

MEETING NOTES
Baltimore City Civilian Review Board
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, October 15, 2020
Place: Enabled by Cisco WebEX
6:00-8:00 pm

- I. Welcome & call to order.
 - Present
 - Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District
 - Mel Currie, Southwestern District
 - George Buntin, Western District
 - Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District
 - Levi Zaslow, Northwestern District– new board member
 - Evangula Brown, CRB Supervisor
 - Jill Muth, CRB Investigator
 - Tiffany Jones, CRB Investigator
 - Cedric McCray, Acting Director OECR
 - Amy Cruice, ACLU Representative, nonvoting board member
 - Michelle Herring, Baltimore Community Mediation Center
 - Evan

- II. Review and approval of agenda.
 - Approved unanimously

- III. Review and approval of minutes from the September 17, 2020 meeting.
 - Approved unanimously

 - Mel Currie: Moment of silence for Betty Robinson

- IV. New Complaints:
 - A. **CRB2020-0033**: Complainant’s mother filed a complaint on her son’s behalf alleging that a BPD officer arrested the Complainant based on hearsay. The arresting officer did not conduct any additional investigation and obtained an arrest warrant based solely on hearsay. The arrest took place on 9/9/2020 and the complaint was filed on 9/23/2020.
 - Complaint is expired because PIB did not transmit it to CRB in a timely fashion.
 - **Voting:**
 - Tiera Hawkes: CRB investigation
 - George Buntin: PIB investigation
 - Mel Currie: CRB investigation
 - Natalie Novak: CRB investigation
 - Levi Zaslow: abstained

 - B. **CRB2020-0036**: Complainant’s mother filed a complaint on her son’s behalf alleging that a BPD officer harasses her son at the Eagle Mart on Northern

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Parkway. In August 2020, the officer jumped out on the Complainant alleging that the officer witnessed the Complainant selling drugs and arrested the Complainant. The Complainant was released from custody the same day. In October 2020, the officer accused the Complainant of being in a gang, which caused the Complainant to be included in a search warrant. The officer's interactions with the Complainant make it seem like the officer has something personal against the Complainant.

▪ **Voting:**

- Mel Curie: CRB investigation
- George Buntin: CRB investigation
- Levi Zaslow: CRB investigation
- Natalie Novak: CRB investigation
- Tiera Hawkes: CRB investigation

C. **CRB2020-0002:** The complaint alleges harassment against a named BPD officer. The Complainant alleges that on 2/3/2020, his vehicle was hit by an unmarked police car. The unmarked police car was driving in a manner that caused the collision. After the collision, the officers arrested the Complainant because they alleged there was an open warrant for the Complainant. The Complainant was released from custody about 20 minutes later. Further, a second collision with police officers also occurred and the Complainant states that he was harassed by the officers everyday for 30 days. The Complainant states that these officers are trying to intimate him.

▪ **Voting:**

- Mel Currie: PIB investigation
- Natalie Novak: CRB investigation
- Levi Zaslow: CRB investigation
- George Buntin: PIB investigation
- Tiera Hawkes: CRB investigation

D. **CRB2020-0035:** The complainant alleges harassment against a named BPD detective. The detective was supposed to be investigating a case the complainant was involve din, but instead the detective repeatedly called the Complainant on her cell and at work asking about the Complainant's fiancé and father. The Complainant told the detective to stop calling her, but he didn't.

▪ **Voting:**

- Mel Currie: CRB investigation
- Natalie Novak: CRB investigation
- George Buntin: CRB investigation
- Levi Zaslow: CRB investigation
- Tiera Hawkes: abstain

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V. Completed Cases:

- A. **CRB2019-0034:** Complainant alleged that unidentified officers harassed the complainant between 7/2018 and 2/2019. During an interview with a CRB investigator, the Complainant stated that his wife was present during the harassment. He stated that during the day a helicopter with the word "police" continuously followed and circled him, and at night, a helicopter with red and green lights followed him. Sometimes a helicopter was waiting for him by the entrance to I-95. Sometimes the helicopter pointed the spotlight onto the Complainant's house. The Complainant feared his phone was bugged, so he began leaving it at home. Further, the Complainant believed that Homeland Security was involved. During an interview with PIB, the Complainant stated that he relocated from Baltimore County to Baltimore City and maybe the Baltimore County aviation unit told the BPD's aviation unit to follow him.
- **Voting:**
 - Levi Zaslow: unfounded
 - Natalie Novak: exonerated
 - Mel Currie: defund the police, unfounded
 - George Buntin: not sustained
 - Tiera Hawkes: unfounded
- B. **CRB2018-0139:** Complainant filed a complaint against two named officers from the BPD Central District for false arrest and false imprisonment. The Complainant alleges that she was illegally detained on 7/3/2018 and then illegally arrested on 7/17/2018 for a weapon that was found in an LA Nails salon. On 7/3/2018, the Complainant exited her doctor's office and saw her vehicle parked nearby. When she approached her vehicle, she saw that her boyfriend was handcuffed on the curb. The officers present at the scene stated that the vehicle stop was due to a window tint violation. The Complainant told the officers that she had paperwork for the window tint. The Complainant had to use the restroom and an officer escorted her to LA Nails to use their restroom. After leaving LA Nails, the Complainant left the scene to pick up her children from school. An officer went into the restroom the Complainant had used and found a gun in the trashcan, which was the basis for the Complainant's arrest. A civilian witness stated that the Black Guerilla Family has taken over this LA Nails and the BFG use this location as a drop-off point. At some point, the k-9 Unit was called. A K-9 alerted to the vehicle and it was searched, which revealed some bullets that allegedly match the weapon found in the LA Nails restroom. Note: three evidence requests were sent to PIB, all of which were unanswered. Body-worn camera footage of this incident exists, as the Complainant's attorney was provided with a copy, but CRB investigator was not provided any BWC footage.
- **Voting:**

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- Mel Currie: PIB report indicates that bullets from car matched gun, so not sustained
 - George Buntin: the CRB is missing documents/evidence from PIB; wants to know why PIB hasn't provided the requested information
 - Mel Currie: moves to continue case until next meeting so CRB can request additional information, to include: arrest warrant, body worn camera footage, and finger print analysis
 - Natalie Novak: seconded the motion, motion carried
- C. **CRB2018-0123**: The Complainant filed a complaint against two named BPD officers for false arrest and false imprisonment. The complaint states that the Complainant stopped her vehicle outside of a bar because she needed a couple cups of ice. The Complainant is anemic, which can cause ice cravings). The Complainant saw a friend and asked him to go into the bar to get the ice. When he was on his way back to the car, BPD officers jumped out of police cars and immediately arrested the man. The officers then ordered the Complainant out of her car and immediately arrested her. The Complainant's car was searched at the scene. The Complainant told the officers searching her car that there was a bag of cake flour in the glove compartment. While the Complainant was arrested, the charges were later nol prossed, as the cake flour was tested and was indeed cake flour.) The Complainant never got her car, computer (which was in the car), or \$800.00 back. Note: the CRB sent requests for information to PIB on 1/3/2020, 2/6/202, and 2/25/2020, which were never answered.
- Voting:
 - Mel Currie: not sustain
 - Levi Zaslow: administrative closure due to uncooperative complainant; is also concerned about not getting the requested information from PIB
 - George Buntin: also concerned about not getting information from PIB, they are breaking the law by not giving us the information we are entitled
 - Evangula Brown: this is a back-logged case during a time when PIB wasn't complying with the rules to provide CRB information, it's an old case
 - George Buntin: it is unacceptable, when we know there is more information that they are not giving us, our standard request letter is not getting through, maybe an administrative meeting to establish a plan
 - Mel Currie: we need independent counsel
 - Evangula Brown: we will send a request to PIB for additional information
 - Mel Currie: motion to continue case for more information; motion carried
 - **CRB2018-0140**: The Complainant filed a complaint against a named BPD officer for false arrest, false imprisonment, excessive force, harassment, and abusive language. The Complainant states that during a traffic stop, the officer demanded the Complainant's keys and that the Complainant get out of the car or

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the officer was going to pull him out of the car. The Complainant felt uncomfortable with the officer's aggressive behavior and requested that a supervisor come to the scene. The officer's statement alleges that the Complainant was speeding and when the officer tried to pull the Complainant over, he turned down an alley. The officer then approached the Complainant and allegedly told the Complainant that he was being pulled over for speeding and fleeing and eluding. When additional officers arrived, the Complainant was handcuffed and taken to Central Booking. The charges were later nol prossed. Note: the CRB Investigator sent three evidence requests to PIB, on 1/3/2019, 2/6/2019, and 2/25/2019; however, the PIB final case file was not provided to CRB for sometime thereafter and the PIB final case file indicates that there was body worn camera footage available for this case but it was not provided to the CRB Investigator.

- **Voting:**
 - Natalie Novak: wants to know what information wasn't provided
 - Motion to continue case for more information; motion carried
 - Amy Cruice: ¾ of the completed cases are missing information, this is enough to take to media, etc.;
 - Mel Currie: witness officers usually ignore us, we should subpoena them;
 - Tiera Hawkes: gave update of meeting with DOJ consent decree team (they want to have specifics about what info PIB is not giving us, details, data; and they would like to know why we sustain cases, so they have requested a copy of our determination letter);
 - Natalie Novak: send survey monkey for admin meeting

V. Public Comment

- No comment

VI. Old Business

- Bylaws Update – No public comments have been submitted
 - Natalie Novak: final vote next meeting on adopting them
- DOJ Consent Decree meeting update, see above
- Evangula Brown: intake-since COVID: intake calls come from the mayor's office, 94 calls have come in since COVID began, 94 calls includes about 3 complainants who are repeat callers and call all the time, CRB received about 14 new complaints, OECR has sent 14 complaint forms out since COVID; no walk-ins, which decreases our complaints; some new complaints are not statutory compliant; attorneys call in, too. Getting calls from the mayor's office makes a big difference.

VII. New Business

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- Levi Zaslow: Attorney with Joseph, Greenwald and Laake, PA, practicing civil litigation, constitutional law and civil rights law, has been interested in police accountability for along time, CRB is valuable to the community, excited to join CRB, reach out to him for any questions
- Tiera Hawkes: student group update - was working on an universal complaint form for schools so students can file complaints and they can be reviewed, next student meeting is 10/20/2020 at 4:30 PM
- Evangula Brown: the University of Baltimore is presenting a webinar on compassion fatigue and self-care on 11/4/2020, will send the info around
- Cedric McCray: Welcome Levi Zaslow; moment of silence for Betty Robinson, OECR is seeking a memorial for her
- Amy Cruice: election protection program, ACLU has a hotline that takes calls about election information to help everyone vote, find polling sites, monitoring for problems, monitoring for voter suppression and voter intimidation, on call investigators, 443-399-2339 hotline

VIII. Adjournment