

Police Complaints Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting

Meeting Date & Time: Thursday, November 19, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Location: Meeting was conducted via video conference

PCB Members Present:

- Paul Ashton, Chair
- Kurt Vorndran
- Jeffrey Tignor
- Bobbi Strang

PCB Members Absent:

- Commander Morgan Kane

OPC Staff Present:

- Michael G. Tobin, Executive Director
- Alicia Yass, Legal Counsel
- Mona Andrews, Chief Investigator
- Anthony Lawrence, Senior Investigator
- Nykisha Cleveland, Public Affairs Specialist

Public Members Present:

- Marinos Marinos, DC Police Union
- Arjun Badami, student, Georgetown University

Meeting Agenda:

I. Call to Order

Mr. Ashton called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Board roll call. Paul Ashton, Kurt Vorndran, Jeffrey Tignor and Bobbi Strang present. Commander Morgan Kane absent.

II. Public Comment Period

The members of the public introduced themselves but had no comments.

III. Adoption of Minutes:

The Board reviewed the minutes from the September 17, 2020 PCB regular meeting. Mr. Vorndran made a motion to approve the minutes, and Ms. Strang seconded. Mr. Ashton, Ms. Strang, Mr. Vorndran, and Mr. Tignor, approved the minutes.

IV. Old Business

None

V. Agency Report

Director Tobin gave a summary of the agency report.

The Office of Police Complaints is fully operational but continues to be on a partial telework schedule. Officer interviews are taking place in person and remotely.

Police Reform Commission has held multiple meetings. Mr. Vorndran is serving on the Commission and gave an update that the Commission has asked the Council for an extension of the term to April 2021. Director Tobin spoke at a meeting of subcommittee on Police Oversight.

DC Council, Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety and Judiciary had a hearing on October 15, 2021 on B23-0723, the “Rioting Modernization Amendment Act of 2020,” B23-0771, the “Internationally Banned Chemical Weapon Prohibition Amendment Act of 2020 ” and B23-0882, the “Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2020.” Bill B23-0882 proposes to make permanent several changes in the law made through the “Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Second Emergency Amendment Act of 2020.” The Bill is awaiting a second vote.

The following policy recommendations were published:

- On September 25, 2020, Policy Report on Automated License Plate Readers
- On September 28, 2020, report conducted by the National Police Foundation concerning the “Office of Police Complaints Independent Review Amendment Act of 2019” authorizing OPC to conduct an independent review of the activities of MPD’s Narcotics and Specialized Investigations Division (NSID) from August 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020
- On October 5, 2020, Policy Report: Stop and Frisk Data Review
- On October 13, 2020, FY 2019 Use of Force Report
- On October 14, 2020, Policy Report on Discipline for Sustained OPC Complaints

On October 21, 2020, Director Tobin participated as a panelist for the “Reimagining Police Stops” workshop series hosted by Georgetown University Law Center, Howard University and The Lab @ DC. Part of MPD’s process to evaluate stop and frisk data for DC.

Staffing update:

Due to budget constraints one investigator position and the executive assistant position, as well as all paid internships will be vacant for FY 21 and likely FY 22.

All training and travel are also suspended.

Investigation Status:

Ms. Andrews presented the Investigation metrics. 90% of cases are resolved within 6 months. Number of open cases is down from the same point last year. Number of new cases is down from the same point last year. Mr. Tignor asked if there was an influx of complaints from the protests taking place November 13-15, but Ms. Andrews explained that there have been some complaints related to those protests, but not a huge number, however it can take a week or so for complaints to come in from when they occur.

VI. New Business

None

VII. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Mr. Vorndran moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Tignor seconded. It was then unanimously approved by all members present. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:20pm. The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 6pm via video conferencing.

Minutes prepared by Legal Counsel, Alicia Yass