

Police Complaints Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting

Meeting Date & Time: Thursday, January 19, 2023
6:00 p.m.

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

PCB Members Present:

- Paul Ashton, Chair
- Earl Fowlkes
- Bobbi Strang

PCB Members Absent:

- Jeffrey Tignor

OPC Staff Present:

- Michael Tobin, Executive Director
- Alicia Yass, Deputy Executive Director
- Marke Cross, Special Assistant/Legal Counsel
- Mona Andrews, Chief Investigator

Public Members Present:

- Elodie Huttner

Meeting Agenda:

I. Call to Order

Mr. Ashton called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Board roll call. Paul Ashton, Bobbi Strang, and Earl Fowlkes present.

II. Public Comment Period

None

III. Adoption of Minutes:

Mr. Fowlkes moved to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2022, meeting. Mr. Ashton seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Old Business

None

V. Agency Report

Mr. Tobin gave a summary of the agency report.

OPC's budget and performance oversight hearing is scheduled for February 23, 2023.
MPD's hearing is scheduled for the same day.

The DC Council passed the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act, which is currently under review by the Mayor. Mr. Tobin will discuss the new legislation after Ms. Andrews discusses the Investigation statistics.

Deputy Director Yass discussed the Annual Performance and Accountability Report for OPC, which was recently published by the Office of the Mayor. OPC exceeded all its KPI's in FY2022.

OPC's two newest investigators began work on January 18, 2023. Another investigator is expected to begin work in a few weeks.

Investigations:

Ms. Andrews presented the Investigation statistics.

The number of complaints received by the agency is trending upward and appears to be returning to pre-pandemic levels. The number of open cases also trended upward during the first quarter of the fiscal year, but Ms. Andrews believes the numbers will go down once the three new investigators are fully trained and begin investigating cases. The number of case closures has slightly increased since last year.

Mr. Tobin provided an overview of the new legislation and the changes that will affect the Board. OPC has established working groups to address the changes to OPC's internal operations and has begun the process of amending its administrative rules.

The new legislation expands the PCB to 9 members. There will be a member representing each ward and one at-large member. In addition, the MPD Chief must submit new or amended written directives to the PCB for feedback. The PCB will have 15 business days to review the directives and provide written feedback to the Chief. The Mayor will no longer appoint the PCB Chair. Instead, the PCB members will designate the Chair.

OPC will have jurisdiction over certain OIG officers and complaints involving false statements made by MPD, DCHAPD, and OIG officers in search warrants, arrest warrants, or during sworn testimony in court. When the legislation goes into effect, complaints will be considered timely if filed within 120 days of the incident.

The legislation also created the position of Deputy Auditor of Public Safety, who will provide additional oversight of MPD and whose function will overlap with OPC. OPC plans to create a separate working group to coordinate with the new office and determine how the two agencies will work together.

VI. New Business

Mr. Cross provided a summary of the policy recommendation report on Presidential Executive Order 14074. Mr. Fowlkes moved to approve the report. Ms. Strang seconded the motion. The report was unanimously approved.

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:37 pm.

No actions were taken during the Executive Session.

VII. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:49 pm. The next Board meeting will be held on March 16, 2023.