

AGENDA
Baltimore City Civilian Review Board
REGULAR MEETING
April 26, 2022
Place: Enabled by Zoom
6:00-8:00 pm

I. Welcome & call to order

- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District
- Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District
- Tyler Salley, Southeastern District
- Mel Currie, Southwestern District
- George Buntin, Western District
- Amy Cruice, ACLU
- Mariel Shutinya, CRB Supervisor
- John Wesley, OECR
- Lisa Kelly, OECR
- BPD Sergeant Raymond Lloyd

II. Review and approval of agenda

- Approved

III. Review and approval of minutes

- March minutes to be approved at May Meeting

IV. Director's Report

Mariel Shutinya: 15 completed investigations; 9 decisions; 1 sustained case; 15 CRB intakes; received 63 complaints from PIB; none converted to CRB complaints; staff met with Youth As Resources and is seeking approval of youth complaint forms in order to start outreach; investigators to attend Guest Reader Day at Frederick Elementary; Board held admin meeting to discuss HB991 and staff have met individually with Board members; on April 5th staff attended monthly meeting with PIB to discuss receiving disciplinary records, requested records received; Boards members are asked to complete their annual Ethics Filings.

V. New Complaints:

- A. **CRB2022-0055:** Filed 4/2/2022 alleging that on 2/4/2022 the Complainant's vehicle was pulled over for a license plate cover infraction and an identified BPD officer approached him. The Complainant provided his license and registration information. The subject officer asked the Complainant to get out of his vehicle. The Complainant asked him why, and the officer stated that he didn't feel safe around the Complainant because the Complainant was using his phone. The Complainant exited the vehicle, was handcuffed and searched. The officers asked if they could search his vehicle, the Complainant said no, but it was searched anyway. Nothing was found and the Complainant was allowed to leave. He was given a phone number to call, but when the Complainant called the number to request a report from the incident, the report couldn't be located.

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- Mel Currie, Southwestern District – CRB
- Tyler Salley, Southeastern District – CRB
- George Buntin, Western District - PIB
- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District – CRB

B. CRB2022-0061: Filed 4/2/2022 alleging harassment. The Complainant alleges that he suffered some police misconduct in an incident that occurred in 2019. The Complainant states that two officers were on the scene, one male and one female, and the male officer was the one who committed the misconduct. The Complainant stated that he made clear in his description that he had accused the male officer in his complaint, but mistakenly gave the name of the female officer. The Complainant states that the detectives assigned to his case investigated only the female officer and did not attempt to clarify which officer had been accused with the Complainant. The Complainant stated that when he made a second complaint to PIB about how the investigation was handled, the detective retaliated by coming to his public housing building and speaking to the housing manager and tenants about him, calling him a snitch and encouraging them to harass him. The Complainant stated that as a result, tenants went on to make false accusations of robbery against him, and the housing manager evicted him.

- Mel Currie, Southwestern District – CRB
- Tyler Salley, Southeastern District – CRB
- George Buntin, Western District - CRB
- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District – CRB

VII. Completed Cases:

A. CRB2021-0177: Filed 10/7/2021 against identified BPD officers for Harassment. The complaint alleges that on 5/28/2020 he was involved in a vehicle accident with one of the subject officers. In his written complaint, the Complainant stated that the officer “cut” him off hitting his right-fender when the Complainant’s headlight collided with the officer’s vehicle headlight. The Complainant alleged that the officer gave him permission to leave the scene but told the Complainant, “I have to charge you with something.” The Complainant stated that the officer gave him a ticket at the scene for Attempting to Flee a Police Officer. The Complainant alleges harassment because he claimed the officer was at fault for the accident but made false statements to the court and the Complainant’s insurance company to collect large sums of insurance settlements. On August 31, 2021, the Complainant attended traffic court and his charges were dismissed. However, as the Complainant was leaving the court, he alleges that the officer gave him three additional tickets for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, Driving Under the Influence of Drugs, and Driving While Impaired for the same accident. The Complainant believed this was also harassment because the officer did not conduct a field sobriety test at the scene of the accident. The subject officer testified that he received complaints of someone driving crazy in that area. The officer found the Complainant’s car and noticed that it was visibly damaged. BWC footage shows the subject officer driving around to block the

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Complainant in and prevent him from fleeing the scene. When the subject officer parked behind the Complainant, the Complainant then put his car in reverse subsequently hitting the officer's car. The Complainant might have been under the influence. The Complainant was questioned by the officers at the scene.

- Mel Currie, Southwestern District – Exonerated; BWC did not support the complainant's account; officer remained civil under duress
- Tyler Salley, Southeastern District – Abstain
- Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District – Not Sustained
- George Buntin, Western District - Exonerated
- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District – Exonerated

- Finding: Exonerated

B. **CRB2022-0016**: Filed 1/26/2022 alleging Harassment because police cars continuously circle the Complainant's block with sirens on, when she travels by bus she is followed, and she was assaulted by a BPD officer fifteen years ago. CRB voted to review the PIB investigative report only.

- Mel Currie, Southwestern District – Unfounded
- Tyler Salley, Southeastern District – Unfounded
- Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District – Not Sustained
- George Buntin, Western District - Unfounded
- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District – Unfounded

- Finding: Unfounded

C. **CRB2022-0001**: Filed 1/10/2022 for Harassment. The complaint alleges that the BPD is responsible for surveillance devices in his home and on his phone and tablet; the officers are also involved with gang activity. The names of the individuals the Complainant believed to be BPD officers were researched, and it was determined that none of the individuals were BPD officers. CRB voted to review the PIB investigative report only.

- Mel Currie, Southwestern District – Unfounded
- Tyler Salley, Southeastern District – Unfounded
- Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District – Unfounded
- George Buntin, Western District - Unfounded
- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District – Unfounded

- Finding: Unfounded

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- D. **CRB2021-0170**: Filed 10/20/2021 for Harassment against unidentified BPD officers. The complaint alleges that multiple unknown BPD officers have continuously harassed the Complainant since December 12, 2015. The Complainant stated that she believed that she was being harassed by BPD officers because a City Councilman's Aid advised her to collect the officers' names that were harassing her. The Complainant alleged that she has continued to experience continuous harassment even after moving to another residence. On October 28, 2021, the CRB authorized the complaint for a preliminary investigation in order to gather further information on the nature of the complaint. The Complainant was contacted via telephone and email several times over the span of six months for an initial interview, to no avail. The complaint does not provide the names of the subject officers.
- Mel Currie, Southwestern District – Admin Close CRB Investigation; NS on PIB inv
 - Tyler Salley, Southeastern District – Abstain
 - Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District – Admin Close CRB Investigation
 - George Buntin, Western District - Admin Close CRB Investigation
 - Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District – Admin Close CRB Investigation
- Finding: Admin Close CRB Investigation
- E. **CRB2021-0158**: Compliant filed 9/25/2021 against an identified BPD officer for Harassment and Abusive Language. The complaint alleges that on 9/24/2021 the Complainant was awoken by loud music being blared at 1:15 AM. The Complainant went over to the house and asked them to turn down the music, but the female homeowner refused, stating that she was a Baltimore City police officer and she didn't have to turn the music down. The Complainant stated that he then forcibly turned down the speaker, at which point the male homeowner pointed a gun at him and told him to leave, and another male came out of the home and got in his face, threatening to beat him. The Complainant stated that when he called the police, the subject officer arrived, but did not appear to take the matter seriously, refusing to comply with the Complainant's request to collect the information of the people inside the house so that he could seek a restraining order. The Complainant stated that he requested that a supervisor be dispatched to the scene, and when the supervisor arrived, the subject officer mocked and laughed at the Complainant while he was speaking to the supervisor. The Complainant alleged that his concerns were given disparate treatment because the neighbor who he called to complain about was a Baltimore City police officer, and because he is Black and the neighbors are Latino. The supervisor escorted the Complainant to the neighbor's house, and with the neighbors' permission, the Complainant was permitted to pick out the individual who threatened him. The neighbor offered to allow the BPD officers to search her home for firearms, but the officers declined. The officers just collected the identification information from everyone at the neighbor's home.

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- Mel Currie, Southwestern District – Not sustained; there was not sufficient evidence to sustain the complaint. Transcript of the BWC did not indicate harassment or abusive language.
 - Tyler Salley, Southeastern District – Not sustained; Didn't see much that meets the CRB statutory definitions; felt the officer's description of the neighbors was rude. Would like to provide additional resources to the Complainant. Believes the officer should receive training with regards to his description of the people in the house as "yellow".
 - Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District – Not sustained; Information does not support allegations against this complainant. Agree with recommendations regarding recommendations and resources
 - George Buntin, Western District – Not sustained
 - Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District – Not sustained; Agree with recommendations regarding recommendations
 - Finding: Not sustained; training recommended for officer
- F. **CRB2021-0157**: Complaint filed 9/16/2021 against an identified BPD officer for Harassment. It is alleged that on August 16, 2021, the subject officer neglected his duties by not providing a report to the Complainant. On 8/16/2021, the Complainant was at the Criminal Injury Compensation Board office he encountered officers against which the Complainant filed previous complaints. The Complainant was harassed because he was forced out of a state government building by a security guard. The subject officer responded to the location because the Complainant called 911 in reference to the dispute with the security guard. The Complainant asked the subject officer for a report number regarding the security officer, but he was not provided a report. The Complainant was advised to file a complaint with the security guard's supervisor.
- Mel Currie, Southwestern District – Unfounded; Officer responded appropriately by deferring to building security.
 - Tyler Salley, Southeastern District – Unfounded
 - Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District – Unfounded
 - George Buntin, Western District - Unfounded
 - Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District – Unfounded
 - Finding: Unfounded

VIII. Disciplinary Recommendations

- G. **CRB2021-0078**: Filed 12/2/2021 against an identified BPD officer for False Arrest, False Imprisonment, and Harassment. The complaint alleges that on 7/25/2021 the Complainant was at work when the subject officer entered her workplace and asked for her name and birthday. The Complainant alleged that before she could verify her identity, the subject officer grabbed her right arm and immediately handcuffed her. As

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she was being handcuffed, the Complainant stated that the officer and another unknown officer again asked her to provide her name. The Complainant provided her full name along with her birthday. During this interaction, the Complainant alleged that the officer failed to advise her of the reason behind her arrest. After the Complainant was escorted by the officer out of the establishment in handcuffs, a third officer advised the Complainant that there was a warrant out for her arrest. When the Complainant asked to see the warrant, the Complainant alleged that the subject officer did not have it. The third officer advised the Complainant that she was under arrest because BPD received an anonymous complainant from a civilian that there was a warrant out for the Complainant's arrest. The officer told the Complainant that anyone can call in anonymously and report that someone has a warrant. The Complainant stated that she was handcuffed for 15 minutes as the subject officer continued to call Baltimore City and Towson to validate the warrant.

- Mel Currie, Southwestern District – 5-day suspension; Middle Letter of Reprimand
- Tyler Salley, Southeastern District – 3-day suspension; Middle Letter of Reprimand
- Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District – 5-day suspension; Severe Letter of Reprimand
- George Buntin, Western District - 2-day suspension; Severe Letter of Reprimand
- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District – 4-day suspension; Middle Letter of Reprimand

- Finding: 4-day suspension; Middle Letter of Reprimand

IX. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

X. Old Business

CRB Board members voted to approve the form designed by Youth as Resources to be acceptable as a CRB complaint form. Mel Currie moved for approval, George Buntin seconded, and all were in favor. The Youth as Resources complaint form was approved.

CRB Legislation Update Next Steps

- Board members sent a letter to Judge Bredar but have not yet heard back.
- Chair Hawkes has also spoken to different press outlets, and will add the letter to the CRB social media if the Board approves. Mel Currie stated that he would approve.
- Chair Hawkes was on the PAB call for Baltimore County, and the atmosphere was generally contentious, noted strong opposition.
- Chair Hawkes spoke to Davon Love from Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle about legislation for next year. As of now, the legislation has been introduced to City Council.

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- Natalie Novak suggested meeting with City Council members individually to discuss legislation and police oversight in Baltimore. She also suggests community forums, but process may be moving too fast. She also suggests drafting a letter to Mayor Scott asking him to move forward on filling vacant Board seats.
- Mel Currie suggests Board members reach out to their individual councilmembers and provide them with the letter sent to Judge Bredar.
- Chair Hawkes will send the finalized letter to the Board members.
- Amy Cruice suggests that it will be easier to influence legislation before it is drafted. She stated it was important to speak individually to Council members to discuss votes. Suggests discussing amendments to the present bill.
- Tyler Salley also suggests meeting with the City Council President, and asked Tiera to draft a letter to him requesting a meeting.
- Chair Hawkes requested that everyone contact their councilperson by this time next week.

XI. New Business

CRB was awarded the 2022 Outstanding Service Award and will be honored by For Kathy's Sake at their Sixth Annual Advocacy Brunch on May 7th at 10AM.

Tyler Salley is relocating to Philadelphia this summer and will be leaving the CRB, most likely in the latter half of June. Chair Hawkes is concerned about the lack of quorum and would like to see the positions filled.

Tyler Salley also wanted to recognize John Milton Wesley from OECR for his participation in the Stoop Stories Series and sharing his experiences.

XII. Adjournment