

**POLICE COMPLAINTS BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

Meeting Date & Time: Thursday, March 24, 2016
6:00 p.m.

PCB Members Present:

Paul Ashton
Assistant Chief Patrick Burke (via telephone)
Bobbi Elaine Strang
Kurt Vorndran

PCB Members Absent:

Jamira Burley

OPC Staff Present:

Michael G. Tobin, Executive Director
Mona Andrews, Chief Investigator
Ariana Barnes, Law Intern
Ora Darby, Senior Investigator
Dienna Howard, Investigative Clerk
Anthony Lawrence, Senior Investigator
Danielle Sutton, Investigator
Catherine Twigg, Investigator

Meeting Agenda:

I. Call to Order

Mr. Vorndran called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. Public Comment Period

No public comments were noted.

III. Adoption of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the January 21, 2016, PCB meeting. Mr. Ashton made a motion to approve the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Agency Report

Mr. Tobin discussed that the Board meetings would be recorded while hard copies of the minutes would still be taken. Both will be posted on OPC's website from here on out. Mr. Vorndran's term expired and will serve until a successor is found. Assistant Chief Burke has been nominated as the U.S. Marshal for the District of Columbia and is pending Congressional approval. Jamira Burley was approved by the Council on February 2, 2016. Her oath of office was administered on March 17, 2016. She will be present at the next scheduled Board meeting.

Mr. Tobin informed the Board that the District of Columbia legislation B21-0360 “Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results Act of 2015” (NEAR Act) was approved in a second vote on March 1, 2016. The bill is in the Mayor’s office pending approval. Following local executive approval the legislation will proceed to Congressional review. These changes will provide OPC the opportunity to regularly and publicly monitor and report on all complaints filed and use of force incidents, including officer-related shootings and deaths in custody. The changes that affect OPC will be made public once that date has been received.

Mr. Tobin informed the Board that MPD put out a revised General Order of some procedures due to recent legislation that went into effect. Most of the procedures remain unchanged.

Mr. Tobin stated that a six-month report of OPC’s fiscal year 2016 will be out after March 31, 2016.

Mr. Tobin stated that OPC’s pamphlets and brochures would be updated once the changes go into effect. This news would be publicized via a public affairs rollout. Mr. Vorndran referred to former PCB Chair Iris Chavez’s connections with providing the Spanish-language periodicals press releases in Spanish. Mr. Tobin responded that OPC has two full-time staff capable of interpreting documents into Spanish. Mr. Vorndran asked of what language services OPC had. Mr. Tobin replied that OPC uses a District-contracted service. Ms. Strang commented on her use of these services.

Mr. Tobin informed the Board of a Palestinian delegation’s recent visit to OPC, and how the delegation was interested in OPC’s oversight process. He also mentioned his recent trip to speak with Panamanian delegates, and how he was contacted by Chicago’s oversight agency. He further stated that OPC’s outreach will expand according to the law changes.

Ms. Andrews informed the Board of the changes to OPC’s complaint forms and receipt of formal complaints. She stated that these changes involve a dedicated e-mail address for receiving complaints and that she has contacted OCTO to adjust the e-mail’s account settings. A link to this address was posted on OPC’s website. A method of receiving formal complaints with electronic signatures is pending. This new system will allow complainants to submit documents and photographs online as well. Mr. Vorndran asked when this will be made public. Ms. Andrews replied that the system will be tested a few more times before being made public. A link will be sent to the Board when it is live. Mr. Ashton asked if there would be PR when this change will be public. Mr. Vorndran brought up the concern of OPC being overburdened by non-OPC complaints. Ms. Andrews stated that OPC’s community partners and MPD stations will be informed of these changes as they come. Mr. Ashton commented on the readability of OPC’s mobile site.

Ms. Andrews informed the Board of a complaint examiner training/meeting held at OPC on March 23, 2016. Mr. Tobin stated that the meeting involved good

interactions, good feedback, and a better understanding of the complaint examination process and the examiners' roles at OPC.

Ms. Andrews informed the Board of a brown bag training on March 28, 2016. Mr. Ashton stated that he would be present. Mr. Tobin informed the Board that all Board members are welcome to attend these trainings.

Ms. Andrews stated that OPC's investigators would attend 1.5 to 3 days of professional development training at the MPD academy.

Ms. Burley would be added to the dismissal schedule at the end of April and a training would be scheduled prior to that.

Ms. Andrews stated that the complaint numbers are great, the dismissals and decisions have equaled out, and that OPC has received almost 25 decisions this fiscal year. The older cases from past fiscal years are on the pipeline.

Assistant Chief Burke asked if there were any trends for the police to be aware of. Ms. Andrews mentioned that there appears to be a trend of stop and frisk, handcuffing, and searches without probable cause.

Mr. Tobin commented that there is the same number of complaints as the previous fiscal year, but a lower number of them are open.

Assistant Chief Burke asked if there would be an increase in staffing at OPC to handle the possible increase in complaints filed. Ms. Andrews commented on Fifth and Seventh districts, which currently use BWC, have historically low complaint numbers and their use of BWC has not made a big impact at the moment. OPC will continue to monitor and review and make changes as things go.

Assistant Chief Burke asked if OPC had difficulty accessing BWC footage. Ms. Andrews replied that the coordinators have been helpful and that resolutions have been quick regarding issues.

V. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The public meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:39 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held May 26, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dienna Howard