

Police Complaints Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting

Meeting Date & Time: Thursday, March 17, 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

Public Members Present:

- Jason Juffras, Office of the D.C. Auditor
- Victoria Cruz, Howard University
- Sarah Chicone, Howard University
- Makayla Chapman, Howard University
- Cassidy Blake, Howard University
- Chisom Ezeani, Howard University
- Aiyannah Martin, Howard University
- Carsten Viscering, George Washington University
- Eliza Appleton, Howard University
- Reba Martin, Howard University

Meeting Agenda:

I. Call to Order

Mr. Ashton called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. Board Member Roll Call

All Board members present. Mr. Tobin introduced the OPC staff members who were present for the meeting. At the request of Mr. Ashton, the members of the public who were present introduced themselves.

III. Public Comment Period

None.

IV. Adoption of Minutes:

The Board reviewed the minutes from the January 20, 2022, meeting. Ms. Strang moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Fowlkes 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.

OPC's Fiscal Year 2023 budget is being formulated. Although OPC has not yet received approval for the budget, Mr. Tobin is confident that it will be approved based on informal discussions with the Office of Budget and Planning. OPC's budget hearing with the D.C. Council is scheduled for March 30, 2022.

Mr. Tobin discussed the two pending police reform bills currently before the D.C. Council. Mr. Tobin expects there will be some discussions about the bills during the upcoming budget hearing. Mr. Tobin is hopeful that there will be positive changes to OPC's jurisdiction when the Council passes the final version of the police reform legislation. He also acknowledged that the changes might impact OPC's budget.

Mr. Tobin also discussed the study commissioned by the D.C. Council to determine whether the Metropolitan Police Department engaged in biased policing during the January 6, 2022, incident at the Capitol Building and the other demonstrations that occurred around the same time. OPC has finalized the contract with the National Police Foundation, who will be conducting the study. The deadline to complete the study is September 30, 2022.

OPC published the 2020 Policy Implementation Update on February 14, 2022. OPC is still working on the Annual Use of Force Report, which should be finalized after OPC receives some additional data from MPD.

Mr. Tobin discussed his letter to Chief Contee regarding the high cost of police misconduct lawsuits against MPD and the D.C. Government. Chief Contee has yet to officially respond to Mr. Tobin's letter.

OPC is currently conducting interviews for an open Investigator position.

Ms. Andrews provided an overview of OPC's investigation statistics. The number of new cases decreased by less than 5% compared to the same time last year. There was also an overall decrease in the number of contacts. The decrease in contacts is likely due to the changes OPC made in the way the agency reports them.

Questions:

None.

VII. New Business

Mr. Tobin briefly discussed OPC's FY23 Performance Plan, which will be published soon.

VIII. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:23 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held on May 19, 2022.

Minutes prepared by Special Assistant, Marke Cross