

Police Complaints Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting

Meeting Date & Time: Thursday, January 16, 2025
6:00 p.m.

Location: Office of Police Complaints
1400 I Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005

PCB Members Present:

- Paul Ashton, Chair
- Bobbi Strang (virtual)

PCB Members Absent:

- Derrick Colbert
- Jeffrey Tignor
- Earl Fowlkes

OPC Staff Present:

- Marke Cross, Deputy Executive Director
- Jacqueline Hazzan, Legal Counsel
- Mona Andrews, Chief Investigator

Public Members Present:

- Bennett Casciano (MPD)

Meeting Agenda:

I. Call to Order

Mr. Ashton called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Board roll call. Paul Ashton and Bobbi Strang present. No quorum.

II. Public Comment Period

Bennett Casciano, Labor Representative for the D.C. Police Union, requested OPC's complaint statistics in the seven areas of jurisdiction and complaints initiated from OPC's Executive Director so that the Union can address with MPD members how best to avoid complaints and improve citizen police relations.

III. Adoption of Minutes:

None – no quorum to vote.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. Agency Report

Deputy Executive Director Marke Cross gave a summary of the agency report.

OPC received updates from the Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments regarding reappointment and reconfirmation of three PCB members. Mr. Earl Fowlkes and Mr. Jeffrey Tignor were confirmed by the Council on December 17, 2024, for reappointment. They are awaiting being sworn in. Chairman Ashton's nomination will be sent to the Council soon.

OPC is tentatively scheduled for its annual performance oversight hearing on February 19, 2025.

OPC is preparing to monitor First Amendment demonstrations for the 2025 Presidential Inauguration. Monitoring events include the People's March on January 18, 2025, President Elect Trump's Rally at Capital One Arena on January 19, 2025, Reverend Al Sharpton's MLK Day Rally and March on January 20, 2025, and the Presidential Inauguration on January 20, 2025.

Investigations Report:

Ms. Andrews presented the Investigation statistics.

Investigations are holding steady despite lower staffing. The Investigative Unit is working on clearing a backlog of reports being drafted and reviewed, so the PCB should expect more reports over the next month. Ms. Andrews addressed Officer Casciano's statistics inquiry and noted that the breakdown of OPC complaints by allegation is in OPC's Annual Report. Regarding the OPC added allegations, OPC reports that data annually in its performance oversight reports.

On January 15, 2025, the Implementation Update on the Reports and Recommendations of the Police Complaints Board from Fiscal Year 2023 was published. On December 18, 2024, OPC published the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report. The number of complaints and allegations since Fiscal Year 2023 increased, but the time it took to resolve the cases decreased. The number of mediation cases increased, and 75% were resolved. 100% of cases referred to a Complaint Examiner had at least one allegation sustained.

On November 20, 2024, Public Affairs Specialist Nykisha Cleveland participated in a "Collaboration for DC Immigrant Families" event hosted by Briya Public Charter School. On December 3, 2024, Ms. Cleveland and OPC investigators conducted a Student Interactive Training (SIT) program at School Without Walls. On December 4, 2024, Ms. Cleveland and OPC investigators conducted an SIT program at Jackson-Reed High School. On December 9, 2024, Ms. Cleveland and OPC investigators conducted a SIT program at Dunbar High School. On December 10, 2024, Ms. Cleveland served as a panelist at a "Know Your Rights" session at Eastern Senior High School. On December 19, 2024, Chief Investigator Andrews presented to MPD recruit officers at the Metropolitan Police Academy on civilian oversight and OPC's mission and responsibilities.

OPC staff are currently attending various individual training events sponsored by DCHR. On October 30, 2024, OPC hosted a brown bag training session with Sergeant Schwalm, a supervisor from MPD's Canine Patrol Unit. Sergeant Schwalm gave an overview of MPD's Canine Unit and answered questions about policies, certification, searches, and training.

On December 13, 2024, OPC bid farewell to Investigator Courtney Baez. On January 10, 2025, OPC bid farewell to Investigator Dana Bridgewater. On January 21, 2025, OPC will welcome three Investigative Interns. OPC's Investigations Managers are currently conducting interviews to fill Investigator vacancies.

VI. New Business

None.

VII. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jacqueline Hazzan, Legal Counsel