

AGENDA
Baltimore City Civilian Review Board
REGULAR MEETING
December 21, 2022
Place: Enabled by Zoom
6:00-8:00 pm

I. Welcome & call to order

- Mel Currie, Southwestern District
- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District
- Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District
- Mariel Shutinya, CRB Supervisor
- Nicole Chang - NAACP

II. Review and approval of agenda

III. Review and approval of minutes

- October 2022
- November 2022

IV. Director's Report

- Mariel Shutinya, CRB Supervisor - 34 completed investigations; 26 disciplinary recommendations; closed 25 cases; 81 CRB intakes; 234 notifications from PIB; only 1 was converted to CRB statutory compliance (trying to figure out why); mayor's office will be posting an ad for the CRB openings; bylaws still open for public comment, no comments yet.

V. New Complaints:

VI. Completed Cases:

- A. **CRB2022-0067/PIB2022-0909:** Filed on 5/23/2022 against an identified BPD officer for Abusive Language. The Complainant alleges that on May 18, 2022, at 12:25 am, the subject officer arrived at the Complainant's ex-boyfriend's house to answer a domestic assault call. The Complainant stated that she called the police to the home after the ex-boyfriend had placed his hands on the back of her neck and attempted to drag the Complainant out of his home and onto the front porch. When the officers arrived, the Complainant stated that the ex-boyfriend yelled and cursed at the officers. The Complainant said that she walked off the porch towards the officers crying with one shoe on, no jacket, a purse and her cell phone. The Complainant alleged abusive language because she stated that she advised the subject officer that she wanted to go home but the officer was aggressive and loud when speaking to her, but the officer was calm when speaking to the ex-boyfriend. The officer kept asking her the same question over and over, which was why she didn't leave the ex-boyfriend's property. The Complainant then attempted to speak with the other officer, but the subject officer kept interrupting them, even after she stated that she didn't want to speak with the subject officer because he was speaking in an aggressive manner. The Complainant further alleged that the subject officer refused to acknowledge the bruises from the assault, he kept asking, "where are your bruises?" The Complainant stated that she felt demeaned and disrespected by the subject officer when he denied that she was assaulted by her ex-boyfriend. The officers' BWC footage captured the incident. The BWC shows the subject officer claimed that he didn't

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see any bruises on the Complainant and denied that the Complainant had bruises anywhere. BWC footage appears to show that the subject officer did not initiate an investigation before responding to the Complainant. The footage shows that the Complainant, dressed only in a bra, refused her request for a jacket to cover herself up.

- Mel Currie, Southwestern – already voted
 - Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern – vote is Not Sustained, seems more like conduct unbecoming of an officer
 - Vote: Not Sustained
- B. **CRB2022-0142/2022-1382:** Filed 8/26/22 for harassment against an identified BPD officer. The Complainant alleges that she called for assistance on 7/10/22 due to the fact that her son, who has a mental illness, got into an aggressive altercation with other family members. The Complainant alleges that the officers told her that she could file charges if she wanted to, and she stated she did not want to take out charges on her son. The Complainant stated that she later discovered that the officer had charged her son with Second Degree Assault without her knowledge. She felt that this was discriminatory because of her son's disability, and because BPD was supposed to be taking measures to be able to assist people in mental health crises in accordance with the Consent Decree. The Complainant was upset because the officer filed charges for assault without telling her, rather than providing her son resources for mental health.
- Mel Currie, Southwestern – officer might have talked to superiors and found out that they had to charge because the allegations were assault with a weapon, so charges were filed.
 - Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern – seemed to be proper process for someone in a mental health crisis; nothing usually comes of these kinds of charges in court, they are often dismissed.
 - Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern – officers provided several choices to the witnesses, offered to help how they could, went to find the Complainant on the streets and walked him home, but had to file charges based on facts the witnesses gave him
 - Vote: Not Sustained
- C. **CRB2022-0073/2022-1017:** Filed 5/31/22 against two named BPD officers for harassment. The Complainant alleges that she called officers to assist with a customer at the restaurant where she worked, because he was upset about a price dispute and was refusing to leave the drive thru area. The Complainant stated that when the officers arrived, they refused to help her with the situation and instead joined the man in disputing the price. The Complainant stated that one of the officers spoke Spanish, but refused to communicate with her in Spanish even though she was having trouble communicating in English. The Complainant stated that the officers also unnecessarily harassed her employee for not having ID while she was working. The Complainant stated that during the interaction, the officers were rude to her and laughed at her.

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- Mel Currie, Southwestern - officers showed up and made the situation worse, telling the Complainant how to do her job, and then threatening to file charges for larceny and questions why she doesn't have her ID on her.
 - Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern –it was inappropriate behavior, threatened the Complainant with possible arrest and intimidated about immigration status, Sustain for Harassment.
 - Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern - the customer is always right, but in this case the customer and officers took it too far; the officers were called to get the customer to leave and the officers didn't do that; Sustain for Harassment
 - Vote: Sustained for Harassment against both officers
- D. **CRB2022-0069/PIB 2022-1033**: Filed on 5/24/2022 against four named BPD officers for excessive force. The Complainant stated that on Saturday, May 21, 2022, the police maced her after an altercation she had outside with multiple other people. The Complainant stated that she asked the police to loosen the handcuffs and shackles that were placed on her, but the officers ignored her request. The Complainant stated that she has photos of the bruises left from the handcuffs being too tight. In addition, the Complainant alleges excessive force because she was “thrown around on the ground everywhere” by the police. The Complainant also said that the officers pushed her face into the concrete leaving a bruise. After the incident, the Complainant said that she was taken to central booking and released the next day.
- Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern - does the BWC show her being thrown around or face pushed into the ground?
 - Mariel Shutinya, CRB Supervisor - No, it does not show that. The scene is very chaotic and many people appear to be heavily intoxicated; the Complainant is still resisting after she is detained; hard to tell from the BWC how tight the handcuffs are, the BWC shows the officers being gentle when the Complainant is cuffed even while the Complainant was still resisting.
 - Nicole Chang - NAACP – could the Complainant have sustained some of these injuries during the fight? Does the BWC show any force used during the arrest?
 - Mariel Shutinya, CRB Supervisor – BWC does not show excessive force, officers gave several verbal warnings before they did anything, gently crossed the Complainant's feet even though she was still kicking them; unclear where the bruises came from.
 - Vote: Not Sustained for all officers for Excessive Force
- E. **CRB2022-0106/PIB 2022-1137** : Filed on 6/15/2022 against a named BPD officer for false imprisonment. The Complainant stated that on October 23, 2021, he was sitting in his vehicle outside of a local grocery store when an officer approached his vehicle and accused him of illegal taxi driving, commonly known as “hacking.” The Complainant informed the officers that he was hacking the day before, but on this day, he was sitting in his vehicle, parked waiting for his wife. The officer asked the Complainant for his license and registration. The Complainant refused to comply because he believed he done nothing wrong. The Complainant claims that the officer told him to “step out of the vehicle or be dragged out.” The Complainant stated that he stepped out of his vehicle and was

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immediately handcuffed by the officer. After an hour, the Complainant stated that he was released by the officer and given citations for refusing to provide his ID and driving with a suspended license. The Complainant alleges false imprisonment because he believes that there was no reason for him to be handcuffed.

- Mel Currie, Southwestern - the Complainant was asked to leave the private property and the Complainant refused; store owner said they have a contract with specific taxi company, which the Complainant did not work for.
- Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern – the Complainant admitted he had been hacking the day before in the same location; the officer asked him to leave several times before the Complainant was detained
- Nicole Chang – NAACP - was there any credibility that he was waiting for his wife? If you are operating a vehicle, you should have an ID. If the Complainant was threatening people the day before at the same location, can understand why this occurred.
- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern - the officer talked to the Complainant and said the owner said the Complainant threatened people with a gun the day before. So the officer asked him for his ID and the Complainant said “No,” so at that point, it kind of negated the idea that he was waiting for his wife; sounds like he caused a situation the day before and maybe they were trying to avoid another situation.
- Mel Currie, Southwestern - Complainant did not have a valid license; the Complainant wasn’t focusing on waiting for his wife, he talked more about the hacking; he could have parked somewhere else or circled a few times if he was waiting for his wife.
- Vote: Not Sustained for False Imprisonment

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Old Business

- CRB bylaws – posted 12/1/22 for 30 days for public comment

X. New Business

XI. Adjournment