

June 23, 2020

Dear Brandi Fisher & Monica Ruiz,

I write on behalf of the Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance to thank you for serving on Mayor Peduto's Community Task Force on Police Reform. We want to let you know that the Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance network is ready to do all we can to help support you in this work and to help ensure that the positive changes you help bring to local police policies are realized in our communities.

Please let me know if you see ways that we can be helpful in the critical work ahead.

I also wanted to make sure you and other members of the Task Force are aware of a new study by human rights researchers at University of Chicago on local policing policies and international human rights. Below I provide a link to a [Guardian article summarizing the study](#), and a link to [the full report](#).

That study points out a failure in U.S. cities to implement our international legal obligations that protect human rights and combat racial discrimination and xenophobia. There are tried and true measures used by countries around the world to prevent the atrocities we've seen in the United States, and I'm sure these can be useful models for the Task Force to consider in its work.

In solidarity,

Jackie Smith, Co-coordinator, Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance

['State-sanctioned violence': US police fail to meet basic human rights standards](#) *The Guardian* 6/21/20. *Report finds not one police department in the 20 largest American cities are compliant with international rights laws study from the University of Chicago has found.*

Report: [Deadly Discretion: The Failure of Police Use of Force Policies to Meet Fundamental International Human Rights Law](#), University of Chicago Law School