

AGENDA
Baltimore City Civilian Review Board
REGULAR MEETING
June 22, 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
- Levi Zaslow, Northwestern District
- George Buntin, Western District
- Mariel Shutinya, CRB Supervisor
- Lisa Kelly, OECR
- Amy Cruice, ACLU
- Sergeant Lloyd, PIB
- John M. Wesley, OECR

II. Review and approval of agenda

- Approved

III. Review and approval of minutes

- March 2022 – Approved

IV. Director's Report

V. New Complaints:

- A. **CRB2022-0072:** Complaint alleges that on 3/10/21 officers raided his home, during which they did not find anything illegal and confiscated a large sum of money that they did not report. On 10/8/2021, officers again raided his apartment, did not find anything illegal and again confiscated a large amount of money, which they did not report on the inventory list. The Complainant was also charged with attempted murder, even though the evidence did not support the charges and the victim reported that it was someone else. The Complainant is currently charged with a shooting, but there is no evidence to support the charge.

- Mel Currie, Southwestern: CRB
- Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern: CRB
- Levi Zaslow, Northwestern: CRB
- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern: CRB
- George Buntin, Western: CRB

- B. Threat made at a community meeting and other threats by the officer.

- Mel Currie, Southwestern: CRB
- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern: CRB
- Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern: CRB
- Levi Zaslow, Northwestern: CRB

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- George Buntin, Western: CRB

VI. Completed Cases:

- A. **CRB2022-0014 PIB2022-0083:** Filed 1/18/2022 against an identified BPD officer for Harassment and Excessive Force. The complaint alleges that on 1/18/2022 he was driving his vehicle when he was almost sideswiped by a grey Ford F150. The Complainant yelled to the driver asking why he almost hit his car. The other driver gestured towards the Complainant, the Complainant returned the gesture and then the driver pulled up behind the Complainant. At that point, the Complainant exited his vehicle and he approached the driver's vehicle asking the driver "What's up? You have a problem with me? You almost hit me." The other driver responded by pulling a gun out and then showing the Complainant a BPD polo shirt and saying that he was a police officer. The subject officer was also verbally abusive throughout the encounter.
- Mel Currie, Southwestern: not excessive force; two people who both contributed to a road rage incident.
 - Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern: Officer pulled out his gun and then showed his badge, he should have showed his badge first, before pulling out his firearm; not sure if it rises to Excessive Force or Harassment but does show problems with how officers behave.
 - Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern: the Officer violated BPD policies regarding when to attempt to deescalate and when officers (on duty or off duty) are permitted to point a gun at someone, but maybe not be within the CRB statutory definition; Not Sustained for both allegations.
 - George Buntin, Western: Not Sustained for both allegations
 - Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern: Not Sustained for both allegations, but wants to send letter that it was conduct unbecoming of an officer.
- B. **CRB2022-0002:** Filed 12/30/2021 for Excessive Force against an identified BPD officer. On or about 3/23/2021, the Complainant was arrested by the BPD, during which he was injured. The Complainant was laying on the floor when the officers entered the home and arrested him. They grabbed and picked him up, instead of asking him to stand up on his own. The Complainant suffers from sciatica which was exacerbated during the arrest because the officers aggressively grabbed him which injured his left leg even though he notified the officers about his injury. During the arrest, his personal property was confiscated and he has tried to contact the detective who investigated the case to get the property returned, but he has not been successful. The Complainant believes the investigating detective is biased against Black people.
- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern: BWC footage did not support the allegations; officers talked to Complainant about it, helped him get into positions that were better for his back, asked if he wanted to sit down, officers showed concern for his situation; Not Sustained.
 - Mel Currie, Southwestern: officers helped him get up off the floor, they showed concern for his injury; Not Sustained.

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- Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern: Not Sustained
 - George Buntin, Western: Not Sustained
- C. **CRB2021-0190/PIB 2021-1543:** Filed 11/28/2021 for Excessive Force, Abusive Language and Harassment against three identified BPD officers. On 11/10/2021, the Complainant was involved in a car accident and when BPD officers arrived to the scene, one of the subject officers used inappropriate communication with the Complainant while the Complainant was fully compliant with the officers. The Complainant was taken to the hospital to be treated for injuries. After the accident, the Complainant's car was towed and the tow truck driver called the officers to notify them that a firearm was found in the car. Upon her release from the hospital, the Complainant was grabbed by three officers who intended to arrest her for the firearm. The Complainant notified the officers that she is an abuse survivor and requested that she not be touched. The officers grabbed and touched her anyway. For instance, the Complainant alleged that one of the officers placed his penis on her and would not remove himself from her even after she repeatedly told him that she was sexually molested. The BWC shows the Complainant repeatedly telling one of the officers, "Get your dick off of me!" To which the officer replied, "Ok, get in the [police] car and I will." The officer also touched her shoulder in an area that was close to her breasts. The BWC appears to show that the Complainant was triggered by the only female officer at the scene, who stood by and watched the officer touch the Complainant inappropriately during the arrest. Several times the Complainant asked for the other two male officers to intervene, but they stood by and allowed it to continue. The Complainant repeatedly asked the officers not to touch her and to call her mother because she was scared. The officers refused to call her mother at that time. The situation escalated and the Complainant began showing symptoms of a mental health crisis, which were not taken into account by the officers. Further, she was arrested in a manner that did not consider the injuries from the car accident. Finally, the officers would not tell her why she was being arrested.
- Levi Zaslow, Northwestern: would like to see the BWC before he votes.
 - Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern: moves to table the case and schedule an executive meeting to watch the BWC; motion carries.
- D. **CRB2021-0184/PIB 2021-1536:** Complaint filed 11/12/2021 for Harassment against two identified BPD officers. The complainant alleges that on 11/4/2021 the Complainant was driving on Wilkins Ave. when she saw a group of people in the street. She wasn't sure what the group of people were doing in the middle of the street. A man jumped on her car and yelled for her to call the police, but others in the group yelled for her to not call the police. The Complainant pulled over to the side of the road and called the police. When officers arrived to the scene, the Complainant only spoke to them briefly before she left. She was visibly shaken by the incident. She is filing a complaint for harassment and incompetency of the police officers.
- Mel Currie, Southwestern: this complaint might not be within our jurisdiction
 - George Buntin, Western: recused himself
 - Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern: Complainant's interaction with the officers wasn't very long, did not see facts that sustain the allegation; Not Sustained

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- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern: officers mostly spoke with the victim at the incident, the Complainant said she wanted to leave shortly after the police came, did not want to talk to the police, she left the scene quickly; Not Sustained
- Mariel Shutinya, CRB Supervisor: George will review the case and send an email vote, because we don't have quorum without him.

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

- CRB2021-0158 – Complainant appealed CRB's decision
 - Case was heard in April 2022 meeting, Harassment and Abusive Language (and neglect of duty); voted to Not Sustain because not a preponderance of evidence to sustain.
 - Complainant: CRB did not take into account all of the facts; the votes were not valid and we did not understand the definition of harassment. Police in the Western District are not trained well to deal with the community; someone on the board stated that he has mental problems, which is unprofessional, would like an apology; the board didn't take it seriously.
 - George Buntin, Western: will address all of Complainant's problems; is apologetic that the incident occurred; Webster dictionary definition might differ from the legal definition we are required to use; is in agreement with the Complainant in many ways, but in this situation, the evidence did not support harassment.
 - Mel Currie, Southwestern: the central component of the complaint was neglect of duty, over which we do not have jurisdiction; there was nothing said that showed that harassment took place, we are not able to read the officer's mind. Looking at it a second time, there was not a preponderance of evidence to sustain the allegations.
 - Amy Cruice: What was the inappropriate language?
 - Mel Currie, Southwestern: one of the officers called the neighbors "yellow"
 - Complainant left the meeting
 - Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern: we will vote on it next month
 - Amy Cruice: We should have a process for how Complainant's participate in their case and/or appeal when they attend a meeting, how and when they speak, answer questions and ask questions, etc.

XI. Adjournment