

AGENDA
Baltimore City Civilian Review Board
REGULAR MEETING
February 24, 2021
Place: Enabled by Cisco WebEX
6:00-8:00 pm

I. Welcome & call to order

- Mel Currie, Southwestern District
- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District
- Levi Zaslow, Northwestern District
- Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District
- Tiffany Wingate, Central District
- Evangula Brown, CRB Supervisor
- Cedric McCray, Acting Director Office of Equity and Civil Rights
- Jill Muth, CRB Investigator

II. Review and approval of agenda

- **Approved**

III. Review and approval of minutes

- **Delayed until next meeting**

IV. Director's Report

- **Fair Housing Events in April**

V. New Complaints:

- A. **2021-0001:** Filed January 26, 2010, against named BPD officers, the complaint alleges that on December 22, 2020, the Complainant was a passenger in a vehicle that was pulled over for allegedly not stopping at a stop sign. The officers knew their names because they have had many interactions; the officers have stopped the Complainant many times in his neighborhood throughout his 21 years of age. The driver told the officers that he only had a driver's permit. The officers told the Complainant to get out of the car, possibly because there was a re-bar at his feet. The Complainant was thrown to the ground by the officers, he has scars on his wrist; the driver passed out. The car was towed.
- 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
- B. **2021-0002:** Filed January 25, 2021, against a named officer, the complaint alleges that on December 3, 2020, he was pulled over by a BPD officer. The officer copied the Complainant's information from his driver's license and let him go. On December 17, 2020, the Complainant was talking with a friend when he noticed police cars pull up around him. The Complainant kept talking, and then noticed the same officer approach him. The officer asked his name, and when the Complainant responded, the officer said there was a warrant for the Complainant's arrest. The Complainant asked to see the warrant, but the officer didn't have it. At Central Booking, the officer had the warrant and the Complainant asked him to read it to him because he was in handcuffs. The Complainant alleges that misconduct occurred in the reading of the warrant and the officer's behavior afterwards. It seems like the officer read the warrant and then asked

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the Complainant a seemingly unrelated question about the day he was pulled over. The Complainant answered the question and is alleging that the officer should not have asked the question.

- 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

C. **2021-0041**: Filed on January 23, 2021, against named officers, the complaint alleges that on December 22, 2020, the Complainant was driving a vehicle when BPD officers stopped him. The Complainant provided the officers with his driver's permit; the officers asked him to get out of the car, and the Complainant agreed to do so. When he was out of the car, the officer handcuffed him. The Complainant asked why he was being detained and the officer put his knee and elbow in his chest, the Complainant told the officer he couldn't breathe, but the other officers just grabbed him and the Complainant had a panic attack and passed out. When he came to, he was on the ground with cuffs around his wrists and ankles.

- 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
- Tiffany Wingate, Central District-CRB Investigation

VI. Completed Cases:

A. **CRB 2020-0003**: Complaint filed on February 20, 2020, against a named officer for abusive language and harassment. On January 23, 2020, the Complainant entered the Mitchell Courthouse to meet his pre-trial release agent and was going through the security line when he set off the metal detector. The Complainant thought it was because of his boots. He put his items into a basket, as requested by a sheriff, and took off his belt. The sheriff spoke to him in a derogatory manner. Then the sheriff told the Complainant to get out of the courthouse. As the Complainant was putting on his belt, the sheriff grabbed his items and threw them outside the courthouse. The Complainant alleged that as the sheriff walked away, he called the Complainant a "nigger" and left the Complainant outside to get dressed in public on Fayette Street. On June 10, 2020, the Courthouse Security Division advised that they were unable to locate the security footage requested because the footage remains in the system for up to 30 days. On June 22, 2020, the Sheriff's Office emailed the CRB the Citizen Complaint form and the Sheriff's Office 95 Report form. A second attempt was made to retrieve the footage on January 28, 2021; Internal Affairs confirmed that the security footage was unavailable.

- Mel Currie, Southwestern District-Not sustain on all allegations. The courthouse should have security footage for at least a year since officers are employed there.
- Levi Zaslow, Northwestern District-Not sustain all allegations. Although it was a close call. The complaint seems to have been made on the same day as the incident, because and as such they should have pulled the video at that time, so it would be available.

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- Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District-Not sustained on all allegations
- Tiffany Wingate, Central District-Sustained on all allegations. It was a very close call. The Report 95 showed some of the sheriff's rude behavior, so maybe the officer omitted some of the even more rude behavior. The sheriff knows video is being taken, it would be up to him to get it, but he did not.
- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District-Not sustain all allegations. In our letter to the Commissioner we can add in an extra paragraph about them not having the video footage. It's a courthouse they should be keeping footage longer, and the complaint was made the same day, so they could and should have pulled the footage.
- Evangula Brown, CRB Supervisor-We could Not sustain all allegations, with a letter describing our concerns and recommendations

B. **CRB 2020-0024/2019-1653**: Complaint filed on August 24, 2020, against an unknown BPD officer for abusive language and harassment. The complaint alleges that on August 11, 2020, at the Johns Hopkins Medical Campus, an unknown police officer parked his car in a restricted area, blocking an active driveway. The Complainant is a groundskeeper at the facility. The complaint alleges that as the officer exited his vehicle to escort his two passengers into a building, the Complainant advised him that his vehicle was parked in a restricted area and offered to find him a new parking space nearby. The Complainant stated that the officer refused to move the vehicle. The Complainant then called 311 to report the incident, as the Complainant needed to use the driveway in the course of his work duties. The Complainant stated that when the agents at 311 connected him the officer's district supervisor, the officer exited the building and overheard his conversation, at which point he became argumentative and rude. After the verbal altercation, the officer left the area.

- Mel Currie, Southwestern District-Administratively close the complaint. He believes the complaint, but an officer wasn't identified.
- Tiffany Wingate, Central District-Administratively close the complaint
- Levi Zaslow, Northwestern District-Believes that what alleged in the complaint did occur, the Complainant is credible.
- Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District-Administratively close the complaint; the Complainant asked to withdraw the complaint.
- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District-Administratively close the complaint

C. **CRB 2018-0127/2018-0469**: Complaint filed on September 7, 2018, against named BPD officers for excessive force and false arrest. The complaint was filed on behalf of the Complainant's son ("victim") and alleges that the BPD officers arrested the victim without justification and used excessive force during the arrest. The complaint alleges that the officers assaulted the victim, who was hospitalized with a broken nose, eye injury, and facial bone fracture. The complaint alleges that on August 11, 2018, at 5:30 PM, the victim was observed on CCTV putting a plastic bag into a female's purse. Officers arrived to the scene, arrested the female; the victim left the scene. On August 13, 2018, the officers got out of an unmarked police vehicle and approached the victim; the victim left the area. The officers chased the victim. Shortly thereafter, two officers escorted the victim back to the scene and the victim's face was bleeding. An EMS arrived and one of the EMS technicians gave an interview to the CRB investigator. EMS took the victim to

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shock trauma. According to the Complainant, a BPD sergeant arrived on the scene and stated that an arrest warrant for drug charges was in the process of being filed, which is why the victim was arrested. According to the EMS Comprehensive Report, the victim suffered a traumatic injury, suffered pain the back of his head and neck, and was bleeding with a laceration on his face that was 2-3 cm deep. Further, he had a fracture through the base of the nasal spine (nose fracture). Case Search indicates that one of the officers charged the victim with drug-related offenses on August 14, 2018.

- Mel Currie, Southwestern District-Sustained for Excessive Force against officer S, not sustained for the remaining allegations. The BWC showed the Complainant asking: “why did you hit me with you gun,” and the subject officer said, “it wasn’t a gun.”
 - Disciplinary recommendation: Termination because it appears that the officer lied about the incident afterwards
- Tiffany Wingate, Central District-Sustained for Excessive Force against officer S, not sustained on the remaining allegations.
 - Disciplinary recommendation: Termination
- Levi Zaslow, Northwestern District-Sustained for Excessive Force against officer S, not sustained on the remaining allegations. Highlighted the same statement from officer S; the medics on the scene stated that it was like pulling teeth to get info from the officers. The Complainant might have hit a tree as well, but there was also excessive force. Further, officer S called the Complainant “stupid,” which was caught on the BWC and strengthens the Complainant’s credibility.
 - Disciplinary recommendation: Termination, in light of the previous complaints and the discipline matrix
- Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District-Sustain Excessive Force against officer S, Not sustain the remaining allegations.
 - Disciplinary recommendation: Termination, this officer has had several complaints filed against him with the CRB.
- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District-Sustain Excessive Force against officer S, Not sustain the remaining allegations.
 - Disciplinary recommendation: Termination based on BPD’s disciplinary matrix

VII. Old Business

- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District-policy recommendation that we send to BPD about serving old warrants, T is still working on it and will send it around
- Mel Currie, Southwestern District-what is the timing on Mel’s successor?
- Cedric McCray, Acting OECD Director-the application of Mel’s successor is with the Mayor, but with session and COVID and all, will probably be March or April before replacement is in.

VIII. New Business

- Evangula Brown, CRB Supervisor-April 19-23, April 26-30, PIB training under the Consent Decree will occur, we are all invited to attend.
- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District-Reminds the board to complete the ethics forms and return it to OECD.

IX. Adjournment