

## *Press Release*

### **IPCC Members Observe 1 July Procession**

(Hong Kong – July 1, 2019) Dr Anthony Francis Neoh, QC, SC, JP, Chairman of the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC), together with the Vice-Chairmen of IPCC, Hon Tony Tse Wai-chuen, BBS and Hon Chris Cheung Wah-fung, SBS, JP, led a team of Members including Miss Lisa Lau Man-man, BBS, MH, JP, Mr Herman Hui Chung-shing, SBS, MH, JP, Mr Douglas Lam Tak-yip, SC, Mr Clement Chan Kam-wing, Mr Wilson Kwong Wing-tsun, Ms Ann Au Chor-kwan, Mr Alex Chu Wing-yiu, Miss Sylvia Lee Hiu-wah, Mr Roland Wong Ka-yeung, and Secretary-General Mr Richard Yu, CDSM, CMSM, as well as staff from the Secretariat to conduct on-site observation of 1 July procession (event) today. The IPCC delegation, accompanied by Ms Lau Chi-wai, Edwina, PMSM, Director of Management Services of Hong Kong Police Force, Mr Chung Sze-pong, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Service Quality) and representatives from Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO), observed the procession at various locations along the marching route.

Before the observation, IPCC Members have solicited from the Police details of this event, including its route, projected number of participants, and the preparatory work conducted by the Police and Organiser. During the observation, the IPCC has paid special attention on whether arrangements regarding public safety, order and media coordination by the Organiser and Police have been conducted in line with the onsite situation. Today's observation would help facilitate Members' understanding in the Police's measures and preparations for public order events(POEs) from various perspectives, and assist their review of possible Reportable Complaints arising from POEs.

Accompanied by Police representatives, IPCC Members observed various “pressure points” along the route including the starting point at Victoria Park, Hing Fat Street, Central Library and adjacent areas, Causeway Road, Leighton

Road, the footbridge on O'Brien Road, then walked amongst the participants of Procession along Hennessy Road to Admiralty and stopped by the Police Headquarters on Arsenal Street.

At the media stand-up interview during the observation, Dr Anthony Francis Neoh, Chairman of the IPCC stated, "The situation was in line with Police expectations. From our observation, the Police performed professionally by promptly opening up more vehicle lanes when more marchers have passed the bottleneck spots. The observation allowed IPCC Members to understand the arrangements of the procession, which would help us make appropriate judgments when reviewing relevant complaints in the future."

In addition, the Council noticed that there were quite a number of counters near Southorn Playground on Hennessy Road which were too close to the procession walkway. Their location have inevitably slowed down the flow of traffic and needed to be improved in the future. Dr Anthony Francis Neoh, Chairman of the IPCC, stated that the Council will continue to make recommendations to the Police when necessary to enhance their overall service quality.

"The Council wishes to commend the participants of this procession who expressed their aspirations in a peaceful and rational manner, and fully demonstrated the rule of law spirit which has been most cherished by Hong Kong citizens. As a member of Hong Kong, I am very impressed and proud of them. However, we also regrettably learnt that an irrational violent incident took place near the Legislative Council Complex earlier today. We hope that all participants will exercise restraint and rationality and understand that Hong Kong society will not tolerate violence," said the Chairman.

The IPCC expressed its gratitude to the Police for their special deployment and arrangement in assisting the Council's on-site observation.

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**Notes to editor:**

**About the Independent Police Complaints Council**

The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) is an independent body established under the Independent Police Complaints Council Ordinance (IPCCO) (Cap. 604) to observe, monitor and review the handling and investigation of “Reportable Complaints” (RCs) against the Police by the Commissioner of Police (CP). The IPCC has become a statutory body since the commencement of IPCCO on 1 June 2009.

Attachment:



Dr Anthony Francis Neoh, Chairman of the IPCC, and Council Members observed the procession at various locations along the marching route to listen to the views of the participants.



The IPCC delegation, accompanied by Police representatives, walked amongst the participants of Procession along Hennessy Road to Admiralty.

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