

**POLICE COMPLAINTS BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

Meeting Date & Time: Monday, January 7, 2008
6:30 p.m.

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

PCB Members Present:

- Kurt Vorndran, Chair
- Assistant Chief Patrick Burke (6:45 p.m.)
- Karl M. Fraser
- Victor I. Prince

PCB Members Absent:

- Margaret Moore

OPC Staff Present:

- Philip K. Eure, Executive Director
- Thomas E. Sharp, Deputy Director
- Nicole Porter, Special Assistant

Members of the Public Present:

- Officer Kristopher Bauman, Fraternal Order of Police
- Sergeant Delroy Burton, Fraternal Order of Police

Meeting Agenda:

I. Call to Order

Mr. Vorndran called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

II. Review and Adoption of Minutes from November 5, 2007 PCB Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes from the November 5, 2007, meeting.

Mr. Prince made a motion to adopt the minutes as written, which was seconded by Mr. Fraser.

Vote: 3 Yes (Vorndran, Fraser, and Prince)

III. Caseload Statistics

Mr. Sharp updated the Board on the agency's progress in completing cases. He stated that that the agency's progress at this point in the fiscal year is similar to last year's, and that the agency's overall number of open cases continues to go down.

IV. Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Report

Mr. Eure informed the Board that the agency's annual report would be issued by the end of January. Mr. Eure indicated that the Board had been given a copy of the draft report in its materials, and he asked the Board to get back to OPC staff by the close of business on Monday, January 14, with any comments, changes, or corrections to the report. Mr. Eure explained to the Board who typically receives the annual report, and Mr. Sharp outlined significant changes to this year's report.

Mr. Prince asked if the agency was concerned about the slight increase in complaints received by the agency last fiscal year. Mr. Sharp stated that the agency was not concerned. The number of complaints received had been going up each year for the past few years, and last year's increase was actually much smaller than previous years. Mr. Fraser asked if the agency typically saw a spike in complaints received during MPD's All Hands On Deck (AHOD) initiatives. Mr. Sharp stated that the agency has not looked into whether there is an increase in complaints during AHOD, but informed the Board that in a few (but not all) of the previous fiscal years, the agency saw an increase in the number of complaints filed during the summer months when there are more people out and more contacts between citizens and officers.

V. Status of Reserve Officers

Mr. Eure updated Mr. Vorndran and the Board on the status of MPD reserve officers. Mr. Vorndran explained to the Board that this issue came up while he was speaking to someone who was a reserve officer, and that he had asked Mr. Eure to research whether reserve officers were covered by the agency's statute. Mr. Eure stated that MPD reserve officers are covered under the agency's jurisdiction and could be subject officers in an OPC investigation. Mr. Vorndran suggested that OPC consider looking into training for reserve officers to make sure that they are aware that they are covered under the statute.

Mr. Prince asked if there was a formal process by which the agency informs other departments that complaints have been filed against their officers. Mr. Eure stated that there was not a formal referral mechanism. He said that the agency typically does not receive very many complaints against officers from other departments, but when OPC does get those complaints, it notifies citizen about how they can contact that department to file a complaint.

VI. Community Outreach

Mr. Eure stated that he and Mr. Sharp were working with the agency's public affairs specialist, Nykisha Cleveland, about possible community outreach efforts. Mr. Fraser asked if the agency had done any advertising on cable channels in the area. Mr. Eure stated that the agency had not, but added that Ms. Cleveland was looking into doing PSA radio ads. Mr. Prince suggested that the agency look into Facebook advertising. Mr. Vorndran recommended that the agency also consider conducting outreach to college students.

VII. Personnel Issues

Mr. Eure informed the Board that the agency has a new intern starting for the spring semester. Mr. Vorndran asked if the agency had a bilingual investigator. Mr. Eure stated that the agency does not currently have anyone on its staff that is fully bilingual, but added that OPC is in the process of taking applications and trying to fill that position.

VIII. Miscellaneous

Mr. Prince asked about the status of the 2001 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) entered into by the District and the Department of Justice. Mr. Sharp stated that the monitor and the parties to the MOA had recently reached a modification of the agreement that added a date certain for the termination of the MOA. At the latest, most of the MOA will be completed in June 2008.

Mr. Vorndran recommended that the Board move its next PCB meeting date to March 10 at 6:30 p.m. The Board members present agreed with Mr. Vorndran's recommendation. Mr. Vorndran also asked whether the agency would be interested in pursuing a new option for the handling of some complaints – that is, whether the agency would consider informally counseling a subject officer when the officer is notified that a case will be closed, but there might be suggestions the office could pass on to the officer. Mr. Eure stated that that agency could look into this possibility, but added that the agency would have to review its statute to see if any revisions would be needed as a result of the change. The Board agreed to brainstorm about the issue and discuss it at the next Board meeting.

Chief Burke informed the Board that Amnesty International will be having a protest in Washington on January 11. He also informed the Board that the spring International Monetary Fund/World Bank protest would be held April 11. Chief Burke further stated that MPD had been working with the District Department of Transportation to implement some of the suggestions contained in OPC's "cell phone law" policy recommendation. Chief Burke stated that DDOT had ordered 70,000 cards that informed residents and visitors of the Distracted Driving Safety Act of 2004. The cards will go to schools and rental car companies, among other places, and MPD will help disseminate the cards. DDOT is also looking into putting reminders about the Act on variable message boards throughout the agency.

IX. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:22 p.m. PCB's next regular meeting will be on March 10, 2008.

Minutes prepared by Nicole Porter, Special Assistant.