

Police Complaints Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting

Meeting Date & Time: Thursday, November 18, 2021
6:00 p.m.

Location: Meeting was conducted via video conference

PCB Members Present:

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

PCB Members Absent:

- None

OPC Staff Present:

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

Public Members Present:

- Katherine Dickerson, student from Baylor University

Meeting Agenda:

I. Call to Order

Mr. Ashton called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Board roll call. All Board members present.

II. Public Comment Period

Katherine Dickerson introduced herself to the Board. She had no questions or comments.

III. Adoption of Minutes:

The Board reviewed the minutes from the September 9, 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.

IV. Old Business

None

V. 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.

FY 23 budget is going through the approval process.

The Council still has two pending bills related to police reform and oversight. These bills make changes both to OPC and the PCB. Mr. Tobin testified at a hearing on October 21, 2021 for the bill introduced by Chairman Mendelson. Mr. Tobin forwarded the Board his written public comments for the bill and his written testimony for the hearing.

OPC published its Annual Report for FY 21 on November 15, 2021.

OPC is working on the annual Use of Force Report for the 2021 calendar year. There are currently no significant updates with respect to the statistics.

Participating OPC staff members have completed the annual Professional Development Training at the MPD Academy.

Staff updates:

OPC is currently interviewing candidates for two open Investigator positions. Mr. Tobin estimated that the positions will be filled in January.

Dismissal schedule has been updated to remove Assistant Chief Kane. Although the emergency policing legislation expanded the composition of the Board, the Mayor has not yet nominated any candidates for the vacant positions.

Investigations:

Ms. Andrews presented the Investigation statistics.

The current numbers for FY 22 are similar to the numbers from the previous fiscal year.

There have been less contacts than previous years, which is attributable to the changes in OPC's internal guidelines for processing contacts that were discussed at the previous Board meeting.

Questions:

Mr. Tignor asked for clarification about the "Referred to Other" and "Admin Closed" categories in the Investigation statistics. Ms. Andrews explained that the "Referred to Other" category is comprised of complaints OPC has referred to law enforcement agencies other than MPD and DCHAPD or private security firms. Ms. Andrews also explained that the "Admin Closed" category is typically comprised of cases that do not involve police complaints or complaints that involve police officers who are no longer employed by MPD.

VI. New Business

Ms. Strang requested to switch dates for dismissal duty with another Board member due to her upcoming vacation plans. Mr. Tignor agreed to switch with Ms. Strang.

VII. Executive Session

Mr. Ashton moved to enter an Executive Session (non-public) for a Discussion of Personnel Matter pursuant to D.C. Official Code sec. 2-575(b)(10). Mr. Ashton, Mr. Tignor, Ms. Strang, and Mr. Fowlkes approved the motion.

The Board entered the Executive Session at 6:31 p.m.

No actions were taken during the Executive Session.

VIII. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:36 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held on January 20, 2022.

Minutes prepared by Special Assistant, Marke Cross