

Police Complaints Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting

Meeting Date & Time: Thursday, May 11, 2017
6:00 p.m.

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

PCB Members Present:

- Paul Ashton
- Commander Morgan Kane
- Bobbi Strang
- Kurt Vorndran

PCB Members Absent:

- Jamira Burley

OPC Staff Present:

- Michael G. Tobin, Executive Director
- Rochelle Howard, Deputy Director
- Alicia Yass, Legal Counsel
- Mona Andrews, Chief Investigator
- Robert Rowe, Investigations Manager
- Anthony Lawrence, Senior Investigator
- Hansel Aguilar, Investigator
- Victoria Keys, Investigator
- Ethan Trinh, Investigator

Public Members Present:

- None

Meeting Agenda:

I. Call to Order

The meeting was recorded. Mr. Ashton called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

II. Public Comment Period

No public comments were noted.

III. Adoption of Minutes:

The Board reviewed the minutes from the March 16, 2017 PCB meeting. Mr. Ashton asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Mr. Vorndran made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Strang seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Agency Report

Mr. Tobin noted that Commander Kane would be sworn into her role as a PCB member in a few weeks. The staff then introduced themselves to Commander Kane.

Mr. Tobin discussed that the DC Council is considering funding an independent investigation of the MPD actions related to the First Amendment Assemblies on January 20, 2017 (Inauguration Day). This is based on the recommendation in the PCB report, and the Council has consulted with OPC on the cost of such an investigation.

Mr. Tobin noted that Ms. Strang was reappointed as a PCB member through January 20, 2020.

Mr. Tobin noted that Commander Kane was approved to fulfill the remainder of former Assistant Chief Patrick Burke's PCB membership, which ends on January 20, 2018.

Mr. Tobin noted that Chief Newsham was appointed as a regular appointment to MPD Police Chief on May 2, 2017.

Ms. Yass reported on two policy reports for approval by the PCB; #17-3: Blocking Passage, and #17-4: District of Columbia Housing Authority Police Department. Mr. Vorndran proposed that the PCB delay approval of #17-3 until May 17, 2017 to allow time for MPD to give a formal response. The PCB agreed to the delay and that they would vote on #17-3 via email. Mr. Ashton moved to approve #17-4, Mr. Strang seconded, and #17-4 was approved unanimously by the PCB.

Mr. Tobin reported that the OPC staff had monitored the March for Science on April 22, 2017, but had not observed any actions by MPD that warranted a written report.

Mr. Tobin reported on several OPC outreach efforts including: March 28, 2017, Ms. Howard presented a webinar for NACOLE on the OPC mediation program; March 28, 2017, Ms. Howard, Ms. Yass, and Christopher Weber attended an FOP meeting to discuss mediation; April 13, 2017 Mr. Tobin met with the local chapter of the NAACP; and April 14, 2017 Mr. Aguilar and Lindsey Murphy met with Latin American Youth Center.

Mr. Tobin reported on training and conferences. On April 13, 2017 the New York CCRB visited OPC to learn about the body-worn camera process. The week of May 1, 2017 the police complaints office from Cleveland visited OPC for informational purposes as they reconfigure their office.

Ms. Andrews presented the investigation status report and highlighted that there has been an 80% increase in complaints received, and a 25% increase in open cases. The impact that body-worn camera footage has had on investigations was also discussed.

Ms. Strang asked if OPC was planning outreach for the DC Pride weekend. Ideas were discussed for further contacts to enable OPC to reach this community.

V. Executive Session

Mr. Ashton moved for the meeting to be closed for an executive session, and the motion passed.

Mr. Ashton reported that Mr. Tobin has been offered another term as Executive Director of OPC.

VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Mr. Ashton moved for the meeting to be adjourned, Ms. Strang seconded and the motion passed. The public meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:25 p.m. The next two Board meetings will be held September 21, 2017 and November 16, 2017.

Minutes prepared by Legal Counsel, Alicia Yass