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DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2018 at 3:00 PM

DETROIT PUBLIC SAFETY HEADQUARTERS

1301 THIRD AVENUE

DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

COMMISSIONERS:

LISA CARTER, Chairperson (Dist. 6)

WILLIE BELL, Commissioner (Dist. 4)

WILLIE E. BURTON, Commissioner (Dist. 5)

EVA GARZA DEWAELSCHE, At Large/Vice Chair

CONRAD MALLETT, JR., At Large

ELIZABETH BROOKS, At Large

WILLIAM M. DAVIS, Commissioner (Dist. 7)

JIM HOLLEY, At Large

MEDIA: Sergeant Mitchell Quinn

FROM THE CITY:

Robert Brown

Gregory Hicks

REPRESENTING THE CHIEF OF POLICE'S OFFICE:

CHIEF JAMES E. CRAIG

1 Detroit, Michigan

2 Thursday, April 26, 2018

3 3:06 p.m.

4 CHAIR CARTER: Good afternoon.

5 COMMISSIONERS: Good afternoon.

6 CHAIR CARTER: Welcome to the weekly Board of
7 Police Commissioners meeting. My name is Lisa Carter,
8 Chair of the Commission. I represent District 6.

9 On behalf of the Board thank you for
10 attending today's meeting. And, for the people viewing
11 at home on their local government channel, thank you
12 for tuning in.

13 Commissioners Shirley Birch and Darryl Brown
14 are unable to attend today's meeting and will be listed
15 as excused.

16 To the Board and audience, I would like to
17 introduce our newest Board member, the Reverend
18 Dr. Jim Holley. Reverend Holley has -- was appointed
19 by the Mayor and approved by Detroit City Council.

20 Reverend Holley has served on the Board in
21 the past and is a welcome addition to our current work
22 of providing police oversight in the City of Detroit.

23 Reverend Holley, would you like to say a few
24 words this afternoon?

25 COMM. HOLLEY: Thank you very much,

1 chairperson. Nothing other than the fact that I'm very
2 humbled to have this experience with you, and all of
3 you. So I just wanted to thank you for this
4 opportunity.

5 CHAIR CARTER: Thank you, sir.

6 At this time, we will have the Detroit Police
7 Chaplain Peter Caldwell do the invocation, please.

8 CHAPLAIN CALDWELL: (Cited the invocation.)

9 CHAIR CARTER: Thank you, Chaplain Caldwell.

10 At this time, we'll do introductions. We'll
11 start on this end with Commissioner Davis.

12 COMM. DAVIS: Good evening. William Davis,
13 District 7.

14 COMM. BROOKS: Good evening.
15 Elizabeth Brooks, At Large.

16 COMM. DEWAELSCHÉ: Eva Garza Dewaelsche,
17 Vice-Clair, At Large.

18 COMM. BELL: Willie Bell, District 4.

19 COMM. HOLLEY: Jim Holley, At Large.

20 COMM. MALLETT: Conrad Mallett, District 2.

21 COMM. BURTON: Commissioner Burton, District
22 5.

23 CHAIR CARTER: Thank you, Commissioners. You
24 have before you the agenda for April 26, 2018. Your
25 motion for approval?

1 COMM. BELL: So move.

2 COMM. DEWAELSCHES: Support.

3 CHAIR CARTER: It's been moved and supported
4 that we approve the agenda for April 26, 2018. Is
5 there any discussion?

6 Those in favor?

7 COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

8 CHAIR CARTER: Those opposed?

9 Motion carries. At this time, Commissioners,
10 you have before you the minutes from April 19th, 2018.
11 Motion for approval?

12 COMM. DEWAELSCHES: So move.

13 COMM. BELL: Second.

14 CHAIR CARTER: It's been moved and supported
15 that we approve the minutes from April 19, 2018. Is
16 there any discussion?

17 Those in favor?

18 COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

19 CHAIR CARTER: Those opposed?

20 The motion carries.

21 At this time, Mr. Hicks, would you please
22 introduce the Board of Appeals Commission staff,
23 please.

24 MR. HICKS: Thank you, Madam Chair. And, for
25 the record, you do have a quorum.

1 Prior to the introduction of our staff, I do
2 want to indicate that today's taping is done by
3 Sergeant Quinn, Media Services providing the
4 audio/visual work and Mona Storm is the court reporter.
5 And immediately to my right is Robert Brown, who is an
6 executive manager with the BOPC. And, if you focus --
7 go to the left side of the room, the interim Personnel
8 Director Bridget Lamar is seated in the front row. And
9 then, back over to this side here we have Mr. Warwick
10 who's our attorney for the Board and Ms. Johnson in
11 Fiscal and Ms. Blossom who is Media Outreach and, of
12 course, Ms. White, who is a Fiscal -- I mean is Policy.
13 And then I think Mr. Akbar, Laurence Akbar, is
14 representing the Chief investigator and will introduce
15 himself and the balance of his staff.

16 CHAIR CARTER: Thank you, Mr. Hicks.

17 MR. AKBAR: Good afternoon, Board.

18 COMMISSIONERS: Good afternoon.

19 MR. AKBAR: It's my honor to stand before
20 you. (Introduced staff.)

21 That's the balance of our staff. Thank you.

22 CHAIR CARTER: Thank you and you are?

23 MR. AKBAR: Oh, Supervising Investigator
24 Laurence Akbar.

25 CHAIR CARTER: Thank you.

1 MR. AKBAR: All right.

2 CHAIR CARTER: At this time, I'd like to
3 introduce the Chief of Police, Mr. James Craig.

4 CHIEF CRAIG: Good afternoon, Madam Chair --

5 CHAIR CARTER: Good afternoon.

6 CHIEF CRAIG: -- and distinguished Board
7 members. (Introduced staff.)

8 CHAIR CARTER: All right. Thank you all for
9 attending this afternoon's meeting. At this time, if
10 there are any elected officials or representatives,
11 please stand and give your name for the record.

12 If not, we will move on.

13 On behalf of the Board, I want to express our
14 concern and support for fallen and injured officers and
15 their families. I would ask, Chief, that you please,
16 during your remarks provide us with additional
17 information related to injured and fallen officers.

18 The Board of Appeals Commissioners meets
19 every week except Thursday, Thanksgiving and Christmas
20 holiday periods. We meet at Police Headquarters in
21 regular session, three weeks in the month on Thursday
22 at 3:00 p.m. We also meet in the community every
23 second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The Board of
24 Commissioners -- Police Commissioners exists to provide
25 civilian oversight for the work of the Detroit Police

1 Department.

2 As a board, we receive and investigate
3 noncriminal citizens' complaints, monitor the operation
4 of the Department and work with the Mayor and the Chief
5 to make or modify police policy.

6 Our objective is the same as the City of
7 Detroit; to provide the best use of your tax dollars to
8 improve on the quality of life in our city.

9 As a board, we bring a unique perspective to
10 policing, the eye and the viewpoint of civilians. The
11 principle of civilian oversight is as old and is as
12 important as all of the founding principles in our
13 democracy.

14 Separation of powers between and within
15 government allows for accountability, transparency
16 rights to appeal and citizen control. These principles
17 are important nationally as well as locally.

18 Last year, Commissioners, the Board had a
19 focus -- a successful training program. They focused
20 on our responsibilities as a board and helped us chart
21 our goals and objectives for the current year.

22 This year, we're going to repeat the board
23 training. We have identified three potential weekends
24 for the training. So please indicate to staff your
25 preference for one of the three weekends. It's in your

1 packet.

2 A note on the subject will be included --
3 yeah, it's in your Board package.

4 Today we receive -- we have scheduled two
5 presentations. The first is our standard report from
6 the Office of the Chief Investigator,
7 Dr. Polly McAllister.

8 The second presentation will be on civil
9 asset forfeiture. Civil asset forfeiture allows for
10 the Police Department to confiscate private property
11 believed to be linked to criminal activity. My hope is
12 that the presentation will cover methods used by the
13 Department to confiscate inventory, store and return,
14 if applicable, property to citizens after asset
15 forfeiture. I also hope that the Department will
16 explain the relationship of our forfeiture process to
17 the public auction in the sale of confiscated property.

18 Later in the meeting, in our closed session,
19 we will take up a request from Chief of Police Craig to
20 suspend, without pay, Police Officer Jerold Blanding.
21 Please note that the request from the Chief is a
22 personnel item. We are allowed, under the Open
23 Meetings Act, to discuss personnel items in private.
24 To accommodate this request, we have adjusted the flow
25 of the agenda to go into closed session after the

1 public comments. This adjustment alleviates the need
2 for citizens and visitors to sit around during the
3 closed session. Please note that, if an action item
4 results from a closed session, we are required to
5 return to regular order and take any votes in public.

6 With the aforementioned adjustment in our
7 schedule in the midsection of the meeting, we will have
8 oral communications from the audience. I remind you if
9 you would like to speak to the Board, please make sure
10 your print your name on the speaker's card located in
11 the back of the room or you can see Mr. Brown here at
12 the front table. We need to have your card before the
13 beginning of public comments.

14 And, with that, we have resolutions today
15 honoring Corporal Delawn Steen, who is retiring and
16 Police Officer France Dickerson, who's also retired.
17 So, at this time, I'm going to ask that Commissioner
18 Bell please read the resolution for Corporal Delawn
19 Steen. Are you here?

20 CORPORAL STEEN: It's Delawn, ma'am.

21 CHAIR CARTER: I'm sorry. Delawn?

22 CORPORAL STEEN: Yes, ma'am.

23 CHAIR CARTER: All right. All right. Step
24 up to the podium.

25 COMM. BELL: Madam Chair, if I might have the

1 privilege. We have a former Deputy Chief in Dallas
2 Texas, Chief Hall, as you all know. And there was a
3 loss of a police officer killed in the line of duty.
4 So, with your permission, could we just have a moment
5 of silence to lift up Chief Hall and Dallas PD, in
6 terms of the loss of this officer? And another one was
7 critical and shot. I just think that we should
8 recognize and appreciate that type of involvement.
9 It's happening too often in our law enforcement
10 community.

11 CHAIR CARTER: Absolutely. So we'll have a
12 moment of silence.

13 Thank you.

14 Thank you.

15 COMM. BELL: Thank you.

16 Chief Craig, this is one retired officer and
17 another retired officer. So I think it's an honor and
18 a privilege. We shook hands a minute ago and I'm just
19 really I am impressed that he showed up for the
20 resolution.

21 This resolution honoring retired Corporate
22 Delawn Steen.

23 Whereas Delawn Steen was appointed to the
24 Detroit Police Department on March the 21st, 1994.
25 Upon graduating from the Detroit Metropolitan Police

1 Academy, Officer Steen began his career at the Second
2 Precinct.

3 Whereas he dutifully served the Second
4 Precinct, Southwestern District, Gang Enforcement and
5 in the Tenth Precinct. Police officer Steen displayed
6 tremendous diligence and attitude in his assignments.
7 He was promoted to the rank of Corporal on April the
8 3rd, 2015. That was on Chief Craig's watch on my
9 watch --

10 CHIEF CRAIG: Right.

11 COMM. BELL: I just wanted to clarify that.

12 CHIEF CRAIG: Okay.

13 COMM. BELL: And assigned to the 11th
14 Precinct, then reassigned to the Tenth Precinct where
15 he remained until his retirement, the Tenth Precinct.

16 Whereas, during his law enforcement career,
17 Officer Steen was the deserving recipient of the
18 Department's Citation and Medal for Valor Award,
19 Lifesaving Certificate (sic) and Medal Award, the Major
20 League Baseball All-Star Recognition Award, the Rosa
21 Parks Funeral Recognition Award, and the Super Bowl XL
22 Recognition Award, as well as commendations from
23 supervisors and numerous letters of appreciation from
24 the community.

25 Whereas, Corporal Steen has tirelessly served

1 the Detroit Police Department and citizens of Detroit
2 and its neighboring communities for 24 years. His
3 professionalism, commitment to public service,
4 integrity and dedication has been a credit to the
5 Detroit Police Department. He is highly respected as a
6 consummate professional.

7 Now, therefore, be it resolved that Detroit
8 Board of Police Commissioners, speaking for the
9 citizens of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department,
10 award this resolution in recognition of Officer
11 Delawn Steen's 24 years of dedicated and diligent
12 public service. His professionalism, integrity and
13 standard commitment to the City of Detroit and its
14 citizens merit our highest regard.

15 We thank you, congratulate you and wish you
16 the best. In God's speed, may he keep you and, as you
17 move on to another career, there is life after DPD. I
18 can attest to that.

19 CORPORAL STEEN: Thank you, sir.

20 COMM. BELL: Thank you.

21 CORPORAL STEEN: I just want to say thank
22 you. I am honored. I'm humble. I appreciate it. God
23 bless you all.

24 CHAIR CARTER: Good luck to you, Corporal
25 Steen.

1 CORPORAL STEEN: Thank you.

2 CHAIR CARTER: And there is life after DPD.

3 CORPORAL STEEN: Yes, ma'am.

4 CHAIR CARTER: I'm sure --

5 CORPORAL STEEN: Yes, ma'am.

6 CHAIR CARTER: -- we'll see you in the after.

7 CORPORAL STEEN: Yes, ma'am.

8 CHAIR CARTER: At this time, I'm going to ask
9 that Vice-Chair Dewaelsche please read the resolution
10 for Police Officer Frances Dickerson.

11 COMM. DEWAELSCHES: Is Police Officer
12 Dickerson here?

13 Okay. Thank you. I'm pleased to read this
14 resolution honoring Retired Police Officer
15 Frances Dickerson.

16 Whereas Frances Dickerson was appointed to
17 the Detroit Police Department on May 6th, 1996. Upon
18 graduation from the Detroit Metropolitan Police
19 Academy, Police Officer Dickerson began her career at
20 the Ninth Precinct.

21 And whereas she dutifully served the Police
22 Recruiting Unit, Special Operations, Office of the
23 Chief of Police, Eastern District, and Field Duty
24 Training on January 6th, 2014, she was transferred to
25 the Fifth Precinct where she remained until her

1 retirement.

2 And whereas during her law enforcement career
3 Officer Dickerson was the deserving recipient of a
4 Department's Citation and Metal, Chief's Merit Award
5 Chiefs' Unit Award and Major League Baseball All-Star
6 Recognition Award, the Rosa Parks Funeral Recognition
7 Award and the Super Bowl Recognition Award and several
8 accolades from within the department.

9 And whereas Officer Dickerson has tirelessly
10 served the Detroit Police Department, the citizens of
11 Detroit and its neighboring communities for 21 years.
12 Her professionalism, commitment to public service
13 integrity and dedication has been a credit to the DPD.
14 She is highly respected as a consummate professional.

15 And, now, therefore, be it resolved that the
16 Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking for the
17 citizens of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department
18 award this resolution in recognition of Police Officer
19 Frances Dickerson's 21 years of dedicated and diligent
20 public service to the citizens of Detroit merit our
21 highest regards.

22 We thank and congratulate you, Police Officer
23 Frances Dickerson.

24 CHAIR CARTER: Thank you.

25 COMM. DEWAELSCHES: Madam Chair, I move

1 adoption of both resolutions.

2 COMM. BELL: Second.

3 CHAIR CARTER: It's been moved and supported
4 that we adopt the resolutions honoring Corporal Delawn
5 Steen and Police Officer Frances Dickerson. Is there
6 any discussion?

7 Those in favor?

8 COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

9 CHAIR CARTER: Those opposed?

10 The motion carries.

11 Thank you, Commissioners.

12 At this time, Chief, I'm turning the
13 microphone over to you.

14 CHIEF CRAIG: Thank you, Madam Chair.

15 Only thing I report out at, and then I'll
16 turn it over to HR, for sick and injured officers.

17 Year to date, our crime, overall crime, both
18 violent and property, we're at a 13 percent reduction.
19 Violent crime we're down 14 percent, property crime
20 we're down 16 percent.

21 Specifically, when you look at criminal
22 homicide, we're down as of today 16 percent, which
23 translates into 14 fewer homicides in this time last
24 year, with 47 fewer nonfatal shootings compared to this
25 time last year, resulting in a 20 percent reduction.

1 Robberies are down 17 percent, which is
2 fewer, 140 fewer robberies. Carjackings were down 7.
3 So that's all I have, as it relate to crime. I'll let
4 HR provide that report. Thank you.

5 MS. MARR: Good afternoon, Board members,
6 Chief Craig.

7 COMMISSIONERS: Good afternoon.

8 MS. MARR: Bridget Marr, Interim Personnel
9 Director reporting officers critically injured in the
10 line of duty, providing a status update.

11 Officer Robert Kovac is recuperating at a
12 home.

13 Officer Anthony Brown is also recuperating at
14 home.

15 Officer James Kisselburg is also recuperating
16 at home.

17 Officer Derrick Smith is recuperating at
18 home.

19 Sergeant Eric Bussey is currently
20 recuperating at home.

21 Officer Justin Markwin is recuperating at
22 home.

23 And we have Officer Waldis Johnson, which
24 is -- who is still in a long-term care facility and we
25 ask for your thoughts and prayers for his continued

1 recovery.

2 CHAIR CARTER: Thank you, ma'am.

3 Commissioners, do you have any questions for
4 Chief Craig?

5 COMM. DAVIS: I do.

6 I noticed that you did not mention about the
7 sexual assaults are dramatically up.

8 CHIEF CRAIG: I did not. And, generally, I
9 do not, through the chair. And what we have found out
10 and we will do a more thorough presentation when
11 requested. We are getting more reports. We don't find
12 any trends or no strange rapes but we are up because
13 more reports are being made.

14 I don't have a clean answer for you. We do
15 know that, again, we don't have any stranger sexual
16 assaults but we are finding more sexual assaults that
17 are coming. And so we can give you a specific
18 presentation on that issue as to the whys and...

19 COMM. DAVIS: Okay.

20 CHAIR CARTER: So two weeks, a week; when can
21 we --

22 CHIEF CRAIG: If I had known, I could have
23 had it today.

24 CHAIR CARTER: Yeah.

25 CHIEF CRAIG: But I don't think the Chief of

1 the Detectives is here, David LeValley. So I can do it
2 next week.

3 CHAIR CARTER: Okay. Thank you, sir.

4 Commissioner Bell?

5 COMM. BELL: Yes, Madam Chair.

6 Chief, there's been a great deal of debate
7 about, as you well know, Green Light. And we
8 appreciate the update information on that. But I think
9 at these meetings we need to continue to lift up the
10 Green Light. In my opinion, and I've been sharing with
11 the community, I think it's been a valuable tool that
12 we're utilizing. So, if you could share some remarks,
13 I think we just need to continue to emphasize, in our
14 opinion, I think it's working. We are very supportive
15 of that. It's not 100 percent, you know, as far as
16 crime fighting. But it's been a step in the right
17 direction.

18 I have witnessed the pros and cons. But most
19 of the people are very positive, even the community is
20 trying to encourage people, the businesspeople, the
21 service station, et cetera, to get Green Light. So I
22 see that type of movement. And I assume it's going to
23 pick up during the summer months with the community
24 moving in that direction. So I see the article is
25 somewhat slanted, in my opinion. But that's the press

1 and they have a right to print what they want to print.
2 But I just think we should continue to lift that up.

3 CHIEF CRAIG: Through the Chair, I think
4 you've said it all. Certainly, I'm a big supporter of
5 the results of Green Light Detroit. In fact, when we
6 talk about carjackings and robberies being down, I got
7 to believe that this strategy had a direct impact on
8 reducing particularly robberies and carjackings.

9 In terms of the article, I'm disappointed is
10 probably one of -- I would rank in the top ten articles
11 that I have read that is -- was very slanted. We spent
12 a lot of time with the reporter. It was clear that it
13 had -- that there was an agenda. It was slanted and
14 to -- you know, again, a difference of opinion is fine.
15 We welcome it.

16 However, when the article tends to slant
17 towards, well, it appears that the Chief doesn't
18 understand what the objectives or the goals -- he cited
19 two different goals. Well, of course I did. Is it a
20 prevention tool? Absolutely. Have we used it to
21 detour crime, which you can use those words together?
22 Absolutely. It's a tool and it's also one strategy of
23 many that we use.

24 I think you said it best. The community is
25 highly supportive. They view the Green Light as a safe

1 haven. We know, factually, that people have made other
2 decisions, in terms of crimes in these locations.

3 So, for me not to cite a statistic, "Well,
4 how much crime do you think it prevents?" I have no
5 idea. We know it's preventing crime. Because, when
6 you look at suspects who are making a risk/benefit
7 analysis, they say, "Well, I don't want to do it at a
8 Green Light." They talk about the Green Light. And
9 we've made some very highly publicized arrests.

10 And then when we're talking about they
11 mentioned in the article, as I recall, about the
12 unfortunate robbery/shooting that occurred on Woodward.
13 That was a direct effort by Green Light, where officers
14 were on virtual patrol, not physically on the ground
15 but the analysts were in the Realtime Crime Center,
16 they were checking that area at the right time. And,
17 because of that, the analyst saw, in realtime, a crime
18 occur. They notified resources on the ground. We got
19 there very quickly and an arrest was made without
20 incident.

21 And so any suggestion that Green Light
22 doesn't work or that the people like it -- I think the
23 biggest take-away from the article, this whole notion
24 of surveillance.

25 So, I'd ask the public, I mean, so, if this

1 is a place of safety that the police could be
2 monitoring in the public space, I'm not talking about
3 peering in private residences. These are public
4 spaces. Is this something that we, as a community,
5 would want and what's the benefit of that?

6 And so the article was very slanted. We had
7 a conversation with the writer. She acknowledged it
8 was slanted, basically, without coming out and directly
9 saying that. We did talk to the editors and expressed
10 our disappointment for the article being slanted.

11 Again, a difference of opinion, that's fine.
12 We're going to always differ on whatever the issue
13 might be. It is the community is driving. You know
14 right now, as it stands, I think worry sitting at
15 roughly 310 Green Lights around the City, all
16 voluntary. There are probably about 75 to 80 waiting
17 to get the Green Light, again, voluntary. So I think
18 it's a program --

19 And not to mention the fact that we've had a
20 number of cities visit Detroit to see how the realtime
21 crime interfaces with Green Light. And so I think,
22 when I look at Green Light, not because we're doing it
23 but, factually, this is probably one of the big things
24 going on in law enforcement today. Like when CompStat
25 was introduced in the early '90s. It works here and

1 we're seeing the fruits of our labor. We're seeing our
2 reductions.

3 COMM. DEWAELSCHES: Madam Chair, I have a
4 comment.

5 Yes, I think what's important to note as
6 well, Chief, is that the perception that the business
7 community has and that the community has; that they
8 feel safer because of Green Light. The fact that
9 you -- your department has been able to build the
10 number up so quickly and so large in a matter of two
11 years, you know, from a handful when it started to now
12 over 300 is an indication that the business community
13 feels that it is something that they have to have, not
14 only to feel safe but to increase their business.

15 And I did hear one businessman -- or I mean a
16 comment was in the paper about -- from one business man
17 who said he felt his business was doing better as a
18 result of Green Light. So those are two very important
19 factors.

20 I think it's working, definitely. There -- I
21 do have one question that -- that came out of the
22 article. And that is the comment about, if the number
23 increases too significantly, we may not be able to
24 handle it or -- at least that's what I gathered from
25 the article. Can you speak to that part of it?

1 CHIEF CRAIG: You know, through the Chair,
2 and that's -- we're talking about capacity. I don't
3 have an answer for you on what capacity looks like. If
4 we had a thousand Green Lights across the City, would
5 it be more of a challenge, in terms of addressing? We
6 would have to hire more staff, certainly, to staff
7 our -- our Realtime Crime Center.

8 The beauty -- and for those who haven't
9 visited, I would, you know, urge you to do so. One of
10 the things that we put in place -- because to say that
11 with 300 plus Green Light locations, that in any given
12 time, we're monitoring all 300 simultaneously, that is
13 not happening. That's -- I don't care if we have
14 triple the analysts that we have now; it just couldn't
15 happen.

16 What does happen and what we built into the
17 system is that whenever a -- there's an issue at a
18 Green Light location whether it's a crime in process,
19 whether it's an officer who was giving special
20 attention, there's an alert that comes up in the
21 Green -- in the Realtime Crime Center that says very
22 distinctively "Green Light alert", and then the panel
23 screens, the middle screen goes right to that location
24 in realtime so the analysts know there's something
25 happening at this Green Light location, they can see it

1 in progress. It could, again, be just an officer
2 conducting special attention or it could be a crime in
3 progress.

4 Either way, if necessary, the analysts have
5 the ability to go into our dispatch center, via
6 technology at their desk, and notify them of this crime
7 in progress and then give out information, in terms of
8 a suspect description, vehicle description. And so
9 that does matter.

10 And so, again, it really reinforces what
11 defines realtime crime. And, as you pointed out, they
12 did mention one business owner citing an increase in
13 business. I can tell you a lot of businesspeople have
14 indicated that they have seen an increase. And what's
15 interesting, not the police officers but it's
16 neighborhood residents who are going who are going to
17 locations that are not Green Light and urging them to
18 consider it, not us but neighborhood residents, and
19 saying, "If you don't consider it, we will just take
20 our business someplace else."

21 COMM. DEWAELSCHES: Thank you.

22 COMM. BROOKS: Madam Chair.

23 CHAIR CARTER: Commissioner Brooks.

24 COMM. BROOKS: Chief, could you share with
25 us -- and I only saw it briefly this morning on the

1 News. The paintball that they're shooting in this
2 community that's causing an uproar among all the people
3 in the community. Could you -- I know it just

4 happened. But could you explain a little bit to us --

5 CHIEF CRAIG: Through the Chair --

6 COMM. BROOKS: -- about what this is?

7 CHIEF CRAIG: You know, I wish I could tell
8 you why and for what reason. What I'm being told
9 through social media there's been a -- probably I'm
10 going to turn it over to AC Williams but, basically,
11 it's supposed to be a way of increasing the peace.

12 COMM. BROOKS: That's what I thought.

13 CHIEF CRAIG: Instead of picking up firearms,
14 they're picking up paint balls. I don't see the
15 relationship, particularly when you are firing paint
16 balls at vehicles or people. In fact, one of our plain
17 vehicles got fired upon. So I don't see how that
18 translates -- pick up a paint ball gun instead of a
19 real gun. How about just don't pick up anything? I
20 don't know.

21 So do you want to add insight, sir.

22 AC WILLIAMS: I think you covered it all,
23 Chief; that was basically it. So we're still moving
24 forward to make sure we don't have any more of those
25 instances. But, again, we -- the message is don't pick

1 up a paint gun. A paint gun looks just like a real
2 weapon and puts you in a position where you could be
3 fired upon by somebody -- by law enforcement or by
4 someone else who has a weapon. And it is something
5 that is being pushed by social media and we want to
6 make sure that we combat it, put the message out, do
7 not come out with a paint gun. If you are going to use
8 a pain gun and fire paint balls, go to an established
9 business that actually has a facility to support that.
10 If you do it on the streets, you're probably going to
11 be arrested or ticketed.

12 CHIEF CRAIG: And through the Chair, I want
13 to also just add, we were talking about realtime crime.
14 In addition to, you know, virtual patrol and responding
15 to Green Light locations, they daily do threat
16 assessments, whether it's infrastructure, whether it's
17 a large-scale event that's going on in Detroit or
18 people, individuals, like elected people, every day
19 they're doing threat assessments and they're scouring
20 social media for these kind of issues.

21 So many times they intercept information but
22 it could be a threat against a school and then they
23 give it to us and we respond. So it's just not a
24 center with a bunch of screens up, it really does a lot
25 more. And I can tell you that, in comparison to other

1 Realtime Crime Centers in other cities, we probably
2 have one of the more advanced, which is good news for
3 the City.

4 CHAIR CARTER: Deputy Chief Bettison.

5 CHIEF BETTISON: Hi. Deputy Chief Bettison.
6 For the record, I just wanted to add a little more
7 about the paintball discussion. Through your community
8 outreach and just our police officer program, et
9 cetera, you know, citizens talk. With the paintball
10 situation, they connected -- one of the original young
11 men who started the thing on social media, he's a
12 college students that he graduated from Wayne State.

13 So I talked to him on the phone about maybe
14 15 minutes right before the meeting and he said, "Hey,
15 you know we started this thing out, we put it on social
16 media, Facetime Live and it just grew and then it got
17 out of control. More and more folks are coming to it."
18 But he was like, "Listen, we want to be able to get the
19 message out we're with the police department, to, you
20 know, encourage folks not to do that. We're on the
21 same page with the Detroit Police Department." So we
22 definitely want to reach out to it. And then also,
23 like Assistant Chief Williams said, it's locations that
24 individuals can go to. We don't have any in the City
25 of Detroit at this time but it's five locations right

1 in our Metropolitan Detroit area region where
2 individuals can go and participate in paintball in a
3 safe environment because safety is of a top concern.
4 Thank you.

5 CHAIR CARTER: Thank you, sir.

6 COMM. BROOKS: Thank you very much.

7 CHAIR CARTER: Any other questions,
8 Commissioners?

9 COMM. HOLLEY: Chairperson, I know I'm new.
10 And I apologize if I am going to embarrass myself.

11 CHAIR CARTER: Okay. We all have done that.

12 COMM. HOLLEY: One of the things, Chief, I've
13 always been concerned about, we know that this is not
14 only for the audience that's here but it's for the
15 people at home. When we make reports about
16 percentages, rather than the actual figure, I'll be
17 honest with you, I like to think that I know more than
18 arithmetic and, you know, fractions and all. But is
19 there any reason why we deal with -- when we make
20 reports, that we basically do it in percentages rather
21 than the actual figures?

22 For example, if there is -- if it's 90 people
23 were killed since last year, this year, we say it went
24 down 20 percent, 30 percent. I'm not quite sure, even
25 with my education, and certainly with people that

1 basically in the City of Detroit, not that I'm trying
2 to put anybody down, is there any reason why we don't
3 do the actual figures rather than do percentages?

4 And I apologize, Madam Chairperson.

5 CHIEF CRAIG: No need for -- through the
6 Chair, no need to apologize. In fact, when I give my
7 report, especially -- we do a report every day. And,
8 when we do our report every day, we give a percentage
9 because we set a goal. So, for an example, our overall
10 goal for crime reduction is five percent. So it's
11 important at that we look at where are we at with
12 achieving our crime reduction goal. So we've exceeded
13 so far, although we are this the second quarter of the
14 year.

15 But, as a matter of routine, when I give the
16 report, which I did today, by way of example so
17 homicide we're down 16 percent, year to date. But I
18 also said we're down 14 homicides.

19 COMM. HOLLEY: Okay. I didn't hear that. I
20 apologize.

21 CHIEF CRAIG: So I give that.

22 COMM. HOLLEY: I said I apologize.

23 CHIEF CRAIG: No, that's fine. But, you
24 know, again, I'm not waiving of flag of success when I
25 give the report. I'm also always concerned about the

1 perception of crime, which that's not always measured.
2 But, when people say, "We now feel safer" -- I've also
3 said even last year, when we ended the year with 267
4 homicides, the lowest number in 50 years. And so, yes,
5 progress, but not success.

6 Los Angeles a City 40 times the size of -- 5
7 times the size of Detroit ended the year with 285. So,
8 when you look at homicide per one thousand -- and this
9 is why when the year-end reports, they start comparing
10 cities as to the most violent, they do it by 1,000.
11 But there's another conversation.

12 When I look at it, I don't look at it just
13 by, you know, the fact that Detroit has 700 residents.
14 We also have to take into account what is the true
15 population that we're providing safety and security to.
16 We don't take into account the people that come into
17 Detroit every day for whether it's entertainment
18 sporting events or people who work here. That
19 number -- I mean, we're the largest city in the State.
20 A lot of people that work here live outside the city.
21 So, when you talk about policing, it's much more than
22 700,000. But that's never really talked about.

23 So -- but I do give the hard numbers because
24 they're easier. Percentages, as I do agree, they
25 matter very little to folks. But what does make more

1 sense -- so, with 14 homicides fewer in compared to
2 this time last year.

3 COMM. HOLLEY: Got you. Thank you so much.
4 Thank you, Madam Chair.

5 CHAIR CARTER: Thank you, sir.

6 Any other questions, Commissioners?

7 At this time we'll have the presentation from
8 the OCI, Dr. McAlister.

9 DR. McALISTER: Good afternoon,
10 Commissioners.

11 COMMISSIONERS: Good afternoon.

12 DR. McALISTER: And new Commissioner, Chief
13 Craig.

14 For the record, I'm Holly McAlister, Chief
15 Investigator. And I'll be presenting the March report.

16 Last month, we talked about how, how to we to
17 things. This month we're going to talk about why we do
18 things. What I wanted to really talk about is why is
19 civilian oversight important. Why do we actually need
20 it?

21 Civilian oversight is important because it
22 offers a sense of justice to the community, it offers
23 accountability, operates as a repairing process between
24 law enforcement and society, offers recommendations of
25 courses of action that the Department can take to

1 correct issues.

2 Why are citizen complaints important?

3 Citizens complaints are designed is to
4 initiate a discussion, review and revise training
5 concepts and also develop policy development. It also
6 aids in looking for patterns, trends in complaints to
7 identify underlining causes of police misconduct.

8 They also allow police -- sorry -- police
9 executives to redirect their police department, as far
10 as actions, trainings, responsibilities of supervision
11 based on the findings of complaints.

12 Sometime, when we look at complaints and we
13 see that it's a high section of procedure issues, we
14 can ask the department, Hey, maybe we should conduct
15 additional training or retraining specifically designed
16 to talk about policies and procedures.

17 This is our yearly overview for March last
18 year versus this month. Although we had a 19 percent
19 decrease, I understand your concerns about percentages.
20 But percentages are -- just allow you to kind like of
21 gauge where you were at one time and where you are at
22 now. But I like hard numbers as well.

23 This is an overview of the units that are
24 actually receiving the citizens' complaints. We took
25 in 73, however our office took in the most, which means

1 the citizens have a lot of faith in our Department and
2 they believe that we're going to investigate things
3 fairly and thoroughly.

4 For the citizens' complaints that we closed,
5 I would like for you to just look at two, demeanor and
6 procedure. Last month we had 44. We're down -- we're
7 down to 35. However, we're seeing a trend of it's
8 really about profanity. People are filing complaints
9 based on how they're talked to, officers using
10 profanity language.

11 The second one is procedure. We're up a
12 little bit to 57. And that's based on what we've been
13 looking at is that officers are indecisive about what
14 to do and when to do it. And that's causing a lot of
15 complaints to come into our office based on procedures.

16 For March, citizens' complaints closed
17 investigations due to DPD car video equipment. Out of
18 82, 5 were able to be closed based on captured
19 incidents.

20 This is kind of like my favorite. It's the
21 body-worn cameras. I think what we can do is always
22 ask supervision to really, really talk to their
23 officers about wearing the body cams. They really help
24 when we get a clear picture of what actually happened.
25 It either tells that it did happen or it didn't happen

1 and there is no gray area.

2 So last month we talked about how high our
3 senior officers were. We're actually down in that
4 area. However, we're up as far as police officers.
5 And the two main concentration areas are demeanor and
6 procedure.

7 Last we met -- the Citizens' Complaint
8 Committee met and we looked at quite a few videos. And
9 what we noticed was that the majority of our complaints
10 are coming from officers two years or less and they're
11 really the two main focus area is demeanor and
12 procedure, again.

13 So last month we set some goals. And here's
14 our follow-up for our month goals:

15 To increase public confident and trust in law
16 enforcement. We're doing that by visiting community
17 groups and actually talking about the Office of Chief
18 Investigator and what we do as well as the Board of
19 Police Commissioners.

20 We're reviewing and monitoring our trends,
21 what complaints are actually coming in.

22 Commissioner Bell asked that we request a
23 30-day review of demeanor complaints. So we've been
24 actually pulling those. We actually have some video
25 for you to see. And they're really, really focused on

1 just profane language.

2 The majority of officers get out, they're
3 polite. But we do have a few instances that have
4 really escalated.

5 For February, we had 44. We're actually down
6 to 35 but we still have the same issues.

7 So what we request is that we still have
8 general reminders at on-duty roll call and really talk
9 about service, demeanor, procedure, and continue to
10 meet with the Citizens' Complaint Committee and really
11 work on developing ideas as well as how do we prevent
12 future complaints.

13 And our other goal was to speak to graduating
14 academy classes regarding Excellence in Ethics, and
15 we're scheduled to do that April 30th.

16 So, in remembrance of Commissioner
17 Derrick Sanders, the Board of Appeals Commissioners and
18 the Office of the Chief Investigator, we'll be walking
19 in support of the American Heart Association. So, for
20 those who like to donate, you can go down to this
21 website, scroll down to "teams" and put in Team
22 Sanders. And you can either sign up to walk with us or
23 donate in his honor. And that will be May 12th. And
24 we'll be meeting at Wayne State.

25 All right?

1 CHAIR CARTER: Thank you. Thank you,
2 Dr. McAlister.

3 Commissioners, do you have questions for
4 Dr. McAlister?

5 Commissioner Bell?

6 COMM. BELL: Yes. Yes, madam chair.

7 Dr. McAlister, thank you for highlighting
8 demeanor. And I have spoken to this -- at this table
9 on two or three different occasions. Because, after
10 rereading these reports and going back in the history
11 of, you know, DPD, it's something that I think we can
12 drive down. And I think that it behooves the sergeants
13 and the Lieutenant's at the policing level and any
14 level. Because I have witnessed this. You know, I
15 know the language sometimes. And I recall one of my
16 last assignments was the Eleventh Precinct, and one of
17 the younger officers came in and said, "Hey", speaking
18 to me, "What's up Dogg?" And, you know, we had a
19 serious conversation at that desk. But that come out
20 of that street culture language. And the language
21 sometimes even in the precinct.

22 So we need to be professional. And I think
23 we can courage that if we take it seriously as a DPD
24 issue. Because we can drive down demeanor. And that's
25 why I asked for those Teletypes and those personal

1 interactions.

2 We speak to the academy class about that.

3 And you cited just yesterday, and older -- well, I

4 don't know how old but she might have been a little bit

5 older than me, how he was speaking on tape, on body

6 camera, and just demeaning profanity with this young --

7 young lady, up in her 80s, right?

8 DR. McALISTER: Yeah, she was just totally

9 shocked.

10 COMM. BELL: Yeah, she was just totally

11 shocked. And she tried to check this young man. And I

12 don't know the outcome. But at least it's on body

13 camera. But he should be embarrassed. I would be

14 embarrassed. I would not tolerate anybody to speak to

15 me in this manner. And I recall -- I'm a long way from

16 being a boy in Mississippi and my grandfather.

17 And so this other language, you can blame it

18 on what it is, hip-hop or whatever, it's something

19 we've got to drive out of DPD, as far as demeanor. So

20 I'm glad that you sort of lifted that up. And we've

21 got to emphasize that. And we will do that this Monday

22 if it's ongoing. That's why I think, if you visit the

23 academy, it's so crucial to speak in that two-hour

24 block how we feel about it, in terms of the Board of

25 Police Commissioners. I think we also represent the

1 Department. They have six months of training. So
2 they're retraining those young officers this is not the
3 place for it.

4 Thank you, Madam Chair.

5 DR. McALISTER: I agree.

6 CHAIR CARTER: Thank you.

7 Thank you Commissioner Bell.

8 Any other questions, comments?

9 COMM. MALLETT: Madam Chairperson.

10 CHAIR CARTER: Yes?

11 COMM. MALLETT: And Dr. McAlister, thank you
12 as well.

13 I wonder, when I read the reports, I continue
14 to see the same names. And I wonder, do you keep track
15 of the incidents and then do a report to the precinct
16 commander, "This is your report for your particular
17 precinct and, by the way, John Jones, Jane Smith and
18 Ted Johnson, as usual, are in the report"? And so I
19 just -- thank you.

20 DR. McALISTER: We submit that in findings to
21 the Chief and then they implement discipline on their
22 end. However, what our Committee has decided to do is
23 start to track that on our own. And it's merely going
24 to be done to use it as a training tool when we go into
25 the academy, to just talk about what not to do.

1 Because sometimes you'll have a very, very good officer
2 who just gets very comfortable --

3 COMM. MALLETT: Right.

4 DR. McALISTER: -- or he may have a training
5 officer who's very comfortable with his language, and
6 it carries over. So that's not to say that all our
7 officers are bad. And, if we can actually see that
8 with the reduction, even though we went from 44 to 35,
9 reductions still matter, which means we're doing
10 something right. We just need to, kind of like,
11 increase it.

12 CHAIR CARTER: Commissioner Burton?

13 COMM. BURTON: Through the Chair, you know, I
14 have a question for the Chief Investigator.

15 Do we track citizens that try and resolve
16 their differences within the precinct first, prior to
17 coming to the Board of Police Commissioners?

18 DR. McALISTER: I don't know if we actually
19 track that. They can go into any precinct and file a
20 complaint. That complaint is forwarded over to us. So
21 we encourage people to go to any precinct. They can
22 call. They can e-mail they can fax. So I don't really
23 think that we track if they go into the precinct. We
24 have the numbers, as far as if they go into the
25 precinct and I, kind of like, showed that in that other

1 slide. The numbers are really down in the precincts.
2 They really call our actual office direct.

3 CHAIR CARTER: Any other questions?

4 Thank you, ma'am.

5 DR. McALISTER: You're welcome.

6 CHAIR CARTER: And now we will have the
7 report -- the presentation from the Forfeiture Unit.

8 SERGEANT NEILSON: While I'm waiting, good
9 afternoon.

10 COMMISSIONERS: Good afternoon.

11 SERGEANT NEILSON: Madam Chair, members of
12 the Board of Police Commissioners and other officers,
13 AC Williams, DC Barren, DC Bettison Lieutenants and
14 Sergeants and that's probably 30 seconds of my --

15 Once again, good afternoon. Forfeiture
16 Section is made up --

17 CHAIR CARTER: I'm sorry. Did you say your
18 name?

19 SERGEANT NEILSON: I'm sorry. Neilson,
20 Sergeant Daniel Neilson. I'm sorry. I apologize.
21 Forfeiture is a recognized method of combating illegal
22 drug trafficking and curbing lewd and other wanton to
23 know behavior.

24 And at the bottom of the screen forfeiture is
25 a unit within the Assets and Licensing, which is

1 commanded by Lieutenant Michael Parish underneath the
2 office of Support Operations Commander Mark Bliss, and
3 underneath the office of Support Operations, again,
4 Assistant Chief James White and, of course, under Chief
5 of Police James Craig.

6 The role of the Forfeiture Section is to
7 receive and process all forfeiture petitions brought to
8 us by members of the Detroit Police Department.

9 We serve as a liaison between the Detroit
10 Police Department and the Wayne County prosecuting
11 attorneys and other prosecuting agencies.

12 We track the status of all forfeiture cases.

13 We maintain statistics as required by law or
14 by policy and we serve as the final repository of all
15 forfeiture case files.

16 And we provide information, guidance and
17 training in matters pertaining to civil asset
18 forfeiture.

19 Civil asset forfeiture is a legal process
20 that involves a divestiture without compensation of
21 property that was used in a matter contrary to local,
22 State or Federal law.

23 What does that mean in plain terms? It means
24 that we take the instrumentality that the criminals are
25 using to make their money and we take it from them and

1 turn it into a legal stream of commerce.

2 How we do that is by turning those monies
3 into programs or purchases for the police department.
4 We utilize auctions to do the same.

5 The types of civil asset forfeiture are drug
6 asset forfeiture. And the best way that I can explain
7 drug asset forfeiture would be, there's actually three
8 main ways that drug asset forfeiture is used. The
9 first would be a narcotics search warrant. The second
10 would be -- and this is the primary throughout the
11 department -- is the traffic stop, where the officers
12 stop a vehicle, they investigate the driver and he's
13 found to be wanted. And, incident to that arrest, he's
14 searched and he's found to be in possession of
15 narcotics. At that time, monies that he has on his
16 person and/or the vehicle can be seized.

17 And the third way would be, for lack of a
18 better term, a foot stop. Persons are loitering on the
19 corner, the officers tell the persons to, you know,
20 "Don't hang, don't be on the corner." And they come
21 back in a few moments and those persons are still there
22 and they investigate them and, once again, someone
23 happens to be wanted. He is arrested and, incident to
24 that arrest, he is found to be in possession of
25 narcotics. And, if he has money on his person, that

1 money is seized for forfeiture purposes.

2 Another method is nuisance abatement. And
3 two of the largest of the nuisance abatement are offer
4 to engages, wherein the person is trying to pick up a
5 prostitute. And the second one would be a push-off.
6 There again, the best way to explain a push-off is
7 Narcotics or Special Operations does a search warrant
8 at a home or business and, after locking up the
9 occupants, they become the drug dealers. And so any
10 subsequent persons coming to purchase narcotics are
11 told to return in 20 minutes, or whatever it might be.
12 And, as they drive away, they are stopped and the
13 vehicle seized for forfeiture.

14 Another is OWI repeat offender. And this,
15 along with the last, omnibus forfeiture, are the only
16 two that require convictions prior to forfeiture being
17 instituted.

18 OWI is for, as it states, repeat offenders.
19 Those caught driving, they have been convicted within
20 the previous seven years or two times within any amount
21 of years.

22 There's drag racing. And we all know what
23 drag racing is. You have a timer, a flag person and a
24 course.

25 Felony identity theft, wherein a person is

1 utilizing fraudulent paperwork to the vehicle and
2 stating that it's a true statement or a true piece of
3 information wherein it's not.

4 And last is omnibus forfeiture. And omnibus
5 forfeiture, as I stated, a conviction has to be
6 achieved before forfeiture proceedings can be
7 instituted. Omnibus is a means of -- how can I explain
8 this to them, omnibus?

9 LIEUTENANT PARISH: So omnibus, like it
10 sounds, refers to all other business, all other crimes.
11 And there is a long list of crimes in the penal code
12 that could possibly fall under omnibus. I think today
13 there's approximately 40. And they could range from
14 anything from B & E crimes to certain weapon crimes,
15 although they do not include general CCW crimes.

16 So it's called omnibus to refer to all the
17 other crimes. That list does get updated as the
18 legislature sees fit. And so, rather than, say,
19 forfeiture, special weapon offenses forfeiture, they
20 just put it all under this omnibus statute.

21 SERGEANT NEILSON: Thank you.

22 CHAIR CARTER: Can you give your name for the
23 record?

24 LIEUTENANT PARISH: I apologize. I'm
25 Lieutenant Michael Parish. And I'm head of Licensing

1 and Forfeiture.

2 SERGEANT NEILSON: Thank you, Lieutenant.

3 The last sentence on there, Regardless of the action
4 the goal is deterrence. And I will explain that in one
5 moment.

6 Forfeiture assets can be utilized for any of
7 the following:

8 Training. And we've had many requests for
9 training; the dive team, the bomb squad, K-9, of course
10 Narcotics, Special Response. Equipment that has been
11 purchased with forfeiture funds includes the tasers,
12 patrol rifles -- facilities, monies can be used to fix
13 up a facility but you can't build a facility with
14 forfeiture funds -- supplies, other programs.
15 Prohibited uses include general government use,
16 personal gain and replacing regular law enforcement
17 budget items, such as pistols or radios for vehicles.

18 One second.

19 Some significant events at forfeiture is
20 Training Directive 17-09 was written in the directive,
21 providing guidelines to Department members. We also
22 provide civil asset forfeiture training at the academy
23 during the 40-hour block of training. And myself and
24 forfeiture personnel as well as Wayne County
25 prosecutors assist in that procedure or that process.

1 As I stated earlier about deterrents being
2 one of the main thrusts behind forfeiture, as you can
3 see, the amounts are going down from 2015 to 2016,
4 2017, in terms of money seized, vehicles seized,
5 petitions. So, as I say, it is working.

6 Some general trends or recent trends, I
7 should say, were that a bill that was brought before a
8 committee would have mandated that forfeiture --
9 correction -- that the criminal conviction be sustained
10 before forfeiture could be instituted. And thank
11 goodness that it has stalled because it would have
12 crippled the forfeiture process within not only the
13 City of Detroit but the County of Wayne as well.

14 There was a question about auctions in the
15 very beginning. I could not write it down. But I note
16 that it was by the committee -- or by the Board of
17 Police Commissioners had asked about auctions.

18 CHAIR CARTER: I'm not sure who asked that
19 question but we'll find out.

20 Mr. Hicks?

21 MR. HICKS: Yes, Madam Chair. Typically, it
22 was a case, when we have a presentation is coming up
23 before the Board, we try and compile a list of
24 questions. And our hope is that list of questions, the
25 department would utilize it to kind of frame its

1 presentation to you all. The way those questions
2 develop, we go back and we listen to previous meetings
3 in which you've had and take it under consideration
4 comments that you've made, either the full board or in
5 subcommittee meetings and we use that to form a basis
6 for generating the questions.

7 So, in effect, what has come up, articulated
8 by members of the board, either in general session or
9 in subcommittee session, would be such things as, as
10 the department confiscates cars and things like that,
11 what ultimately happens? What is the relationship
12 between the confiscation that takes place and
13 ultimately that expresses itself in an auction where
14 those items are not returned to a citizen but actually
15 auctioned off?

16 We also raised other questions that related
17 to the -- the amount of activity was taking place. We
18 had noticed over time that they were -- there is a drug
19 forfeiture fund. That fund is not a fund that exists
20 in the confines of the Detroit Police Department,
21 meaning that it exists under another operating fund.
22 And, when the Department wants to access that fund, as
23 in the case when it purchased tasers and big items like
24 that, they have to go to the Detroit City Council, ask
25 for that money to be removed from that fund and put

1 into the operational budget of the Department.

2 So we have noted those types of things. And
3 that gives us some approximation as to the sizes o
4 the -- of the fund. And, if I recall -- and I don't
5 want to do this off the top of my head but the -- on
6 two occasions where funds had been transferred out of
7 that -- out of that fund and recognized as part of
8 police revenues, they have been in the two to five
9 million dollar bracket, for -- for example, tasers and
10 body-worn cameras.

11 That would suggest to us, again, that there
12 is a considerable amount of activity taking place on
13 the street. And one of the things we try to ask, in
14 the form of the questions, is whether -- the Department
15 to characterize some of that for us. Meaning, what --
16 I mean, are they more likely to seize cars? Are we
17 talking about narcotic products? Or, I mean, whatever
18 way they characterize it, would give the Board a better
19 understanding.

20 And then, of course, we're concerned with, as
21 those things are confiscated, how are they inventoried,
22 if, in fact, they are inventoried? And we have no
23 reason to believe they're not. We just have not seen
24 that as a board. How are they stored? And, then
25 again, how are they eventually dealt with or disposed

1 of at the end of the process?

2 So it's in that nature that we generate the
3 questions. And I believe that the some eight questions
4 that we asked on behalf of the Board are reflective of
5 those things in which I've outlined.

6 CHAIR CARTER: All right. So did you get all
7 of that?

8 MR. HICKS: Madam Chair, the questions were
9 provided to them in advance.

10 CHAIR CARTER: Yeah.

11 MR. HICKS: So these questions would not be a
12 surprise to them, as they sit here today.

13 CHAIR CARTER: So let's just start with
14 the -- what I want to start with, the forfeiture of the
15 cars noted here is like for 2017, 1,574 vehicles were
16 seized. So, when they're seized, some of them are
17 returned to owners and then some of them are auctioned
18 off. Do you have any idea how many were auctioned -- I
19 guess they're auctioned off.

20 SERGEANT NEILSON: We seized 1,574 vehicles,
21 that's correct, ma'am. And how many did we auction
22 off?

23 CHAIR CARTER: Yes.

24 SERGEANT NEILSON: I don't have that
25 information with me but --

1 CHAIR CARTER: Okay.

2 SERGEANT NEILSON: -- we do have -- we do
3 track that information.

4 CHAIR CARTER: Okay.

5 MR. HICKS: Madam Chair, if we could get
6 clarification as to the -- at some point, a
7 determination is made to auction them off or return
8 them. Maybe if they provided some information on that
9 decision, on under what circumstances are they returned
10 and under what circumstances are they auctioned off.

11 CHAIR CARTER: Okay. Is that a --

12 LIEUTENANT PARISH: May it please the Board,
13 any time a vehicle or money or any sort of property is
14 seized for forfeiture, the officers will serve the
15 individual with a Notice of Intent to Forfeiture. We
16 treat that, effectively, as a forfeiture petition. So
17 the forfeiture petition, the arrest report and any
18 supplementary reports are turned in to the Forfeiture
19 Section. And we will forward those documents to the
20 Wayne County Prosecutor's office.

21 A forfeiture is essentially a civil action.
22 The Wayne County prosecutor is, in the name of the
23 People of State of Michigan, is bringing a lawsuit
24 against the individual for using their property in a
25 manner that violates law.

1 We can only put that vehicle to auction or
2 otherwise incorporate that asset into the Department's
3 forfeiture fund by way of a court order or by way of
4 default, meaning the person does not contest the
5 forfeiture at all.

6 If that occurs, we're now in a position to
7 auction off the property, be it a vehicle, a cellphone,
8 jewelry, whatever the case might be, or we have to wait
9 for a court order, a legal determination that that
10 property has been forfeited to the Detroit Police
11 Department.

12 Not all property is auctioned. Some
13 property, in fact, is integrated into the Department's
14 operations. So a vehicle had a runs well could very
15 well be an undercover vehicle for future narcotic
16 operations.

17 That is -- now, earlier I heard a question
18 about how they -- how property is inventoried.
19 Forfeited property is inventoried and tracked like any
20 other piece of property in the Detroit Police
21 Department. We have an evidence system called the
22 Tracker System. Anytime property is forfeited, it is
23 put into this Tracker System. That way, anybody can --
24 any member of the Department that has qualified access
25 can find out the status of that property and its

1 location.

2 Most physical pieces of property, cellphones,
3 are stored at the property room. Vehicles are stored
4 at the forfeiture lot. Money is stored at the property
5 room but only for 60 days, after which it's deposited
6 in the Department's forfeiture account.

7 If property is ever ordered released, the
8 Department acts promptly to get the owner into the
9 forfeiture office, obtain ID from them to make sure
10 that they're the person who should receive the property
11 back and we coordinate the release of that property.

12 In summary, that is how property is managed.

13 CHAIR CARTER: Thank you, Lieutenant.

14 Commissioners, do you have any other
15 questions?

16 COMM. BELL: Yes, Madam Chair.

17 CHAIR CARTER: Commissioner Bell?

18 COMM. BELL: As always, I have an interest in
19 terms of education component of the forfeiture act. Is
20 that still intact? Is that -- I want to -- we used to
21 have this saying, "Just say no." Dare program, drug
22 education program. Do we do any of that anymore?

23 LIEUTENANT PARISH: That might be a better
24 question for deputy Chief Bettison. I personally am
25 not aware of any community education programs.

1 COMM. BELL: You're not aware of that this
2 was embedded, in terms of a forfeiture act at one time,
3 that not only for training for police department, not
4 only for equipment, but there was a component to
5 educate people, especially young people, addressing
6 drugs, education, as part of that forfeiture act.

7 CHIEF BETTISON: We still participate in
8 DARE, the Detroit Police Department. We have officers
9 that go into the schools that have been DARE trained
10 and are still doing it.

11 COMM. BELL: At some point in time, could you
12 share with us, in terms of the education component that
13 addresses drug education?

14 CHIEF BETTISON: The actual acronym of DARE
15 is escaping me right now. I know it's Drug -- Drug
16 Awareness -- it's escaping me.

17 COMM. BELL: I mean, nobody really uses it
18 anymore. You don't have to worry about that.

19 CHIEF BETTISON: Right. It's just called
20 DARE.

21 COMM. BELL: But I'm just concerned, how are
22 we educating young people now and as part of it maybe
23 we need to visit the act itself to see if it's still
24 there.

25 CHIEF CRAIG: Through the Chair, we don't

1 really do DARE. I mean, a lot of police departments
2 have moved away from it.

3 COMM. BELL: Right, it's obsolete.

4 CHIEF CRAIG: There's a lot of mentor youth
5 programming we do. We do it through PAL, the Police
6 Athletic League.

7 COMM. BELL: Right.

8 CHIEF CRAIG: We have a team-up program where
9 officers that, you know, work very closely with PAL
10 participants. We have a city camp children in trauma
11 intervention. So we have Explorers. So we have a lot
12 of youth programming but DARE, we're not really doing
13 DARE. But we incorporate drug resistance education in
14 the mentoring efforts that we are making with youth.

15 COMM. BELL: Well, Madam Chair that's what I
16 wanted. I understand DARE retired when I retired.

17 But, in that process, I know that, you know,
18 there was an effort to educate people not to use drugs,
19 especially young people. So I would just like to see,
20 if it's still in that program, are we utilizing those
21 funds? We use those funds for other areas. So, if
22 there's a drug education, specifically dealing with
23 drugs, then I'd like to see. If you're saying it's
24 incorporated overall, you know --

25 CHIEF CRAIG: Well, through the Chair, it's

1 not just drug education but it's gang resistance.
2 There are a lot of dynamics today. DARE frankly was
3 good for the time it was around but most police
4 departments don't like to use it. They have great
5 programs, it's gang resistance. So it's about crime
6 resistance. It's a lot of things. And we do it in a
7 lot of different ways.

8 COMM. BELL: Okay.

9 CHIEF CRAIG: We have a youth submit every
10 year. We're coming on our fourth youth submit. And
11 in, this submit, it's all-day effort, we set up
12 workshops, different workshops, whether it's bullying,
13 drug resistance, gang resistance. So we do a lot.

14 COMM. BELL: Fine. Thank you.

15 CHAIR CARTER: Commissioner Davis?

16 COMM. DAVIS: Do you have any idea of with
17 forfeiture, what percentage is returned to the citizen
18 and how long does that take?

19 LIEUTENANT PARISH: As far as how long it
20 takes, as soon as we are notified, we immediately get
21 to work on returning property. So understand that,
22 because it's a civil action, usually, once they realize
23 that their case has been adjudicated in their favor,
24 they're knocking on our door. Sometimes they know and
25 notify us and we have to go back and double check to

1 make sure that they're, in fact, telling the truth.

2 At that point, once they come in, we simply
3 copy their ID, give them a property return slip and
4 they report to the property room, if that's where their
5 property is at, or we get their vehicle released the
6 day of. There have been occasions where we've had to
7 make them come back the next day; they're few and far
8 between.

9 COMM. DAVIS: So do you have a percentage of
10 how much is actually returned?

11 LIEUTENANT PARISH: That, we do not have
12 right now.

13 COMM. DAVIS: Okay.

14 CHAIR CARTER: Last question -- well, any
15 other questions, Commissioners?

16 So are they charged a storage fee or anything
17 like that when their cars are forfeited and returned to
18 them -- or not forfeited but confiscated and then
19 returned to them?

20 LIEUTENANT PARISH: So we treat the
21 forfeiture a lot just like any tow lot, there is a
22 towing fee and storage fee and a towing administration
23 fee that attaches to the vehicle and they're charged
24 \$15 per day for storage.

25 Now, that being said, as part of the civil

1 action, the Court may cap their towing and storage
2 costs. The vehicle might be in our custody for a year
3 and the judge may say -- in addition to the forfeiture,
4 they may say, "And the towing and storage is capped at
5 \$250." So we're always guided by the Court.

6 But, if the Court doesn't issue us any
7 direction on that front, it's \$125 for the tow, \$15 per
8 day and a \$75 admin fee. That's just for towing and
9 storage. There may be fines and costs associated with
10 the forfeiture offense itself but that's through the
11 Wayne County Prosecutor's Office and the individual
12 claims.

13 COMM. HOLLEY: I've tried so hard, Madam
14 Foreperson, not to say anything and my twin brother
15 will help me. But did I hear -- now, I'm from the
16 south. But did I hear a procedure thing. Did you say
17 that sometimes you guys walk up and you see some guy
18 who's on the corner, then you come back to the corner
19 and then you basically -- that's when you search them
20 and you take their stuff.

21 Number two, did you say that you stop the car
22 and then -- then the car goes on just a little while,
23 then you stop it and then you take the stuff?

24 And then thirdly, that, when you get your car
25 that you said that you use for undercover, who pays for

1 that? Where did that money come from that you bought
2 the car? If I bought the car at the auction, I got to
3 pay. If you get the car, where did that money come
4 from or to you just get it because you got it?

5 LIEUTENANT PARISH: Let me address that,
6 those questions in reverse order. So with respect to
7 the vehicle, what I was attempting to say was that, if
8 a vehicle is seized in connection with a forfeiture
9 case, a forfeiture petition is initiated and they
10 either default or the petition works out in our favor,
11 the vehicle becomes the property of the Detroit Police
12 Department. Many vehicles, in fact, most vehicles go
13 to auction.

14 COMM. HOLLEY: Right.

15 LIEUTENANT PARISH: However, there are some
16 that have the qualities that are necessary to convert
17 that vehicle --

18 COMM. HOLLEY: And the law allows you to take
19 my car; you can take my car and not pay anybody for it?

20 LIEUTENANT PARISH: Well, forfeiture is a
21 legal divestiture without compensation. In other
22 words, it -- by law, by operation of law, if you have
23 used that vehicle or money or any sort of property
24 during the course of illegal activity, for example,
25 drug sales or drug -- in some cases drug use.

1 COMM. HOLLEY: Let me ask you this: Because
2 I don't want to belabor this. It seems like it's the
3 only concern, nobody has a concern, maybe just me. But
4 you're meaning to tell me that you can take all of it,
5 you don't even have to send none of it to -- I mean
6 just, if you want to be mean -- you don't have to be.
7 But, if you just want to be mean, you mean to tell me
8 you can take everything and the Police Department would
9 keep it? Because I'm just saying to you, if you can
10 take a car, why can't you take five cars, take all
11 cars?

12 LIEUTENANT PARISH: Well, first our authority
13 to seize for forfeiture is limited to the Department
14 having probable cause to initially believe that it was
15 used to commit one of the offenses.

16 COMM. HOLLEY: I understand that part.

17 LIEUTENANT PARISH: But then it goes through
18 a civil procedure, in which case --

19 COMM. HOLLEY: I understand that part. I'm
20 still trying to figure out how you get the money to buy
21 my car.

22 LIEUTENANT PARISH: I'm sorry. We're not --

23 COMM. HOLLEY: Or how you just take my car
24 without no money.

25 LIEUTENANT PARISH: We seize your car. We

1 hold it, pending --

2 COMM. HOLLEY: The law allows you to do that?

3 LIEUTENANT PARISH: Yes, the law allows you
4 to do that.

5 COMM. HOLLEY: What about me coming on the
6 corner and you come back the second time and you get
7 me?

8 LIEUTENANT PARISH: What Sergeant Neilson was
9 doing was providing examples of how an investigation
10 might lead to a forfeiture that takes place. Now, the
11 predicate for any forfeiture action, forfeiture
12 seizure, is we have to have probable cause to believe
13 that the property at issue, be it a vehicle, be it
14 money, was somehow involved or furthered by --

15 COMM. HOLLEY: But, if you saw me the first
16 time -- if you saw me the first time, what made you
17 come back and see the same thing but make me go to the
18 wall?

19 LIEUTENANT PARISH: Again, Sergeant Neil --

20 COMM. HOLLEY: I'm from down south. I'm
21 sorry. We go to the wall down south. But down here --
22 no, but -- help me. I came through a stroke. You help
23 me.

24 COMM. BELL: Well, basically, I think
25 Commissioners are indicating, under the forfeiture act,

1 they can initiate that. And, basically, what's
2 happening is you're getting a push-back from the
3 community, is what you indicated. What right do they
4 have? And that's why they're trying to revamp or
5 revisit the forfeiture act; is that correct?

6 LIEUTENANT PARISH: Yes, there has been a
7 trend across the country expressing concern over
8 certain forfeiture loss.

9 COMM. BELL: The community feels that they're
10 innocent before proven guilty. And now you're being
11 guilty because they confiscated your car under the
12 forfeiture act and there's been abuse of the whole
13 process.

14 LIEUTENANT PARISH: There is proof of that.

15 COMM. BELL: Correct.

16 COMM. HOLLEY: Thank you very much.

17 COMM. BELL: No, it's a good question. Good
18 concern.

19 CHAIR CARTER: Thank you.

20 Commissioner Davis?

21 COMM. DAVIS: Okay. I was just going to --
22 so are you all going to submit a written report on the
23 actions in this discussion with details so that we
24 could have updated information for our records?

25 LIEUTENANT PARISH: We'll submit any report

1 the Board would like. What information specifically
2 would you like?

3 COMM. DAVIS: Everything that we discussed
4 about what's going on here about the forfeitures and
5 how you all doing it, percentages, just normal
6 practices that we should have more details on.

7 LIEUTENANT PARISH: We could prepare a report
8 for the Board.

9 CHAIR CARTER: The entire process, the whole
10 forfeiture process.

11 COMM. DAVIS: The whole process.

12 CHIEF WILLIAMS: If I may, Chief Williams.
13 What we'll to is we'll get with Mr. Hicks and we
14 will -- we'll request from the Board just to have
15 specific questions, specific details of what you want
16 and then Lieutenant Parish and his team will put all
17 that together and submit it to the Board.

18 MR. HICKS: Madam Chair, that's fine with us.
19 I would suggest that we start with the eight questions
20 we've already given to them.

21 CHIEF BETTISON: Agreed.

22 CHAIR CARTER: Okay. Thank you.

23 LIEUTENANT PARISH: And, for the Board, we
24 did answer those eight questions. We could certainly
25 forward our answers to the eight questions as part of

1 our report.

2 CHAIR CARTER: Thank you.

3 COMM. DAVIS: That would be helpful.

4 CHAIR CARTER: Commissioners, any -- thank
5 you for the -- Lieutenant and Sergeant, thank you for
6 every -- all of that.

7 Any standing or ad hoc committee reports at
8 this time, Commissioners?

9 COMM. BROOKS: I don't have a report but I
10 would like to thank our legal advisor for all the
11 information he's given to us, Recruiting, in places we
12 can go. Thank you so much. We really appreciate it.

13 CHAIR CARTER: Thank you.

14 Are there any other reports, comments?

15 At this time, we'll have the report from the
16 Board Secretary, Mr. Hicks.

17 MR. HICKS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I --
18 something I wanted to draw your attention to, a couple
19 items that are listed on the agenda. Again, these
20 items are incoming communication and I do want to
21 thank -- in the last meeting we raised the question of
22 the Green Light listing. That report was
23 immediately -- the process of giving it to us was
24 immediately restored and we want to thank the
25 Department for that.

1 The Green Light listing is growing daily.
2 And what we supplied you in your package was not only
3 the listing but we tried to break them down into the --
4 the police precincts. Because the list that you
5 currently receive from the department is really -- it's
6 likely to be a list, as they have been created over
7 time. What we try to do is to reorganize that list so
8 that you would have some sense of what falls into what
9 precincts.

10 In addition to that, I do want to indicate
11 that we did receive a request from the Chief for -- to
12 pick up a suspension without pay request for Officer
13 William Fortner. And I think we have scheduled that
14 for the following week.

15 We communicated with the -- the DPOA in
16 indicating, as our process requires with the DPOA, to
17 give the notification to the officer that we were going
18 to take up this particular item.

19 And then the last thing I just want to call
20 your attention to and you have in your packet, we
21 requested, both from the Chief's office and from
22 Personnel a -- a status of the officers who have been
23 on suspensions without pay, their change of duty
24 status.

25 As you know, some time ago you may have acted

1 on any number of them. And the question becomes what
2 is their current status? We did receive a response
3 from -- from Personnel. I'm sure Personnel
4 collaborated with the Department in terms of getting a
5 response. And you have in your packet an updated
6 spreadsheet that describes your actions, the name of
7 the officers, the date in which the new approved day
8 suspension without pay and what the current status are.
9 And in some cases the current status is the officer has
10 been returned to duty. And, in other cases, it was
11 not. But that information is in your packet.

12 And, with that, that's the -- unless you have
13 questions from me, that's the only information that I
14 wanted to share with the Board this evening.

15 CHAIR CARTER: Thank you, Mr. Hicks.

16 Any questions, commissioners?

17 Thank you.

18 Commissioners, is there any old business?

19 COMM. BELL: Madam chair, I just want to lift
20 up -- and I promise when I'm with good people who
21 regularly attend our meetings that we need to emphasize
22 that we try and encourage people to pick up the liter,
23 that we want a clean city and we just need to
24 emphasize -- I know in my neighborhood they are street
25 sweeping for quite some -- you know, it's been a long

1 time but that's coming. But we just need to encourage
2 that maybe we can get with the council people to try to
3 emphasize, you know, going into spring and summer, that
4 we really need to -- that we need to be litter free in
5 a way, emphasize that. And I just wanted to share that
6 with the audience and with the Board.

7 CHAIR CARTER: Thank you, Commissioner Bell.
8 And then there's Motor City Makeovers --

9 COMM. BELL: Yes, coming up.

10 CHAIR CARTER: -- in the different districts
11 as well.

12 If there's no other old business, we'll move
13 on to announcements. Our next meeting will be
14 Thursday, May 3rd, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. here at the
15 Detroit Public Safety Headquarters located at 1301
16 Third Street.

17 Our next community meeting will be Thursday,
18 May 10th at 6:30 p.m. in the Eighth Precinct at the DPD
19 Eighth Precinct Auditorium located at
20 21555 West McNichols.

21 At this time we will have oral communications
22 from the audience. Please give your name, for the
23 record, and limit your comments to two minutes.

24 MR. BROWN: Madam Chair, I currently have
25 five cards. Your first speaker, being Ms. Faith

1 followed by Ms. Bernice Smith.

2 MS. FAITH: Well, welcome everybody. And
3 welcome me. I just thank God for being here and I'm
4 thankful for everyone that I see. And there's things
5 that I've heard and the comments that have been made.

6 And through the Chair, I highly commend you
7 all once again, even tonight. I know they're very
8 sensitive things, they're very heavy things. We're
9 human beings, we're going to have those heavy things
10 that come up. But we keep going forward. We keep
11 pressing forward. We keep advancing forward, never
12 stagnant and never regressing one bit. And I see that
13 in all of you. And I don't see chief Craig but I
14 commend him very highly. I saw his presence on many
15 huge changes.

16 At the City meeting at the Salvation Army
17 this week, I didn't know he was going to be there. I
18 was going there for another reason and found out there
19 was a meeting there and I stayed and I was very
20 impressed by the meeting.

21 And Chief Williams here and Chief Bettison
22 was there. And the people that were trained by them, I
23 could see their presence on them and it was very
24 astounding. I commend you all very highly, openly and
25 publicly, as usual.

1 And my heart is very heavy for the fallen
2 heroes, once again. And we pray for them and their
3 families, to encourage and lift and pick them up, as
4 usual.

5 And also the -- I want to speak on the thing
6 that was -- I was thinking about picking each other up,
7 as we do now, to continue to pick each other up and
8 maybe have a picnic. And let's pick each other up and
9 encourage one another, "Hey, Bro, hey, Sister, I see
10 you're looking well today and I'm glad that you're
11 doing well and your family. We're praying for you. We
12 encourage you and your good work" and different things.

13 And, also, I was speaking -- wanted to speak
14 on the youth programming. I know I only have 30
15 seconds for that. I think about that and, also, how
16 they talk to the youth. And just continue to do a good
17 job. Thank you for waving the card.

18 CHAIR CARTER: Thank you for your comments,
19 Ms. Faith.

20 MR. BROWN: Ms. Smith followed by
21 Mr. Eric Blount.

22 MS. SMITH: Bernice Smith. Good afternoon to
23 the Commissioners and to you, Chief.

24 COMMISSIONERS: Good afternoon.

25 MS. SMITH: I'll be very brief because Brown

1 is timing me today.

2 What's happening to our police department?

3 In the -- this past weekend, a police officer attacked
4 his girlfriend in Greektown and then pulled his gun on
5 the citizens that tried to intervene, to help the lady.

6 Now they are fearful for their lives. They
7 were on TV yesterday and they didn't want to show their
8 faces. Should we be -- should he be suspended without
9 pay? Yes, by all means. By all means. He's only been
10 on the force two years. Please, give me a break.

11 Also, the six policemen that were involved in
12 the stealing of the monies from the towing cars and
13 selling the parts, what is happening to our Police
14 Department? Don't the uniform mean anything anymore?
15 We're supposed to catch the crooks, not become one.

16 The officers who worked at the Meijer's Eight
17 Mile store, I think it was good that he resigned. He
18 didn't have a right to do what he did, as we all know.
19 And now I think the City is being scandalized with all
20 this action. He should resign.

21 Chief Craig, you need to clean house. We
22 still have decent and dedicated police officers. And I
23 wish to God bless all of them that are doing the right
24 things.

25 I thank you.

1 CHAIR CARTER: Thank you for your comments
2 Ms. Smith.

3 MR. BROWN: Mr. Eric Blount followed by
4 Ms. Michelle George.

5 MR. BLOUNT: Good afternoon, Board.

6 COMMISSIONERS: Good afternoon.

7 MR. BLOUNT: For the record, my name is
8 Eric Blount. My wife and I are lifelong Detroiters.

9 Somewhere I read that people in this country
10 are innocent until proven guilty. And, as an innocent
11 person, I think they deserve the right to own and use
12 their personal property until they are convicted.

13 So I ask this Board to please support a
14 representative that I think so highly of in so many
15 different ways, Representative Peter Lucido, House Bill
16 4158. And I think it goes to the heart of this all,
17 not permitting seizure of property unless the Defendant
18 is convicted.

19 We have seen so many times where innocent
20 people convicted of and sentenced to life have been
21 released from prison after 45 years. So innocent
22 people deserve their rights. And I believe that this
23 House Bill 4158 is headed in the right direction. I
24 ask this Board to support it with a resolution. Thank
25 you.

1 CHAIR CARTER: Thank you, Mr. Blount.

2 MR. BROWN: Ms. Michelle George followed by
3 Mr. Tyrone Carter.

4 MS. GEORGE: Good evening.

5 COMMISSIONERS: Good evening.

6 LIEUTENANT PARISH: To the Board of Police
7 Commissioners, Chief Craig.

8 CHIEF CRAIG: How are you doing?

9 MS. GEORGE: As well, I just wanted to give a
10 report. First of awful, I want Chief Craig to give
11 condolences to the chief in Dallas. I did call Dallas
12 to give our condolences to the fallen heroes and their
13 families as we pray for them.

14 I wanted to do a report -- of course Michelle
15 Liberty National Action Network. Last week we had our
16 National Action Network in New York and there were two
17 panels. One of the panels talked about it's not
18 classed on poverty, it's racism, how to combat the
19 attack on black males in the era of Trump. And it was
20 a very interesting panel about dealing with -- we
21 talked about law enforcement. We had Attorney General
22 Eric Holder, even President Kennedy's grandson,
23 Dr. King's son, and how the country is watching what's
24 happening. So what I am -- I'm hoping -- I was
25 listening to the presentations, that we would have more

1 programs in school so we could have a diverse law
2 enforcement.

3 Because what I'm seeing, when I mentor a lot
4 of youth -- and I always mentor youth, even though I'm
5 talking about other careers, I always encourage our
6 youth to go into law enforcement. And -- but what I'm
7 seeing in the schools is a lot of depression. And one
8 of the panels talked about -- the doctor talked about
9 depression among our black males. There is a secret
10 depression, as we see what's happening with racism
11 across the country.

12 And a lot of our young people don't know the
13 past have a habit of reliving itself. So I just want
14 to encourage this department to reach more out to our
15 young people in the schools. Another panel I attended
16 was very interesting. Legalize it, don't criminalize
17 it, how to turn American incarceration into an economic
18 opportunity through the legalization of marijuana. I
19 thought they had to carry me out because I was
20 essentially in a very compassionate way about what
21 they're trying to do in our cities. And I was telling
22 them about Detroit. But we see now it's going to be --
23 like I was telling the panel in New York, it's going to
24 be -- we're going to see -- when Michelle Alexander
25 wrote that book The New Jim Crow, we're going to also

1 see where these marijuana dispensaries are going to
2 dismantle our community. So I just wanted to share
3 that come the convention I attended in New York.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. BROWN: Mr. Tyrone Carter, Madam Chair,
6 he will be our last speaker.

7 MR. CARTER: Good afternoon, Board.

8 COMMISSIONERS: Good afternoon.

9 MR. CARTER: Good afternoon, Chief. Today
10 I'm here on behalf of my community, 48217. I'm the
11 president of the organization. And about this time
12 last Thursday I was headed to the meeting and I noticed
13 a lot of police activity on Fort Street. Well, that
14 was the day that Brandon Starks was killed in a tragic
15 accident on Fort Street. We've held meetings in that
16 community because of the I-75 construction, and it's
17 just increased traffic and there's no traffic
18 enforcement on the Detroit side.

19 If I take Jefferson, I'm going to go that
20 way, I have to go that way get home. If I take
21 Jefferson, River Rouge has a car right next to the
22 carwash, there is no Detroit cars. Once I cross over
23 Outer Drive to Lincoln Park, there's a squad car there.
24 There is no traffic enforcement in the City of Detroit.
25 And that was the first warm day. They're building a

1 new park. There's a school there.

2 There's an e-mail thread and I was compelled
3 to come down here today because we don't want this to
4 happen to anybody else's child or anybody, period.
5 We've addressed -- we've sent out e-mails to MDOT to
6 try to move the traffic lights to give the kids access
7 to the park like they do to the school. But, in the
8 meantime, that may take a while. We're just asking for
9 some traffic enforcement down there.

10 At one point they did have the thing that
11 says how fast you're going, the speed limit is this and
12 an it's this. And it's just -- it's a bit much. And
13 we don't want another family to have to go through
14 this.

15 So I'm requesting that we put some more
16 patrols down there. Do like River Rouge does. If you
17 go down Jefferson and turn on Schaefer, every day from
18 4:00 to 6:00, there is a Mustang there. They pay
19 overtime for this guy to be there. And he earns his
20 salary. We know it's a speed trap but people slow
21 down. There is to expectation for people to slow down
22 on Fort Street.

23 CHIEF CRAIG: Through the Clair,
24 Todd Bettison, I need you follow up get specific
25 information. I believe that's Whitney Walton's area.

1 CHIEF BETTISON: Yes, sir.

2 CHIEF CRAIG: And get with the MPO to work
3 that issue out.

4 CHIEF BETTISON: Yes, sir.

5 CHIEF CRAIG: And then report back in next
6 week on what actions were taken.

7 MR. CARTER: I wanted to say this: Earlier
8 Commander Walton did have patrol vehicles out there at
9 one point about but there just hasn't been any more out
10 there.

11 CHIEF CRAIG: Through the Chair, have you had
12 any further conversations? One thing I always
13 encourage the community to do is, you know, keep open
14 dialogue with not only the commander or the
15 neighborhood police officer. But, if that's failing,
16 then let us knee. So, since it seems like it has
17 failed, then Deputy Chief Bettison, if you will follow
18 up and get the specifics.

19 MR. CARTER: And we know it's a resource
20 issue so we'd love to have traffic enforcement.

21 CHIEF CRAIG: Well, it -- you know, we might
22 do TU. But our neighborhood police officers can
23 enforce traffic as well. It doesn't necessarily have
24 to be TU.

25 CHAIR CARTER: Commissioner Dewaelsche?

1 COMM. DEWAELSCHES: Madam Chair, I also
2 noticed -- thank you, Mr. Carter, for bringing that our
3 attention because I also noticed on Michigan Avenue, on
4 Ford Road, in southwest Detroit, because of I-75 being
5 closed, all of the major thoroughfares are just
6 jam-packed with traffic. And, so far, it's just
7 inconvenient. We haven't had, you know, any tragedies
8 yet. But now I can see where that might happen with
9 children and, especially, as the weather improves, this
10 may turn out to be, you know a little bit more of a
11 problem.

12 MR. CARTER: And the construction's not due
13 to be done until November. Hopefully, they'll do it
14 before. But, in the meantime, we still have school
15 kids, there's an elementary school there, and kids want
16 to go to the park. I just want to be preventative. I
17 don't want another family to go through this.

18 COMM. DEWAELSCHES: I agree that's important.
19 But it is all of the major thoroughfares heading west
20 and southwest.

21 MR. CARTER: And, on the flip side, on the
22 suburban side, they're waiting for cars to write
23 tickets.

24 So thank you.

25 COMM. DEWAELSCHES: Thank you.

1 CHAIR CARTER: Thank you. Under new
2 business --

3 COMM. BELL: Madam Chair, I move that we go
4 into closed session per the Open Meetings Act to
5 address a personnel matter that's been stipulated at
6 this meeting.

7 COMM. DEWAELSCHES: Support.

8 CHAIR CARTER: It's been moved and supported
9 this we go into closed session. Is there any
10 discussion?

11 Those in favor?

12 COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

13 CHAIR CARTER: Those opposed?

14 We're going into closed session. I'd like to
15 thank everyone for coming out this afternoon to the
16 meeting. You're more than welcome to stay. We will
17 reconvene after we finish our business.

18 If you don't want to wait, please feel free
19 to go home.

20 (A recess was taken from 4:48 p.m.
21 to 5:33 p.m.)

22 COMM. BELL: Madam Chair, I move that we
23 reconvene our board meeting.

24 COMM. DEWAELSCHES: Support.

25 CHAIR CARTER: It's been moved and supported

1 that we reconvene our board meeting. Is there any
2 discussion?

3 Those in favor?

4 COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

5 CHAIR CARTER: Those opposed?

6 Motion carries.

7 Mr. Warwick.

8 MR. WARWICK: Through the Chair, the issue
9 before the Board is whether or not to make a motion to
10 grant the request from the Chief for the Board of
11 Police Commissioners to place officer Jerold Blanding,
12 Badge 2994 on administrative leave without pay.

13 CHAIR CARTER: Also known as suspension
14 without pay?

15 MR. WARWICK: Yes.

16 CHAIR CARTER: Thank you.

17 MR. WARWICK: Just a line of distinction,
18 too. Between the two, from what I understand for
19 administrative have leave, an officer can retain
20 medical benefits. For a pension, they do not.

21 CHAIR CARTER: Oh, okay.

22 COMM. BELL: Madam Chair.

23 CHAIR CARTER: Yes?

24 COMM. BELL: I move that the Board support
25 the administration leave without pay, that's been

1 designated by our attorney and recommendation by
2 Chief Craig.

3 COMM. MALLETT: Support.

4 CHAIR CARTER: It's been moved and supported
5 we follow the recommendation -- approve the
6 recommendation from Chief Craig to place Officer Jerold
7 Blanding Badge 2994 on administrative leave without
8 pay. Is there any discussion?

9 Discussion, Commissioners?

10 Those in favor?

11 COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

12 CHAIR CARTER: Those opposed?

13 Any abstention?

14 MR. HICKS: Madam Chair, it appears, for the
15 record, that eight members are voting to support the
16 Chief's recommendation and the motion is approved.

17 CHAIR CARTER: Motion carries. Thank you.

18 COMM. BELL: Madam Chair, if there's no other
19 business before this body, I move for adjournment.

20 COMM. MALLETT: Support.

21 CHAIR CARTER: It's been moved and supported
22 this we adjourn. Those in favor?

23 COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

24 CHAIR CARTER: The meeting is adjourned.

25 Thank you all.

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(Meeting was concluded at 5:36 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Mona Storm, do hereby certify that I have recorded stenographically the proceedings had and testimony taken in the meeting at the time and place hereinbefore set forth. I do further certify that the foregoing transcript, consisting of (81) pages, is a true and correct transcript of my said stenographic notes.

5-23-18
Date



Mona Storm
CSR-4460

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