

Police Complaints Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting

Meeting Date & Time: Thursday, January 18, 2018
6:00 p.m.

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

PCB Members Present:

- Paul Ashton
- Commander Morgan Kane
- Bobbi Strang
- Kurt Vorndran

PCB Members Absent:

- none

OPC Staff Present:

- Michael G. Tobin, Executive Director
- Rochelle Howard, Deputy Director
- Alicia Yass, Legal Counsel
- Mona Andrews, Chief Investigator
- Robert Rowe, Investigations Manager
- Ethan Trinh, Investigator
- Lindsey Murphy, Investigator
- Danielle Sutton, Investigator
- Laurel Anderson, Law Clerk

Public Members Present:

- none

Meeting Agenda:

I. Call to Order

The meeting was recorded. Mr. Ashton called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Board roll call, and all current board members present.

II. Public Comment Period

No public comments were noted.

III. Adoption of Minutes:

The Board reviewed the minutes from the November 30, 2017 PCB meeting. Mr. Ashton asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Mr. Vorndran made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Strang seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Old Business

Mr. Tobin gave an update on the independent review of the inauguration day protests. The Police Foundation is still in the investigative stage. They are reviewing documents, and body-worn camera footage. Trying to determine the process for interviews.

V. Agency Report

Mr. Tobin noted that as of December 12, 2017 Commander Kane is appointed to the PCB until January 12, 2021.

Mr. Tobin reported that the number of complaints remains high.

Mr. Tobin reported that the March for Life will be monitored on January 19, 2018, and shared the monitoring plan.

Ms. Andrews presented the investigation status report. OPC is still experiencing an increase in complaints, but the percentage increase is going down. Failure to cooperate dismissals are higher than last year.

The dismissal schedule will be emailed to board members.

Ms. Strang inquired as to whether OPC has ever conducted a customer satisfaction survey. Mr. Tobin answered that surveys are done with those participating in mediation. Mr. Vorndran reported that the idea has been discussed in the past, but scientific process needed deterred action. Ms. Howard reported on the details on the mediation surveys. Discussion ensued about the reasons that complainants fail to cooperate, and how complainants feel about the experience when their case is dismissed.

Ms. Howard presented data on the source of the increase in complaints, and the breakdown of dispositions.

The Board discussed the fiscal and staffing needs associated with the increase in the number of complaints. Mr. Tobin reported that at this time he is not taking action, but the budget office is aware of the issue, and he is monitoring the needs of the office to determine if/when action is needed.

VI. New Business

Ms. Yass presented on the Implementation Update on the Reports and Recommendations of the Police Complaints Board in Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016. It was proposed that the Board review the report outside of the meeting and do an electronic vote on January 29, 2018.

Mr. Tobin and Ms. Howard presented the Use of Force Report. The changes between the draft in December and the current version up for a vote were highlighted. The difficulties in getting information from MPD were also discussed. Mr. Tobin noted that next year the report will be on a calendar year, rather than the fiscal year. Mr. Ashton moved to approve the Use of Force Report pending minor revisions from Commander Kane, it was unanimously approved.

VII. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Commander Kane moved for the meeting to be adjourned, Ms. Strang seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:59 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held March 22, 2018.

Minutes prepared by Legal Counsel, Alicia Yass