



## Providence External Review Authority

November 1, 2023

Colonel Oscar Perez  
Chief of the Providence Police  
325 Washington Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

***RE: PERA Board recommendations of Policy changes to Juvenile Operations Policy 370.01; Detainee processing and Detention Policy 390.01 and the Mentally Ill Person's Policy 330.17.***

Dear Colonel Perez:

During the PERA Board meeting on October 19, 2023, the Providence External Review Authority (PERA), in accordance with §18 ½-2(b)(2) of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Providence, did a review of the following policies and procedures of the Providence Police Department and voted to recommend changes to said policies. The specific recommendations are appended to this notification as *Attachment A*.


- ***Policy 370.01: Juvenile Operations***
- ***Policy 390.01: Detainee Processing and Detention***
- ***Policy 330.17: Mentally Ill Persons***

Please provide an update on the implementation of these recommendations at your earliest convenience.

Please contact me at [fkaroly@providenceri.gov](mailto:fkaroly@providenceri.gov) or (401) 680-5792 if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support and collaboration.

Kind Regards,

  
Ferenc Karoly, Esq.  
Executive Director

  
Susan DeRita  
Chairwoman

Cc: Mayor Brett P. Smiley  
Council President Rachel Miller

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## ATTACHMENT A

### Policy Change Recommendations to PPD 10/19/23

#### Policy 370.01 Juvenile Operations

In the definitions section beginning on page two, under the definition of Non-Offender: remove the word “unmarried” from this section (bullets 1-5).

Under section I. (12) add PERA to the recipient list for the annual report.

In the Operations and Procedures section:

II. (E) Add bullet point **c. Parent/Guardian must be notified at the time a minor is taken into custody.**

In Section III. Custody Methods and Considerations.

Amend section III (F)(3) to: Any child that apparently has been abused ~~can~~ **must** be checked by a licensed physician, in accordance with state statute, who may invoke a 72-hour emergency hold to protect the child ~~under~~ **until** a hearing can be held. (RIGL §40-11-5(a)).

Amend Section III (H) to: Parent(s) or guardian **must** ~~will~~ be notified **at the time** ~~as soon as possible when~~ a juvenile is taken into custody.

In Section IV. Interview/Interrogation/Formal Statements

Add sub section **F. No juvenile will be utilized as a witness without the permission of a parent or guardian.**

#### Policy 390.01 Detainee Processing and Detention

Amend Section XII (A) to: Only juveniles who have committed a felony or misdemeanor will be secured in a cell. Secured detention is not allowed in cases of suspicious persons (so called SPs) and mere violations. **Parents or guardians must be notified at the time a juvenile is taken into custody.**

#### Policy 330.17 Mentally Ill Persons

Add language about trauma-informed care to avoid re-traumatization. More information and training can be found at [www.samhsa.gov/gains-center](http://www.samhsa.gov/gains-center)