

Police Complaints Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting

Meeting Date & Time: Thursday, September 9, 2021
6:00 p.m.

Location: Meeting was conducted via video conference

PCB Members Present:

- Paul Ashton, Chair
- Earl Fowlkes
- Assistant Chief Morgan Kane
- Bobbi Strang
- Jeffrey Tignor

PCB Members Absent:

- none

OPC Staff Present:

- Michael Tobin, Executive Director
- Alicia Yass, Deputy Executive Director
- Mona Andrews, Chief Investigator
- Anthony Lawrence, Senior Investigator
- Jacqueline Hazzan, Investigator
- Nykisha Cleveland, Public Affairs Specialist
- Sarah Ball, legal intern

Public Members Present:

- none

Meeting Agenda:

I. Call to Order

Mr. Ashton called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Board roll call. Paul Ashton, Jeffrey Tignor, Morgan Kane, Earl Fowlkes, and Bobbi Strang present.

II. Public Comment Period

None

III. Adoption of Minutes:

Mr. Tignor moved to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2021 meeting. Ms. Strang seconded the motion. Mr. Fowlkes abstained from voting since he was not a Board member at the May 20, 2021 meeting. All other 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 Office of Police Complaints re-opened to the public on July 12, 2021.

FY 22 budget was approved and gave OPC an additional investigator position.

The Council currently has two pending bills related to police reform and oversight. These bills make changes both to OPC and the PCB. The Board will be kept informed of any movement on these proposals. There is a hearing on October 21, 2021 for the bill introduced by Chairman Mendelson, and Mr. Tobin will be testifying. Emergency policing legislation is still in effect.

Policy recommendation on Marijuana Trained Drug Detection Canines was published on July 8, 2021.

OPC staff members have been and will continue to attend Professional Development Training at the MPD Academy along with MPD officers. Training topics include duty to intervene and officer discretion.

Staff updates:

Marke Cross has been promoted to the Special Assistant/Legal Counsel position effective September 27, 2021

In-office internships have resumed for the fall semester. There is one legal intern and three investigative interns who have all started within the past few weeks.

Dismissal schedule has been updated to add Mr. Fowlkes in starting in October.

Investigations:

Ms. Andrews presented the Investigation statistics.

It looks like FY21 will have a slight decrease in cases from FY20- down about 2.5% (about 20 cases). FY21 ends September 30, 2021.

Questions:

Mr. Ashton asked why are more cases being referred to MPD for 90 days or jurisdiction in FY21 compared to FY20, is this a trend? Mr. Tobin responded these are mostly jurisdictionally issues. but that any further pattern has not emerged yet. Ms. Andrews added that they may be higher now that MPD is sending referrals to OPC, as required by the NEAR Act, but they are not in OPC's jurisdiction, so they get referred back to MPD. Some examples are: masks compliance by officers, failure to take a report, anonymous complaints and non-eyewitness complaints.

Mr. Ashton requested that the Board continue to keep an eye on this trend line.

VI. New Business

Staff introductions

Ms. Strang requested an update on agency goal setting and progress by Mr. Tobin. An executive session will be held at the next Board meeting for this discussion, which will be a year from the renewal of Mr. Tobin's contract.

VII. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Ms. Strang moved to adjourn the meeting, and Asst. Chief Kane seconded. It was then unanimously approved by all members. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:35 pm. The next Board meeting will be held on November 18, 2021.

Minutes prepared by Deputy Executive Director, Alicia Yass