



For Immediate Release:
Wednesday, September 23, 2020

With former U.S. Senator Carl Levin and Judge Avern Cohn, police commissioner joins panel to discuss police and oversight

The prestigious Levin Center and Damon J. Keith Center at Wayne Law will host a virtual panel on Detroit's history with police brutality and reforms of the Detroit Police Department on Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 12:15 p.m.

Retired U.S. Senator Carl Levin will open the panel discussion, which includes Police Commissioner Evette Griffie and retired U.S. Judge Avern Cohn.

Levin served as an honorary host in 2019 for the city's celebration of the pioneering 1974 City Charter and its creation of the Board of Police Commissioners. As a member of City Council, Levin worked with the community and Mayor Coleman Young for civilian oversight and other reforms.

Appointed by Mayor Young, Cohn was serving as a Police Commissioner when President Jimmy Carter selected him for the U.S. District Court. Decades later, Judge Cohn presided over the end of the city's two consent decrees involving DPD.

Griffie, who represents District 2, recently spearheaded the Board's reforms to DPD policies covering use of force, with new bans on carotid holds. The sweeping changes also included a duty to intervene, training, and requirements for reporting threats to use force.

To get more information about the virtual panel or to RSVP to attend, go to events.wayne.edu or call 248.571.8557.



Created by the 1974 City Charter, the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners has supervisory authority and oversight over the Police Department. Under the 2012 Charter, the Board is comprised of 11 civilian members; Detroiters elect seven members by district, and the mayor appoints and the city council confirms four at-large members. All board members serve as unpaid volunteers. The current members are Willie E. Bell, Darryl D. Brown, Shirley A. Burch, Willie E. Burton, Lisa Carter, William M. Davis, Evette Griffie, Jesus Hernandez, Jim Holley, Annie Holt, and Martin Jones. The Board is holding its weekly meeting each Thursday at 3 p.m. on Zoom.us. during the coronavirus public health crisis. **For the Board meeting schedule, Zoom.us instructions, video, minutes, and other information, visit the website at detroitmi.gov/bopc.**