

AGENDA
Baltimore City Civilian Review Board
REGULAR MEETING
March 18, 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
- Tyler Salley, Southeastern District
- Tiffany Wingate, Central District
- Evangula Brown, CRB Supervisor
- Cedric McCray, Acting Director Office of Equity and Civil Rights
- Jill Muth, CRB Investigator
- Amy Cruice, ACLU
- Tiffany Jones, CRB Investigator
- Sergeant Eric Mox, BPD

II. Review and approval of agenda

- **Approved**

III. Review and approval of minutes

- **Approved**

IV. Director's Report

- OECR had five community meetings; three completed investigations (two were backlog cases); two cases were sustained in February; twelve intakes in February, which were conducted via phone due to COVID-19; four investigations were authorized; monthly DOJ meeting is scheduled; OECR attended NACOLE webinar in January, Analyzing Use of Force Reports in Jan.; OECR was awarded a grant.
- Evangula Brown - OECR/CRB got a grant for about \$5,000; VISTA Intern is applying for more grants.

V. New Complaints:

- A. **2021-0061:** Filed 1/15/2021. However, it was not received until March at the CRB Complaint alleges that on 12/19/2020 the Complainant went to the hospital to visit her daughter who had just given birth. In the daughter's hospital room was a man the Complainant has a peace order against. The man yelled in the Complainant's face and pushed her. The Complainant called the police because the man was violating the peace order. When the police arrived, they removed the Complainant from the hospital, instead of the man. One of the officers was male, and he stated to the Complainant that he knows the man's mother and she was trying to keep the man away from his daughter.
- Voting:
 - i. Mel Currie, Southwestern District - Could be abusive language-CRB Investigation
 - ii. Tyler Salley, Southeastern District – CRB Investigation
 - iii. Natalie Novak, Northern District – CRB Investigation

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- iv. Levi Zaslow, Northwestern District - CRB Investigation
- v. Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District - CRB Investigation

B. **2021-0062**: Filed 3/7/2021. Complaint alleges that on 5/5/2020 the Complainant and his brother parked their car outside of a store. When they opened the car doors to exit the vehicle and walk into the store, a car with tinted windows drove up along side of the car. The passengers in the car with tinted windows seemed to be staring at them. The Complainant's brother finally asked them, "what's up," and the tinted windows car replied, "what's up." The Complainant and his brother eventually exited their car and walked toward the store. Another car was also following them. The Complainant was being followed, so he started to run. He then heard an officer yell, "gun!" The Complainant started to run at that point and ended up getting hit by a police car. The Complainant was arrested and was detained at the time of filing the complaint. The Complainant alleges that he did not have a gun.

- Voting:
 - i. Mel Currie, Southwestern District - CRB Investigation
 - ii. Tyler Salley, Southeastern District – CRB Investigation; a lot in the Complaint we don't know; the Complainant wants us to look at the BWC; Seemed like the Complaint was still in jail when he was writing it; does the CRB get many complaints filed from jail?
 - iii. Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District – CRB Investigation
 - iv. Levi Zaslow, Northwestern District - CRB Investigation
 - v. Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District - CRB Investigation
- Evangula Brown: OECR will mail the formal complaint forms to the Complainant if they are incarcerated.

VI. Completed Cases:

A. **CRB2019-0205/2020-0169**: Complaint filed 12/26/2019 for false arrest and false imprisonment against a named-Baltimore police officer. The complaint alleges that on 10/19/2019, the Complainant's husband ("the victim") was admitted to the hospital for a collapsed lung after being stabbed. The victim was transferred to University hospital, where his wife, the Complainant, was not allowed to see the victim until police arrived to question him. The police arrived and a statement was provided. The body-worn camera footage of the interview shows the victim telling the police that he was staying with a woman while he was separated from his wife. The victim and the woman got into a fight and she stabbed the victim. After the victim was released from the hospital, the victim was arrested for assaulting the woman. BPD alleged that the woman was acting in self-defense when she stabbed the victim.

- Voting:
 - Mel Currie, Southwestern District - Exonerate, officers acted by the book, woman had credibility, statement was confirmed by hospital exams.
 - Tyler Salley, Southeastern District – Exonerate, thorough investigation.
 - Levi Zaslow, Northwestern District – Exonerate
 - Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District – Exonerate

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- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District - Exonerate

- B. **CRB2019-0042/2019-0174**: Complaint filed 2/4/2019 for harassment against an unknown Baltimore police officer. The complaint alleges that on 2/4/2019 or 1/31/2019, the Complainant found a note on her car when she was getting ready to drive home after work. Her vehicle was parked in the same spot she usually parks it. The note read, “[Complainant’s first name] this is what a asshole looks like, next time it gets towed.” The Complainant reported that the parking lot is for public use, as well as BPD use. The Complainant attempted to view the security footage of the area where her car was parked at police headquarters, but a Baltimore officer told her that IAD had the footage.
 - Tyler Salley, Southeastern District - Is this harassment or abusive language?
 - Amy Cruice, ACLU – It could be argued that Abusive Language is always Harassment.
 - Mel Currie, Southwestern District - It seems like this could be both Harassment and Abusive Language.
 - Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District - There were no hits from the MVA of BPD officers requesting the Complainant’s tag information
 - Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District - Does the Complainant pick the allegation or do we pick out the allegations from the substance of the complaint?
 - Evangula Brown - This is an old case. Today, she reads through the complaint to see what allegations the facts support. The new complaint forms do not have check boxes.
 - Mel Currie, Southwestern District - We shouldn’t ask the Complaint to understand and choose the allegations, they might not know.
 - Tiffany Jones - During intake and screening is when OECR talk to the Complainant and explains the allegations to them. Together, they come up with the allegations.
 - Amy Cruice, ACLU - What should we do when we sustain a complaint but we don’t know which BPD officer it was or it was against unnamed officers.
 - Sergeant Mox - This complaint is a unique situation, he couldn’t see the tag number of the vehicle of the person who put the note, and no MVA hits for the Complainant’s car. So we don’t know whom it was; it could have been an officer but we don’t know. If you don’t know the officer, you could send it back to PIB and would talk to superiors and see what could be done.
 - Vote:
 - Tyler Salley, Southeastern District – Not Sustained, not confident it was an officer, tags weren’t run.
 - Mel Currie, Southwestern District – Not Sustained, too big a stretch to say it was a BPD officer.
 - Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District – Not Sustained, but it is concerning that he car leaves the note, leaves the lot, comes back and enters the BPD restricted area. But, we don’t know if it was a BPD or another agency.
 - Levi Zaslow, Northwestern District – Not Sustained
 - Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District – Not Sustained

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- C. **CRB2019-0115/2019-1444:** Complaint filed 5/20/2019 for harassment and abusive language against a named Baltimore police officer. On 5/20/2019, the Complainant was eating at a Chipotle when an officer spoke to him rudely and in a “nasty” tone of voice. The officer told him “to get out of the way or he would move him.” The Complainant asked for his name and badge number, but the officer would not give it to him. This case was mediated through the Baltimore Community Mediation Center on 9/25/2019.
- Tyler Salley, Southeastern District - Excited and refreshing that a complaint was successfully mediated
 - Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District - Moves to administratively close the case because it was resolved via mediation
 - None opposed

VII. Public Comment

- Clyde Boatwright, President of FOP and President of Baltimore School Police - Excited to have been invited to the CRB meeting, wants to build relationships and be a resource where he can.

VIII. Old Business

- Mel Currie, Southwestern District – Is curious when his successor will be appointed
- Evangula Brown – The progress is happening, but it’s slow due to legislative session and COVID-19.

IX. New Business

- Natalie Novak, Secretary, Northern District – Is getting ready for the Northern District community meeting.
- Tyler Salley, Southeastern District - Reached out to his city councilmember to get some time with them.
- Amy Cruice – Is not able to see the full CRB and PIB reports, but likes to hear the summaries and thinks it’s important to track the data that is available. For instance, three of five of tonight’s incidents were not crime related—the incidents occurred when there was no crime happening (i.e.: leaving a note on someone’s car). This is interesting data to keep track of and use in our advocacy efforts. Looking for trends and keeping track of them, especially in light of the bigger issues.
- Tiera Hawkes, Chair, Northeastern District - Started a CRB FB page

X. Adjournment