

Police Complaints Board  
Minutes of Regular Meeting

**Meeting Date & Time:** Thursday, January 20, 2022  
6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Meeting was conducted via video conference

**PCB Members Present:**

- Paul Ashton, Chair
- Bobbi Strang
- Earl Fowlkes
- Jeffrey Tignor

**PCB Members Absent:**

- None

**OPC Staff Present:**

- Michael Tobin, Executive Director
- Alicia Yass, Deputy Executive Director
- Marke Cross, Legal Counsel
- Mona Andrews, Chief Investigator
- Nykisha Cleveland, Public Affairs Specialist
- Chris Weber, Program Coordinator

**Public Members Present:**

- None

**Meeting Agenda:**

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Ashton called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**II. Board Member Roll Call**

All Board members present. Mr. Tobin introduced the OPC staff members who were present for the meeting.

**III. Public Comment Period**

None.

**IV. Adoption of Minutes:**

The Board reviewed the minutes from the November 18, 2021, meeting. Mr. Fowlkes moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Strang seconded the motion. All other members voted to approve the minutes, and the motion passed.

**V. Old Business**

None

**VI. Agency Report**

Mr. Tobin gave a summary of the agency report.

The Office of Police Complaints re-opened to the public on July 12, 2021, and is fully operational. However, the agency will be operating with minimum staff members in the office until the end of January 2021.

The D.C. Council held a hearing in October 2021 for Chairman Mendelson's police reform bill, but there has not been any progress made on the bill since the hearing.

OPC's performance oversight hearing is scheduled for February 17, 2022. MPD's performance oversight hearing is scheduled for the same day.

OPC's Annual Use of Force Report is nearly complete, but OPC is currently awaiting information from MPD. Mr. Tobin estimates that the report will be finalized in the next few months.

**Staff updates:**

Since the last PCB meeting OPC hired a new investigator: Carena Bleach. OPC has one remaining investigator vacancy to fill.

**Investigations:**

Ms. Andrews presented the investigation statistics. The current numbers for FY22 are similar to the numbers from the previous fiscal year. Overall, the agency has received approximately 10% less complaints than the previous fiscal year. Because of this, there are fewer open cases and less case closures than there were at the same time last fiscal year. Ms. Andrews and Mr. Tobin attributed the lower numbers to the colder weather and the holiday season.

**Questions:**

Mr. Ashton inquired about the experiences of the OPC staff members who attended the 2021 Annual NACOLE Conference in Tucson, Arizona. Ms. Yass spoke about the conference, which she attended with OPC staff members Danielle Sutton, Brittany Clift, and Marke Cross.

**VII. New Business**

Mr. Weber provided a quarterly overview of OPC's mediation statistics. There was an increase in the number of mediation sessions held since the previous quarter and an increase in the number of complainants who participated in mediation sessions. There was an overall decrease in the average time it took for a mediation session to occur after OPC received a complaint. The average time was 51 days. It took an average of 18 days for an assigned mediator to schedule a mediation session between a complainant and a subject officer. Mr. Tobin, Ms. Yass, and Mr. Weber also provided a high-level overview of OPC's entire mediation process.

**VIII. Adjournment and Next Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:34 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held on March 17, 2022.