

Police Complaints Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting

Meeting Date & Time: Thursday, September 21, 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)

PCB Members Absent:

- Jeffrey Tignor

OPC Staff Present:

- Michael Tobin, Executive Director
- 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 6:01 p.m. Board roll call. Paul Ashton, Bobbi Strang, and Earl Fowlkes present.

II. Public Comment Period

None.

III. Adoption of Minutes:

Mr. Fowlkes moved to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2023 meeting. Ms. Strang seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by all members present, and the motion passed.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. Agency Report

Mr. Tobin gave a summary of the agency report.

OPC was looking at ways to fund police reform bill (B24-0320) provisions for coming fiscal year, but ultimately determined that would not be possible. Two aspects were funded; namely, two additional positions.

New investigator will be hired after October 1, which is the third position authorized in budget.

OPC recently hired two investigators.

OPC will look at DC Auditor's report on NEAR Act for possible policy recommendations to help MPD implement change. Auditor's office hired new DC public safety auditor who will hire full staff. Mr. Tobin met with auditor to set initial parameters and will continue to meet monthly.

Ms. Hazzan gave overview of two new policy recommendations on BWC analytics and handcuffing.

Mr. Tobin met with MPD Acting Chief Pamela Smith and senior staff and will continue to have regular meetings.

Agency staff have attended annual Professional Development Training sessions, including mayoral mandated Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training with MPD at the Metropolitan Police Academy.

The Dismissal schedule is updated.

Investigations Report:

Ms. Andrews presented the Investigation statistics.

Complaints are at an 11% increase from last year, and have remained at a 10-13% increase from last year over the past several months. Closer to 2019 case statistics.

Closures are also up.

Mr. Ashton asked how many complaints OPC has received regarding DCHAPD. Ms. Andrews estimated less than ten complaints and explained that DCHAPD complaints are low, typically around 1%.

Mr. Ashton asked Mr. Tobin if there were any updates related to reappointments as he and Ms. Strang are holdovers. Mr. Tobin had no updates.

VI. New Business

A. Policy Report #23-3: Leveraging Random Reviews and Body-Worn Camera Analytics to Enhance Police Training and Minimize Use of Force Incidents

Mr. Fowlkes moved to approve Report #23-3. Ms. Strang seconded the motion. Report #23-3 was unanimously approved by all members present.

B. Policy Report #23-4: Policies and Procedures for Appropriate Use of Handcuffs During Investigatory Stops

Mr. Fowlkes moved to approve Report #23-4. Ms. Strang seconded the motion. Report #23-4 was unanimously approved by all members present.

VII. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Mr. Fowlkes moved to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Strang seconded. It was then unanimously approved by all members present. The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 pm.

The next Board meeting will be held on November 30, 2023.

Minutes prepared by Jacqueline Hazzan, Legal Counsel