Baltimore City Civilian Review Board

REGULAR MEETING

February 16, 2022 Place: Enabled by Cisco WebEx 6:00-8:00 pm

I. Welcome & call to order

- o Mel Currie, Southwestern District
- o Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District
- o Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District
- Levi Zaslow, Northwestern District
- o Mariel Shutinya, CRB Supervisor
- o Lisa Kelly
- o Tiffany Jones, CRB Investigator
- o Caylin Young, OECR, Deputy Director
- Sergeant Lloyd, PIB

II. Review and approval of agenda

III. Review and approval of minutes

• January 2022 - Approved

IV. Director's Report

• Mariel Shutinya - 4 completed investigations, 4 closed cases; received 19 complaints from PIB; received several time-barred or out of jurisdiction complaints; will meet with PIB on 3/1/22; on 2/1/22 met with PIB and discussed mediation option; next week CRB, PIB and Baltimore Community Mediation Center will meet about the mediation option; PIB has agreed that when we sustain an allegation they will allow us to review the subject officer's prior disciplinary file; youth group will have a complaint form for the SRO and a second form for other schools/officers, it will come to the CRB for a vote soon; received feedback from Monitoring Team for Q1 and Q2 reports and CRB made edits to the reports and will send it back to them; wrapping up Q3 and Q4 reports; switching to Zoom next week for closed captioning; ethics filing is due soon.

V. New Complaints:

- A. CRB2022-0016: Filed 1/26/2022 alleging Harassment because police cars continuously circle the Complainant's block with sirens on.
- Mel Currie, Southwestern District PIB Investigation
- Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District PIB Investigation
- Levi Zaslow, Northwestern District PIB Investigation
- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District PIB Investigation
- B. CRB2022-0014: Filed 1/18/2022 stating that the Complainant was sideswiped by another car, which turned into an altercation where the other driver pulled a gun on the Complainant. During the altercation, the driver tells the Complainant he is a police officer. The driver used abusive language throughout the confrontation.

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- Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District CRB Investigation
- Mel Currie, Southwestern District CRB Investigation
- Levi Zaslow, Northwestern District CRB Investigation
- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District CRB Investigation
- C. CRB2022-0008: Filed 1/18/2022 alleging that on 8/9/2021 his child's mother entered his home through a window with bags of clothes. The Complainant asked her to leave the house, she refused, so the Complainant threw the bags outside. The Complainant wanted to call the police, but his phone was dead. The police showed up anyway. The Complainant asked the police to make the woman leave, but instead the police asked the Complainant what his name was and if they could search him for weapons; he refused. The woman then told the officers a name for the Complainant, which was not his real name. The Complainant did not correct her. The Complainant then talked with the officers about an alleged assault regarding the woman. The Complainant is then arrested for assault. One of the officers was aggressive in handling the Complainant.
- Mel Currie, Southwestern District CRB Investigation
- Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District CRB Investigation
- Levi Zaslow, Northwestern District CRB Investigation
- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District CRB Investigation

VI. Completed Cases:

- A. CRB2021-0194: Filed 11/23/2021 for Excessive Force. The complaint alleges that on 2/27/2021 the Complainant was arrested in Baltimore County and taken to the hospital for injuries. At the hospital, two BPD officers were present. The Complainant alleges that the BPD officers encouraged hospital staff to draw his blood and medicate him against his will. The BPD officers gave false information to the hospital regarding where his injuries came from, which impacted the medications he was given. Report indicates that there were no BPD officers involved.
- All Vote for administrative closure; no officers are within our jurisdiction.
- B. CRB2021-0143: Files 12/15/2021 against an identified BPD officer for Abusive Language. The complaint alleges that on 2/16/2021 the subject officer executed a search warrant on her property during which the officer refused to talk to her lawyer and threatened to continue to come back to the home if he didn't get to speak to her daughters. When the Complainant asked for a copy of the search warrant, she was provided a Sealing Order instead. The officer attempted to interview a minor without consent or representation. PIB provided body-worn camera footage of the search warrant execution.
- Mel Currie, Southwestern District
 – BWC did not show facts to support the allegation;
 Vote: Not Sustain

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- Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District the BWC transcript includes the officer telling the Complainant, "be a mom" "girls are out of control;" which is unprofessional but does not raise to Abusive Language; Vote: Not Sustain.
- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District the officer was being persistent in his communication with the Complainant, but BWC does not show Abusive Language; Vote: Not Sustain
- Levi Zaslow, Northwestern District can't say from the information we have here that the burden for Abusive Language has been met; Vote: Not Sustain
- C. CRB2021-0125: Complaint filed 7/22/2021 against an identified BPD officer for Abusive Language and Excessive Force. The complaint alleges that on 7/8/2021 several unknown officers of the BPD and paramedics were called to the Complainant's home. It was reported that the Complainant was trapped inside of his vehicle and needed assistance to get out. The Complainant stated that he was sitting inside of his Range Rover attempting to fix the car's kill-switch. He was unable to do so, which effectively locked him inside of the car. The Complainant stated that he called the police for assistance as well as the front desk official inside his apartment building. The Complainant alleged that when the subject officer and other officers of the BPD arrived at the scene, they "unnecessarily" smashed the Complainant's vehicle windows. The Complainant alleged excessive force because he said that the subject officer and other officers "dragged" him out of his vehicle. The Complainant alleged abusive language because he said that the subject officer and other officers at the scene were disrespectful and racist towards him. The body-worn camera footage shows that upon the BPD officers' arrival, the Complainant was trapped inside of his Range Rover and the windshield on the Complainant's vehicle was already shattered. According to the conversation captured on the BWC among the officers, civilian witnesses inside of the Complainant's apartment building witnessed the Complainant smashing his vehicle's windshield with his head. In an attempt to extricate the Complainant, an officer smashed the driver side window of the vehicle with his baton as the Complainant sat in the back seat. The Complainant stated the vehicle did not possess lock buttons on the inside. Ultimately, the officers called the medics and fire department to the scene. The fire department stated that they would have to remove the door off the Complainant's vehicle to safely remove him. As the firemen approached the vehicle to remove the door, the Complainant tossed the vehicle keys outside of the broken windshield at the officers. The officers were noticeably confused at the Complainant's behavior. When the officers were able to unlock the back door they removed the Complainant from the vehicle and the Complainant walked to the ambulance.
- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District this could have been a mental health situation; Vote: Exonerated for Excessive Force; Not Sustained for Abusive Language
- Mel Currie, Southwestern District Vote: Exonerated for Excessive Force; Not Sustained for Abusive Language
- Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District Vote: Exonerated for Excessive Force; Not Sustained for Abusive Language

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- Levi Zaslow, Northwestern District Vote: Exonerated for Excessive Force; Not Sustained for Abusive Language
- D. CRB2020-0047: Complaint filed 8/1/2021 against an identified BPD officer for False Arrest. The complaint alleges that on 6/19/2021 the Complainant called the police to report trespassing, but the police gave the keys to his property to the trespasser. Bodyworn camera shows that when the officers arrived on the scene, the Complainant reported that there were trespassers on his property trying to break in. Upon the officers' arrival, the property manager was also present. The property manager informed the officers that the Complainant had broken into the building and changed the locks. The subject officer was not surprised at the property manager's accusation and informed him that the Complainant had broken into several other properties around the city and changed the locks on the owners. The property manager stated that the Complainant had broken into this property before. An officer called the State's Attorney Office to see if he should arrest the Complainant. The SAO advised that the officers should arrest the Complainant; further, the property manager wanted to press charges. The Complainant was arrested. Because the Complainant had changed the locks, he was the individual who let the officers into the property. Complainant also stated that he filed a complaint with PIB but did not receive a response from PIB.
- Mel Currie, Southwestern District Vote: Exonerated
- Mariel Shutinya multiple attempts were made to reach the Complainant for an interview.
- Levi Zaslow, Northwestern District checked SDAT, which confirmed the BWC footage, the Complainant appears to be trespasser based on the info we have; Vote: Exonerated
- Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District the Complainant has done this before at this address and police say the Complainant has done it other places, as well; Vote: Exonerated
- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District Vote: Exonerated

VII. Public Comment

VIII. Old Business

• Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District – Baltimore City House Delegation is this Friday; March 1, 2022, is the House Judiciary Committee; Tiera will provide testimony at the hearings; press conference scheduled for this weekend.

IX. New Business

X. Adjournment