audience were addressed.

The Task Force is now tracking the actions of the BOCC regarding creation of a PAB. Recommendations from the LWVCC Board have been submitted for a new draft proposal emphasizing civilian involvement and representation of the diverse Calvert population. It is felt that fairmindedness and non-bias is essential for all PAB members.

Volunteers for the Task Force are welcome to join our effort. Please contact Sandra Raviv, Task Force Chair at sandraraviv@gmail.com if you are interested.