City of Houston

Mayor's Office

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Mayor Turner Appoints Stephen Ives Chair of Independent Police Oversight Board



HOUSTON - Mayor Sylvester Turner has appointed Stephen Ives to serve as Chair of the newly-reformed Independent Police Oversight Board (IPOB).

Ives currently serves as the President & CEO for YMCA of Greater Houston, where his collaboration with communities, local leaders, and international programs has impacted the lives of more than 177,000 families in the Houston area. The organization has historically advocated for healthy living, youth development, and social responsibility while transforming to better address social inequality and lack of resources for the

disenfranchised.

"When it comes to matters of police reform, we cannot afford to be neutral," said Mayor Turner. "Taking proactive steps to prevent misconduct will restore trust in the Houston Police Department and ensure the fair, moral, and ethical treatment of the people of Houston. I am confident that Steve Ives can lead this Oversight Board and tackle the systemic issues we see in so many departments around the country."

The reforms to the IPOB come as part of several suggestions from the Mayor's Task Force on Policing Reform, who issued recommendations in September 2020.

"It is a great honor to serve in a leadership capacity for this extremely important effort for our city and community," said Ives. "I have dedicated my career and personal life to purpose-driven connections within the community. This will be an opportunity to actively engage in police accountability and holding all to a higher standard to create a safer, transparent, and more just society in which citizens can live and thrive."

Mayor Turner signed an Executive Order today to restructure the IPOB. The current recommendations will combine volunteers with paid, full-time professionals, funded separately from the HPD budget. The staff will review existing and proposed HPD policies, investigate misconduct, and recommend reforms across the agency. Previously, the IPOB was a group of 21 fully volunteer citizens with no budget, investigative tools, or disciplinary authority.

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