

C I V I L I A N R E V I E W B O A R D
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

August 1, 2019

Present at the meeting were Civilian Review Board members Bridal Pearson (Northern), Ebony Harvin (Southern District), Betty Robinson (Northeastern), Fed Jackson (Northwestern District) and Marcus Nole via phone (Eastern District).

Also present were:

Clarine Henderson, Investigator
Tiffany Jones, Investigator
Amy Cruice, ACLU
John Wesley, Public Information Officer
Raemon Parrott, Deputy Director
Kobi Little, NAACP
Cedric McCray, Deputy Director

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Pearson welcomed called meeting to order at 1:05PM.

II. Closing Statement from the July 18, 2019 Executive Session

Chair Pearson read the following details from the last closed session.

Time of closed session: 6:29 PM

Place: 7 E Redwood Street, 9th floor Baltimore MD 21202

Purpose(s): To review body worn camera footage for case CRB2019-0020

Members who voted to meet in closed session: Mel Currie, Marcus Nole, Fred Jackson, Ebony Harvin

Persons attending closed session: Mel Currie, Marcus Nole, Fred Jackson, Ebony Harvin

Authority under § 3-305 for the closed session: § 3-305 (b)(13)

Topics actually discussed: None- Footage Reviewed

Actions taken: None- Footage Reviewed

Each recorded vote: N/A

III. Term Expirations

Board members reviewed the current term limits and seats up for expiration. Director Ingram asked that those who were interested in reappointment let him know. Betty Robinson recommended that new members be informed of their term expirations upon their appointment. Director Ingram noted that this would be added to the rules and regulations. Betty

Robinson, Fred Jackson and Bridal Pearson stated that they would stay until their replacements were found, but would not seek reappointment. Bridal Pearson noted that he would like someone else to take his place as chair, so that he could consult with them and support them for continuity. Chair Pearson clarified that the role of the chair is to work with the director to develop a leadership focus for the team, serve as the Board's spokesperson, and support legislative improvements.

Director Ingram noted that new application for Board members had been received, reviewed, ranked, and sent to the Mayor's office for approval. He noted that he would clarify the timeline and report back to the Board. He noted that the council would need to approve the nominations. Chair Pearson asked if the Board could play a role in vetting candidates, and Director Ingram noted that he would provide the applications for their review. Rev. Kobi Little asked if there was an existing standard operating procedure for this process, and Director Ingram stated that there were not, but that bylaws were in the process of being drafted.

VI. Introduction to the CRB Liaison

Board members were introduced to retired officer Lous Tomaschko, the newly hired CRB liaison. Major Lansey advised that they were working on completing the PIB investigations manual, which would include a much more stringent timeline, meaning the Board could expect cases much sooner. Major Lansey noted that they would provide the investigative manual to CRB staff for feedback, and would be providing training to CRB and PIB staff at the Roger Williams Institute in the upcoming months. She stated that Mr. Tomaschko would be assisting Sgt. Lloyd in terms of ensuring that CRB has the information needed.

VII. Standard Operating Procedures and Bylaws

Director Ingram noted that an intern was distilling best practices from other NACOLE agencies and working with Amy Cruice to develop the framework. He noted that it would be provided to the Board for feedback and eventual ratification. Rev. Kobi Little noted that they would also need to assess staffing needs. Director Ingram stated that they were working on gathering data based on outreach, which would allow them to do an assessment.

VIII. New Leadership in BPD/Meeting with Commissioner Harrison

Director Ingram noted that he was trying to coordinate this meeting. Chair Pearson suggested that Board write a letter to the Commissioner requesting a meeting, and George Buntin offered to create the first draft.

IX. New Leadership over Office of Civil Rights/Meeting with Kim Morton

Director Ingram noted that they had requested a meeting with Ms. Morton, and that he would follow up.

X. Development of MOU to Retain Independent Counsel

Director Ingram noted that Deputy Director Parrott had done some research to work towards having independent counsel, but that ultimately the Mayor and City Solicitor would have to approve the measure, and that the Board of Estimate would need to authorize the cost, based on the City Charter. Mel Currie was concerned because he felt that Solicitor would not agree that there was a conflict. Amy Cruice was concerned that they could not engage a lawyer to issue a legal opinion. Rev. Kobi Little noted that they would also need to also explore what the law says about CRB, noting that it also needs an independent director. Chair Pearson noted that they should continue to discuss this in a separate meeting.

XI. Consent Decree Update

Jill Muth noted that the CRB/OPR protocol was being implemented and the Unified Complaint form was in use. Director Ingram noted that Year 3 of the implementation would include policies for the cradle to grave process of case review, including the Board's interaction with the Commissioner.

XII. Violence Reduction/ Community Policing Ideas

Danielle Crawley explained the purpose of the Violence Reduction Initiative Meetings, and Director Ingram encouraged Board members to brainstorm VRI/Community policing suggestions. Rev. Kobi Little noted that they would need to reframe the questions and identify social, political and economic issues contributing to violence, and focus on peacebuilding. Director Ingram noted that staff was working on a civil rights strategic plan, which they would send for review in the near future.

I. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Muth