



**CONTACT: Kelvyn Anderson
Deputy Director
(215) 686-3991**

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**Commission releases its opinion in the matter of Nizah Morris,
recommends policy changes for Police department.**

The Police Advisory Commission has completed its final opinion in the matter of Nizah Morris, a transgender woman, who was found lying in the street near 16th and Walnut bleeding from a head wound on Dec 22, 2002. Morris died from the injury two days later.

Speculation that the actions of police may have caused Morris' tragic death is not supported by the evidence, eyewitness interviews, and testimony presented to the Commission, according to the opinion. The hearing panel examined the police department's handling of the investigation just after the incident, and recommended changes in the practice of courtesy rides. The opinion represents the final disposition of the matter and officially closes the review of misconduct by the department or any of the involved officers.

The findings have been forwarded to the Mayor, the Managing Director, and the Police Commissioner, and are now available to the public. The Police Commissioner has thirty-days to respond to the Commission's recommendations. Copies of the opinion may be picked up at the Commission offices, 34 S. 11th Street, 6th flr. and will soon be made available in city council offices and the Mayor's action center. Copies of the Opinion and Hearing Transcript will be available on the Commission website, www.phila.gov/pac.

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