

Police Complaints Board  
Minutes of Regular Meeting

**Meeting Date & Time:** Thursday, September 15, 2016  
6:00 p.m.

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

**PCB Members Present:**

- Paul Ashton
- 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
- Robert Rowe, Investigations Manager
- Anthony Lawrence, Senior Investigator
- Danielle Sutton, Investigator
- Ethan Trinh, Investigator
- Victoria Keyes, Investigator
- Erica Del Proire, Investigative Intern
- Aaliyah Thomas, Investigative Intern

**Public Members Present:**

- None

**Meeting Agenda:**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was recorded. Mr. Vorndran called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

**II. Public Comment Period**

No public comments were noted.

**III. Adoption of Minutes:**

The Board reviewed the minutes from the May 26, 2016 PCB meeting. Mr. Vorndran asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Mr. Vorndran stated there was a misspelling of his name. Mr. Vorndran made a motion to approve the corrected minutes. Mr. Ashton seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**IV. Agency Report**

Mr. Tobin mentioned the next PCB meeting will be held on November 17, 2016. The meetings for 2017 will be held on the following dates: January 19, 2017, March 16, 2017, and

May 18, 2017. Mr. Vorndran suggested that the January 2017 meeting be moved since it is the eve of the Presidential Inauguration. The Board agreed to change the date of the January 2017 PCB meeting to January 26, 2017.

Mr. Tobin mentioned that Alicia Yaas, Robert Rowe and he had a meeting on September 15, 2016, with Deputy Chief Kimberly Chesley-Missouri regarding the NEAR Act. A very lengthy and good discussion took place about implementation issues and solutions. OPC will keep the PCB Board posted on the progress.

OPC completed a draft policy on ensuring that MPD policies and procedures are up to date. The recommendation was recently conveyed to MPD for comments. Once the comments are reviewed, Mr. Tobin will present the recommendation to the Board for approval.

Ms. Yaas reported that OPC is working on two additional policy recommendations right now. The first one encourages MPD to adopt additional recommendations of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Report. The second policy recommendation highlights efforts MPD can engage to increase officer awareness of their language and conduct when interacting with the public and improve compliance with language and conduct rules.

Mr. Tobin presented the investigation status report and highlighted with two new categories. The first category measures cases that OPC refers for policy training. OPC currently has referred two cases to MPD. A policy training referral is made when OPC determines that the officer's behavior is not in accordance with DC Code or MPD General Orders and that officer could benefit from additional training. Successful completion of training closes the case. The second category is Rapid Resolution which refers complaints to MPD that can be resolved by a supervisor calling the complainant.

Mr. Rowe reported that the first case that was referred to MPD for policy training involved a MPD officer who wrote a number of defective Notices of Infraction.

Mr. Tobin highlighted that OPC has had approximately one hundred open cases for the last six months. He pointed out that last year around this time we had 159 open cases. OPC anticipates receiving additional complaints once MPD begins complying with the provisions of the NEAR Act.

OPC currently has received 409 complaints this year. This is slightly higher than last year, due in part to the new online complaint form.

Mr. Tobin noted that OPC has rendered 28 complaint examiners decisions. That is three times more than this time last year. The large increase is due to the fact that many cases were adjudicated at the early part of the fiscal year when we were still doing clean-up operations for the backlog. Mr. Tobin further stated that 28 is the highest that OPC has had on record.

#### V. **Adjournment and Next Meeting**

The public meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:35 p.m. The next two Board meetings will be held November 17, 2016 and January 26, 2017.

Minutes prepared by Investigator Danielle Sutton