

Police Complaints Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting

Meeting Date & Time: Thursday, March 14, 2024
6:00 p.m.

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

PCB Members Present:

- Paul Ashton, Chair
- Bobbi Strang
- Jeffrey Tignor (virtual)
- Earl Fowlkes (virtual)
- Derrick Colbert (virtual)

PCB Members Absent:

- None

OPC Staff Present:

- Michael Tobin, Executive Director
- Marke Cross, Deputy Executive Director
- Jacqueline Hazzan, Legal Counsel
- Mona Andrews, Chief Investigator
- Kevin Maldonado, Investigative Clerk

Public Members Present:

- Elodie Huttner

Meeting Agenda:

I. Call to Order

Mr. Ashton called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Board roll call. Paul Ashton, Bobbi Strang, Earl Fowlkes, Jeff Tignor, and Derrick Colbert present.

II. Public Comment Period

None.

III. Adoption of Minutes:

Ms. Strang moved to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2024 meeting. Mr. Fowlkes 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. OPC's budget hearing is scheduled for the second week of April.

Councilmember Pinto’s Secure DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2024, which was signed into law by the Mayor, amends multiple provisions of the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022.

Mr. Cross explained that the provisions of the Secure DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2024 that affect OPC include: changes in releasable officer information for FOIA requests; officers can now review BWC footage before writing a report, unless incident involved serious use of force or officer involved death; chokeholds – exception for cases where officer is acting in good faith to provide medical aid; Use of Force Review Board (UFRB) composition and publication of reports; standards for vehicular pursuits; schedule of adverse action hearings need not publish name and badge number of officers; officer race and gender added to disciplinary database; and, establishment of anti-loitering and drug-free zones.

The Secure DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2024 includes everything from the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022 except for unfunded provisions: namely, expanding OPC’s jurisdiction to include anonymous complaints and OIG officers; unfettered access to MPD’s records; and, the police misconduct database. Mr. Tobin stated that OPC successfully lobbied to keep provisions of OPC’s ability to issue own discipline on sustained cases, review MPD policies before they go into effect, and publish disciplinary database. Upcoming budget hearings will determine which provisions are funded.

MPD issued updated General Order in accordance with new law on neck restraints. Mr. Tobin advocated for “brief, incidental, and unintentional contact with the neck;” however, officers can now use neck restraints to prohibit movement.

Mr. Ashton asked about the status of the PCB expansion. Mr. Tobin stated the expansion does not require funding, but it is up to the Mayor’s office to make the additional appointments.

The Dismissal schedule is updated. Mr. Colbert is added to the schedule pending his swearing in.

Investigations Report:

Ms. Andrews presented the Investigation statistics.

There is an 8% increase in complaints received for this fiscal year; however, there are fewer active/open cases and more closed cases due to being fully staffed with thirteen investigators.

Mediations are up. Referrals from MPD remain the same.

VI. New Business

None.

VII. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Mr. Fowlkes moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Tignor seconded the motion. It was then unanimously approved by all members. The meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jacqueline Hazzan, Legal Counsel