

POLICE COMPLAINTS BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Meeting Date & Time: Tuesday, May 5, 2009
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
- Karl M. Fraser
- Victor I. Prince
- Margaret Moore (by teleconference)

PCB Members Absent:

None.

OPC Staff Present:

- Philip K. Eure, Executive Director
- Ivelisse Cruz, Deputy Director
- Kesha Taylor, Chief Investigator

Members of the Public Present:

- Jeffrey Newbold, MPD Labor Committee Representative, Fraternal Order of Police

Meeting Agenda:

I. Call to Order

Mr. Frasier called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Review and Adoption of Minutes from January 12, 2009, PCB Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes from the meeting of March 10, 2009. Mr. Frazier made a motion to adopt the March 2009 minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Moore.

Vote: 4 Yes (Burke, Fraser, Prince, and Moore)
0 No

III. Caseload Statistics

Ms. Taylor updated the Board on the agency's caseload. Ms. Moore asked if the large number of contacts affected agency resources. Ms. Taylor replied that the amount of time taken to respond to initial calls by citizens depends on several factors, but these initial contacts do not overwhelm the investigator caseload. However, OPC continually monitors investigator caseloads.

In response to Mr. Frazier's question, Ms. Taylor stated that, if OPC cannot take a complaint because the matter concerns an officer who is not a sworn officer of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) or the D.C. Housing Authority Police Department, the individual is given information to contact the appropriate independent review agency for the specific jurisdiction. Ms. Taylor added that if there is no such agency OPC refers the individual to the internal affairs division of the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Mr. Frazier asked about the processing of those complaints in which a subject officer is performing active military service. Ms. Taylor replied that the investigations in these cases are concluded upon the return of the officers to MPD.

Mr. Eure, in response to Mr. Prince's question, clarified that the agency keeps track of investigations that go over 90 days.

IV. Budget

Mr. Eure stated that the agency budget hearing occurred on April 1, 2009, and that the agency is now waiting for the Council's mark-up and budget approval.

V. Policy Recommendations

Mr. Eure stated that a report and set of recommendations related to police interaction with individuals having limited English proficiency (LEP) will soon be ready for issuance. Chief Burke stated that the U.S. Department of Justice made a recommendation to MPD regarding interactions with LEP individuals and MPD is working on drafting a general order, which is expected to be finalized by June 2009.

Chief Burke recommended that OPC contact the MPD representative who is in charge of drafting the general order.

Mr. Prince asked if the decision to issue a policy recommendation on any matter considers the costs and benefits associated with the recommendation. Mr. Eure pointed out that the decision to make a policy recommendation is not driven by a cost-benefit analysis, but rather, by whether the topic has merit. Mr. Eure stated that the subject matter for a policy recommendation may be derived from a single citizen complaint or from many complaints. He added that OPC thoroughly researches each policy recommendation.

VI. Protest Monitoring

Mr. Eure stated that the agency will probably issue a report of the planned protest of the spring 2009 meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

VII. Annual Report

Mr. Eure noted that the annual report should be ready to send to the printers by May 15, 2009.

VIII. Personnel

Mr. Eure stated that the first of the three college interns would be starting at the end of the month.

IX. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting went into executive session at 7:30 and was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m. PCB's next regular meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on September 14, 2009.

Minutes prepared by Ivelisse Cruz, Deputy Director.