

Police Complaints Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting

Meeting Date & Time: Thursday, September 22, 2022
6:00 p.m.

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

PCB Members Present:

- Paul Ashton, Chair
- Earl Fowlkes
- Bobbi Strang
- Jeffrey Tignor

PCB Members Absent:

- None

OPC Staff Present:

- Michael Tobin, Executive Director
- Alicia Yass, Deputy Executive Director
- Marke Cross, Special Assistant/Legal Counsel
- Mona Andrews, Chief Investigator

Public Members Present:

- Elodie Huttner

Meeting Agenda:

I. Call to Order

Mr. Ashton called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. Board roll call. Paul Ashton, Earl Fowlkes, Bobbi Strang, and Jeffrey Tignor present.

II. Public Comment Period

None

III. Adoption of Minutes:

Mr. Fowlkes moved to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2022, meeting. Mr. Tignor seconded the motion. All members voted to approve the minutes, and the motion passed.

IV. Old Business

None

V. Agency Report

Mr. Tobin gave a summary of the agency report.

The DC Council approved OPC's FY23 budget. The Council still has two pending bills related to police reform and oversight which could make changes to OPC and the PCB. Mr. Tobin will continue to update the PCB with any new information about the bills.

OPC recently released the 2021 Annual Use of Force Report and a policy report on Warrantless Misdemeanor Arrests. Mr. Tobin hopes the next Annual Use of Force Report will track every round fired by MPD officers in the line of duty and will contain detailed information about the circumstances surrounding the discharge of each round. Mr. Tobin believes this information will be useful in assisting MPD with firearms training for its members and will help the community to better understand how officer involved shootings occur and the circumstances surrounding each incident.

Several members of OPC's staff attended the annual NACOLE conference in Fort Worth, Texas, in September. One OPC staff member was a presenter at the conference.

Investigations:

Ms. Andrews presented the Investigation statistics.

There was a 5% decrease in cases for FY22 when compared to FY21. There is a slight increase in the number of open cases when compared to FY21 due to a spike in complaints filed over the summer and OPC currently being understaffed. All other FY22 measurables are comparable to FY21, including case closures. There was a significant decrease in the number of contacts reported in the statistics because OPC changed the way it reports contacts. OPC now only reports contacts that are specifically related to policing issues. This change provides more clarity and efficiency for reporting and saves OPC staff the time of recording contacts that are unrelated to policing issues.

Mr. Tobin and Mr. Tignor discussed a recent article in the Washington City Paper that mentioned a letter Mr. Tobin sent to MPD Chief Contee about officer discipline. Mr. Tobin met with Chief Contee to discuss the letter and he hopes the letter will motivate the DC Council to expand OPC's jurisdiction by providing OPC with a role in MPD's disciplinary process.

VI. New Business

Mr. Cross provided a summary of the policy recommendation report on Use of Hair Holds by Metropolitan Police Department Officers. Ms. Strang moved to approve the report. Mr. Tignor seconded the motion. All members voted to approve the report.

Mr. Cross provided a summary of the policy recommendation report on Improved Guidance on Communicating with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community Members. Mr. Tignor moved to approve the report. Ms. Strang seconded the motion. All members voted to approve the report.

Mr. Cross provided a summary of the policy recommendation report on Enabling Sound During the Pre-Event Buffer on Body-Worn Cameras. Ms. Strang moved to approve the report. Mr. Tignor seconded the motion. All members voted to approve the report.

VII. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:42 pm. The next Board meeting will be held in November 2022.

Minutes prepared by Special Assistant Marke Cross.