

Police Complaints Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting

Meeting Date & Time: Thursday, September 21, 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:

- none

OPC Staff Present:

- Michael G. Tobin, Executive Director
- Alicia Yass, Legal Counsel
- Mona Andrews, Chief Investigator
- Anthony Lawrence, Senior Investigator
- Victoria Keys, Investigator
- Ethan Trinh, Investigator
- Danielle Sutton, Investigator
- Matt Graham, Research Analyst

Public Members Present:

- Andrew Glover (arrived at around 6:55pm)

Meeting Agenda:

I. Call to Order

The meeting was recorded. Mr. Ashton called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

II. Public Comment Period

No public comments were noted.

III. Adoption of Minutes:

The Board reviewed the minutes from the May 11, 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. Old Business

Mr. Tobin reported that the independent review recommended by the Board was funded by the 2018 annual budget. The Police Foundation had been selected to conduct the independent review, the contract is being finalized, and it is expected that the review process will begin soon after the beginning of the fiscal year, October 1, 2017.

V. Agency Report

The Board amended the next Board meeting date moving it from November 16, 2017 to November 30, 2017 at 6pm.

Mr. Tobin noted that as of September 21, 2017, OPC had received 750 complaints in fiscal year 2017; an all-time high for the agency.

Mr. Tobin reported that OPC monitored multiple First Amendment assemblies on September 16, 2017, including the Mother of All Rallies, America First Rally, and Juggalos Rally. Most interactions observed were positive, and no significant observations were made to warrant a formal report.

Mr. Tobin noted that the NAACP DC Chapter has joined OPC as a community partner.

Mr. Tobin pointed out that media coverage of the Board and OPC for the protest monitoring and in the coverage of a recent lawsuit related to blocking passage.

Mr. Ashton reported on presenting to the Fairfax County Civilian Oversight Panel with Investigator Hansel Aguilar.

Mr. Tobin highlighted recent visits to OPC from Alistair Maclean, Chief Executive Officer of the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, and the Chicago Office of Police Accountability.

Mr. Tobin noted that DCHAPD Chief Maupin presented to the OPC staff on DCHAPD and its history.

Mr. Tobin reported on the annual NACOLE conference, and the presentations done by Mr. Tobin, Ms. Andrews, and Jessica Rau.

Ms. Andrews presented the investigation status report and highlighted that while there have been 750 complaints so far this fiscal year, the staff and Board have been able to keep up with the workload. There has been an 80% increase in complaints received. Body-worn camera footage has had a large impact on investigations, allowing for decisions to be made earlier in the investigation process. The increase in complaints referred from MPD was discussed. The complaints received where OPC does not have jurisdiction were discussed.

VI. New Business

Ms. Yass reported on a policy report for approval by the PCB; #17-5: Consent Search Procedures. The Board discussed the policy report.

VII. Public Comment

Mr. Glover arrived at the meeting, and expressed concerns with how complaints he has filed with OPC have been handled. Mr. Tobin responded to Mr. Glover to inform him of actions that OPC is taking to constantly improve itself and MPD. Commander Kane responded that MPD does want to hear from the community to address their concerns.

VIII. New Business (continued)

Discussion resumed on policy report #17-5. Mr. Vorndran moved to approve #17-5, Mr. Ashton seconded, and #17-5 was approved by the Board.

Ms. Yass presented two new complaint examiners for approval by the Board. Commander Kane moved to approve the two new complaint examiners, Mr. Vorndran seconded the motion, and the two new complaint examiners were approved unanimously by the Board.

Mr. Tobin presented two new mediators for approval by the Board. Mr. Ashton moved to approve the two new mediators, Ms. Strang seconded the motion, and the two new mediators were approved unanimously by the Board.

Ms. Yass presented the proposed rulemaking for updating the Administrative Rules for the Board and OPC. Mr. Ashton moved to approve publication of the proposed rulemaking, Ms. Strang seconded the motion, and the Board approved publication of the proposed rulemaking.

Mr. Ashton asked that at the next Board meeting there be a brief presentation on the community partner program.

IX. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Mr. Vorndran moved for the meeting to be adjourned, Commander Kane seconded, and the motion passed. The public meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held November 30, 2017.

Minutes prepared by Legal Counsel, Alicia Yass