

Police Complaints Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting

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

Location: Meeting was conducted via video conference

PCB Members Present:

- Paul Ashton, Chair
- Jeffrey Tignor
- Bobbi Strang
- Commander Morgan Kane
- Kurt Vorndran (joined the meeting late)

PCB Members Absent:

- none

OPC Staff Present:

- Michael G. Tobin, Executive Director
- Alicia Yass, Acting Deputy Director
- Mona Andrews, Chief Investigator
- Anthony Lawrence, Senior Investigator
- Nydia Smith, Receptionist
- Sherry Mendoza, Investigations Clerk

Public Members Present:

- Troy Dubose
- Maurice Harris

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, Jeff Tignor, and Commander Morgan Kane present. Kurt Vorndran was not present for the start of the meeting.

II. Public Comment Period

None
No members of the public were present at this time.

III. Adoption of Minutes:

The Board reviewed the minutes from the January 21, 2021 PCB regular meeting. Ms. Strang made a motion to approve the minutes, and Commander Kane seconded. The Board unanimously 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.

There were mid-year budget reductions, but they have largely been restored. This is currently under review with the budget team to determine how this will impact agency operations.

The Police Reform Commission (PRC) is hopeful that final report will be ready to release on April 1, 2021.

Mr. Ashton asked about the emergency police legislation. It has not yet been made permanent, but Director Tobin said that action is likely pending on the PRC report. New appointments to the PCB will not be made until the legislation is permanent, according to MOTA.

The research analyst is working on the Use of Force report for CY 2020, but finalizing the report is pending information from MPD, but it should be ready in the next few weeks.

(Two members of the public joined the meeting.)

Public outreach events have continued during the Covid-19 health emergency, but they have been primarily in a virtual setting.

Staffing updates:

Two vacant investigator positions will be posted to be filled.

Catheryn Moody, investigator, and Rochelle Howard, deputy director, have left the agency.

Spring semester legal intern Amy Saji has been working since January.

Performance oversight hearing was on March 8, 2021. Most of the questions from the Council were focused on the previous year- looking at agency statistics, BWC, complaint statistics, personnel data, and budget.

Budget hearing will be in early May for the upcoming fiscal year.

Investigations:

Ms. Andrews presented the Investigation metrics. The open case rate is lower than usual. This is partially due to current lower complaint and contact rates compared to last year, but it also shows that investigators are staying on top of their cases and closing cases promptly.

VI. New Business

None

VII. Public Comment

Mr. Ashton permitted Mr. Harris to speak at this time since he had not been present at the beginning of the meeting for the initial public comment period. Mr. Harris voiced concerns about the mediation for his complaint, and other concerns about the complaint process.

(Mr. Vorndran joined the meeting)

VIII. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Commander Kane moved to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Strang seconded. It was then unanimously approved by all members. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:28pm. The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 6pm via video conferencing.

Minutes prepared by Acting Deputy Director, Alicia Yass