

Police Complaints Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting

Meeting Date & Time: Thursday, November 30, 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 (virtual)
- Earl Fowlkes (virtual)
- Bobbi Strang (virtual)
- Jeffrey Tignor (virtual)

PCB Members Absent:

- None

OPC Staff Present:

- Michael Tobin, Executive Director (virtual)
- Mona Andrews, Chief Investigator
- Jacqueline Hazzan, Legal Counsel

Public Members Present:

- None

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, Earl Fowlkes, and Jeffrey Tignor present.

II. Public Comment Period

None.

III. Adoption of Minutes:

Mr. Fowlkes moved to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2023 meeting. Ms. Strang and Mr. Tignor simultaneously seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by all members, and the motion passed.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. Agency Report

Mr. Tobin gave a summary of the agency report.

OPC is formulating FY25 budget. Mr. Tobin met with Mayor's budget staff. Mayor's budget office proposed a 5% decrease to OPC's budget, which is OPC's entire operational budget.

Mr. Tobin testified at hearing for Mayor's Addressing Crime Trends (ACT) Now Amendment Act of 2023, along with approximately 100 other witnesses. Several sections of the act would

reduce OPC's authority: no unfettered access to documents; no PCB review of MPD policies and procedures before going into effect; disciplinary issues – appeals process and publication of discipline; BWC policy, FOIA requirements for OPC, concealment of officers' names and badges; and other police accountability issues. No vote was taken at the hearing. Mr. Tignor asked about reason for rollback of police reform. Mr. Tobin said the deputy mayor mentioned recruitment. MPD exit surveys indicated officers left due to mandatory overtime and poor management and supervision rather than accountability/oversight measures.

OPC received highest numbers of complaints in agency's history in FY23. Staffing will be increased by one investigator.

OPC hosted site visit on November 1, 2023, from country of Georgia through the Department of State to discuss police oversight.

Board member Tignor and several OPC staff members attended NACOLE national conference in Chicago, Illinois, November 12-16, 2023.

OPC is in the process of filling vacancies for research analyst, receptionist, and deputy executive director.

The Dismissal schedule is updated.

Investigations Report:

Ms. Andrews presented the Investigation statistics.

Approximately 1.5 months into FY24, complaints are trending around 9-10% higher than last year at this time. Averaging ten cases per investigator with 12 total investigators. One more investigator will be hired for 13 total.

VI. New Business

Mr. Ashton moved to convene the executive session to discuss personnel matters pursuant to DC Code § 2-575 (b)(10). Ms. Strang seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Executive session convened at 6:34 p.m. Executive session concluded at 7:21 p.m.

During executive session, the board voted to approve the contract extension for Mr. Tobin as Executive Director of OPC.

VII. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Mr. Fowlkes moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Tignor seconded. It was then unanimously approved by all members. The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm. The next Board meeting will be held on January 18, 2024.

Minutes prepared by Jacqueline Hazzan, Legal Counsel