

**Draft Minutes Detroit Board of Police Commissioners**

**Date of Meeting: April 26, 2018 – 3:00 PM**

Location: Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Detroit, MI 48226

**Chairperson Lisa Carter called the BOPC meeting to order at 3:04 PM (April 26, 2018)**

Detroit Police Commission Membership / Attendance	Attend	Not-Attend
Lisa Carter, Chairperson	Yes	
Eva Dewaelsche, Vice Chairperson	Yes	
Willie E. Bell	Yes	
Elizabeth Brooks	Yes	
Darryl D. Brown	Excused	
Shirley A. Burch	Excused	
Willie E. Burton	Yes	
William M. Davis	Yes	
Conrad Mallett, Jr.	Yes	
Jim Holley	Yes	
Vacant	N/A	
Quorum (Yes)	8	

**The Board acting in accordance with its rules approved the Agenda for April 26, 2018.**

**The Board acting in accordance with its rules** approved the following Board Minutes:  
**Thursday, April 19, 2018**

**BOPC Chairperson Lisa Carter** said “Welcome, Good Afternoon. I am Police Commissioner Lisa Carter, Chairperson of the Board of Police Commissioners. I also represent District #6. On behalf of the Board, thank you for attending today’s Board meeting. For people viewing this meeting on your government cable channel, thank you for viewing. Commissioners **Shirley Burch** and **Darryl Brown** are unable to attend today’s meeting and will be listed as excused. To the Board and the audience, I want to introduce our newest Board member the Rev. Dr. Jim Holley. Rev. Holley was appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Detroit City Council. Rev. Holley has served on the Board in the past. He is a welcomed addition to our current work of providing police oversight in Detroit. Rev. Holley would you like to say anything to the Board and the public? **Reverend Dr. Jim Holley** welcomed the audience and indicated he was pleased to be added to the Commission.

**Chairperson Carter** invited Detroit Police Chaplin Peter Caldwell to provide the invocation. **Chairperson Carter** asked the Commissioners in attendance to introduce themselves and add any comments to the record. Other elected officials, representatives and VIPs were also asked to identify themselves or their organizational affiliations. BOPC staff in attendance were also introduced. Carter also welcomed Chief of Police James E. Craig to the meeting and invited him to introduce DPD staff.

**BOPC Officers Report: Chairperson Carter** continued, “On behalf of the Board, I want to express our concern and support for fallen and injured officers and their families. I would ask the Chief during his remarks to provide us with any additional information related to injured and fallen officers.”

The Board of Police Commissioners meets every week except for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday periods. We meet at Police Headquarters in regular session, 3 weeks in the month on Thursdays at 3:00 PM. We also meet in the community every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM. The Board of Police Commissioners exist to provide civilian oversight for the work of the Detroit Police Department. As a Board, we receive and investigate non-criminal citizens’ complaints, monitor the operations of the Department and work with the Mayor and the Chief of Police to make or modify police policy. Our objective is the same as the city of Detroit, to provide for the best use of your tax dollars to improve on the quality of life within our city. As a Board, we bring a unique perspective to policing, the eye and the viewpoint of civilians. The principle of civilian oversight is as old and as

important as all of the founding principles in our democracy. Separation of powers between and within government allows for accountability, transparency, rights to appeal and citizen control. These principles are important nationally as well as locally.

Last year, the Board had a successful training program that focused on our responsibilities as a Board and helped us chart the goals and objectives for the current year. This year, we are going to repeat the Board training. We have identified three potential weekends for the training, please indicate to staff your preference for one of the three weekends. A note on this subject is included in your Board package.

Today, we have scheduled two (2) presentations. First is our standard Report from the Office of the Chief Investigator, Dr. Polly McCalister. The second presentation will be on Civil Asset Forfeiture. Civil Asset Forfeiture allows for the Police Department to confiscate private property believed linked to criminal activity. My hope is that the presentation will cover methods used by the Department to confiscate, inventory, store and return, if applicable, property to citizens after an asset forfeiture. I also hope that the Department explain the relationship of our forfeiture process to the public auctions and sale of confiscated property. Later in the meeting, in a closed session, we will take up a request from Chief of Police Craig to suspend without pay Police Officer Jerold Blanding. Please note that the request from the Chief is a personnel item. We are allowed under the Open Meetings Act to discuss personnel items in private. To accommodate this request, we have adjusted the flow of our agenda to go into a closed session after public comments. This adjustment alleviates the need for citizens and visitors to sit around during the closed session. Please note that if an action item results from the closed session, we are also required to return to regular order and take any votes in public. With the aforementioned adjustment in our agenda, in the mid-section of the meeting, we will have oral communications from the audience. I remind you, if you would like to speak to the Board, please make sure you print your name on a speaker's card. Cards are located in the back on the table or can be obtained by seeing Mr. Robert Brown, and he needs your card before the beginning of public comments.

**Resolutions: Commissioner Bell read into the record a resolution honoring the service of Corporal DeLawn Steen.**

**RESOLUTION HONORING RETIRING CORPORAL DELAWN STEEN**

**WHEREAS** Delawn Steen was appointed to the Detroit Police Department on March 21, 1994. Upon graduating from the Detroit Metropolitan Police Academy, Police Officer Steen began his career at the Second Precinct; and

**WHEREAS** He dutifully served the Second Precinct, Southwestern District, Gang Enforcement, and the Tenth Precinct. Police Officer Steen displayed tremendous diligence and aptitude in his assignments, he was promoted to the rank of Corporal on April 3, 2015 and assigned to the Eleventh Precinct, then reassigned to the Tenth Precinct where he remained until his retirement; and

**WHEREAS** During his law enforcement career, Corporal Steen was the deserving recipient of Department's Citation and Medal for Valor Award, Lifesaving Citation and Medal Award, the Major League Baseball All-Star Recognition Award, the Rosa Parks Funeral Recognition Award, and the Super Bowl XL Recognition Award, as well as commendations from supervisors, and numerous letters of appreciation from the community; and

**WHEREAS** Corporal Steen has tirelessly served the Detroit Police Department, the citizens of Detroit and its neighboring communities for 24 years. His professionalism, commitment to public service, integrity, and dedication has been a credit to the Detroit Police Department. He is highly respected as a consummate professional.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking for the citizens of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department, award this resolution in recognition of Corporal Delawn Steen's 24 years of dedicated and diligent public service. His professionalism, integrity, and standard of commitment to the city of Detroit and its citizens merit our highest regards. We thank and congratulate you, Corporal Delawn Steen.

**Resolutions: Commissioner Dewaelsche read into the record a resolution honoring the service of P.O. Frances Dickerson.**

**RESOLUTION HONORING RETIRED PO FRANCES DICKERSON**

**WHEREAS** Frances Dickerson was appointed to the Detroit Police Department on May 6, 1996. Upon graduating from the Detroit Metropolitan Police Academy, Police Officer Dickerson began her career at the Ninth Precinct; and

**WHEREAS** She dutifully served the Police Recruiting Unit, Special Operations, Office of the Chief of Police, Eastern District, and Field Duty Training. On January 6, 2014, she was transferred to the Fifth Precinct where she remained until her retirement; and

**WHEREAS** During her law enforcement career, Officer Dickerson was the deserving recipient of a Department's Citation and Medal, Chief's Merit Award, Chief's Unit Award, the Major League Baseball All-Star Recognition Award, the Rosa Parks Funeral Recognition Award, and the Super Bowl XL Recognition Award, and several accolades from within the Department; and

**WHEREAS** Officer Dickerson has tirelessly served the Detroit Police Department, the citizens of Detroit and its neighboring communities for 21 years. Her professionalism, commitment to public service, integrity, and dedication has been a credit to the Detroit Police Department. She is highly respected as a consummate professional.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking for the citizens of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department, award this resolution in recognition of Police Officer Frances Dickerson's 21 years of dedicated and diligent public service to the citizens of Detroit merit our highest regards.  
We thank and congratulate you, Police Officer Frances Dickerson.

**Commissioner Davis moved two resolutions** honoring the services of **Frances Dickerson and Delawn Steen.**

Second, **Commissioner Bell.**

**VOTE: Yes = 8 No = 0 Abst. = 0 MOTION APPROVED**

**COP Police Report: Chief of Police James E. Craig** reported that crime is continuing to trend downward. COP Craig reported on CompStat data for the reporting period ending April 22, 2018. Craig reported Homicides percentage change between 2016 and 2017, -17% decrease in Homicides, Sexual Assaults 34% increase, Robbery -17% decrease, Carjacking -7% decrease, Aggravated Assaults -2% decrease, non-fatal shootings -20% decrease, Burglary -27% decrease, Larceny -2% decrease, Stolen Vehicle -25% decrease and Part 1 offenses -13% decrease. Chief Craig referred to Police Personnel for a report on fallen and injured officers. **Interim Personnel Director Bridget LaMar** gave a report on injured and fallen officers.

**Commissioner Davis** inquired about the Chief's crime report questioning why the Chief skipped over sexual assaults in his verbal report. In response to questions about sexual assaults the Chief added some details related to the increase reporting of sexual crimes and promised a more detailed report on sexual assaults in two weeks. **Commissioner Bell** asked the Chief to expand on the work of the Greenlight Program. **Chief Craig** expanded on the Greenlight program including work related to officers who resource the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) as virtual eyes. Craig continued by discussing police personnel assigned to monitors in the RTCC who had witnessed, reported and mobilized police resources to assist in an arrest. Craig also discussed the daily threat assessment work of the RTCC. **Commissioner Dewaelsche** discussed the reports of crime reductions and the perception of safety from the business community. **Commissioner Brooks** inquired on the reports related to increase activity wherein groups are utilizing "paint-ball" as an alternative to guns. **AC Arnold Williams** responded indicating that the paint-ball activity is inspired by a social media campaign and the Department is discouraging people from this activity. Williams indicated that the paint-guns used look similar to real guns and can be mistaken for real guns which might invite police and others to respond as if the paint-guns are actual guns. **Commissioner Holley** expressed his concerns that reports which emphasize statistical percentages do not convey the intensity of the situation and that he preferred raw numbers be utilized in reports along with statistical data.

**Presentations to the Board: (A) Office of the Chief Investigator Monthly Report, Dr. Polly McCalister (B) Civil Asset Forfeiture.**

**(A) Office of the Chief Investigator Monthly Report, Dr. Polly McCalister.** Dr. McCalister reported on the March 2018 activity of the Office of The Chief Investigator. McCalister discussed "why is Civilian oversight important" and "Why are citizen complaints important." McCalister reported a 19% decrease in the number of citizen complaints for the month of March 2018 as compared to March 2017. OCI Chief also discussed the distribution of the complaints, the number of cases closed in March 2018 by allegation type. McCalister indicated the highest number of allegations are related to demeanor and procedure. McCalister reported on complaints resolved with the assistance of in car video/audio equipment as well as body worn cameras. McCalister also reported on complaints by rank and seniority discussing trends like the increase of citizen complaints involving officers with 2 years or less in seniority.

**(B) Civil Asset Forfeiture. Sergeant Daniel Nelson, Lieutenant Michael Parish.** **Sergeant Nelson** started his presentation indicating that drug asset forfeiture is a tool used to combat illegal drug trafficking and lewd behavior. Nelson discussed the location of the Forfeiture Section within the DPD structure indicating that it was assigned to the Assets and Licensing with Liquor License, Abandoned Vehicle Task Force, Towing Detail. Nelson outlined the role of the Forfeiture Section including the receiving and processing all forfeiture petitions, serving as liaison with the Wayne County Prosecutors office, and serving as a final repository of all forfeiture case files. Nelson discussed the applicable laws related to forfeitures and indicated that forfeiture

assets can be used for “any legitimate law enforcement purpose.” Nelson noted that these asset could not be used for general government use, personal gain and to replace law enforcement budget allowances. Nelson also discussed significant events 2017-2018 for the Forfeiture Section including training directives and civil asset Forfeiture training of DPD members. Nelson also gave the following statistical data,

<b>Forfeiture Statistics provide the BOPC at the April 26, 2018 BOPC Board Meeting</b>	
<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Seized \$1,497,592 in currency	Seized \$642,797 in currency
Seized 1574 vehicles	Seized 282 vehicles
Filed 2,712 Forfeiture Petitions	Filed 471 Forfeiture Petitions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Included 1,461 Federal Cases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Included 269 Federal Cases</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Included 1,251 Detroit Cases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Included 201 Detroit Cases</li> </ul>

Nelson also discussed HB 4158 which would change Michigan law to not permit seizure of property unless the defendants is convicted. Nelson suggested that the bill would cripple drug-asset Forfeiture and indicated the Department is actively opposing the bill. Nelson also indicated that auctions are used to sell off assets, but he did not have any information on this subject at this time. Nelson also gave two examples that are used to initiate drug forfeiture including encounters on the street that result in the seizure of assets. **Commissioner Carter** asked Board Secretary Hicks to summarize some of the questions that had been directed to the Department in support of this presentation. **Hicks** responded that the questions reflect previous concerns raised by the Board and relate to the size and type of property collection, storage and disposal of property seized. **Commissioner Carter** then focused her concerns on the number of vehicles seized and subsequently put up for auction. The Department indicated it did not have this information, but would supply it at a later date. **Lieutenant Parrish** outlined the process for petitioning the court for forfeiture and the storage of assets in police custody. **Commissioner Bell** inquiries about the use of forfeiture funds for public and youth education. **Chief of Police Craig** corrected some of the discussion on the Department’s use of DARE indicating that DARE was obsolete and the Department utilizes several tools to address drug and gang resistance education. **Commissioner Davis** inquired as to the amount of time it takes for property to be returned to citizens. **Commissioner Carter** asked if while vehicles are confiscated are there any charges to the owner. **Commissioner Jim Holley** inquiries procedurally, if officers could simply approach a group and seize their assets without criminal suspicion. Holley also asked in the event that the Department takes property where are the funds for the Department to purchase property for utilization in the Department. **Bell** continued explaining Holley concerns, indicating that the community believes that they are innocent until proven guilty of a crime, but their property is taken under the forfeiture act before a conviction. Bell noted that there has been abuse of the forfeiture laws in the past. **Parrish** replied that in order to make a legal divestiture of property there must be a suspicion for criminal connection between the property and a crime under investigation. **Commissioner Davis** requested a written detailed report on civil asset forfeiture. Concluding the discussion the Department indicated it would respond to the BOPC questions provided the Department.

**BOPC Standing Committee Reports: Recruitment Subcommittee.** **Commissioner Elizabeth Brooks** thanked attorney Wyrick for providing a list of locations for recruitment events.

**Report from the Board Secretary.** **Mr. Hicks** reported on two items listed on the agenda, Change in Duty Status for Willie Fortner, Badge #719, a updated list of Greenlight locations as well as an report on the status of officers suspended without pay.

**Old Business:** None.

**Announcements:** The next regular meeting of the BOPC is Thursday, April 26, 2018 at Police Headquarters and the next Community Meeting 6:30 PM at 8<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct Auditorium, 21555 West McNichols 48219. (8<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct).

**Oral Communications from the Audience / Public Comments:**

**Ms. Faith** acknowledged the work of the Department and applauded the professionalism of the Board. **Ms. Bernice Smith** voiced her concerns about the number of police incidents requiring disciplinary action including the reported attack by one officer on his girlfriend over the weekend, six officers indicted in a towing scandal. Ms. Smith strongly encouraged the Chief to clean house within the Department. **Eric Blount** supported the view that people should be able to use and enjoy their property, HB4158 should be enacted in law supporting the view that property should not be confiscated without a conviction. Blount encouraged a resolution in support of HB 4158 (Peter Lucido). **Michelle George** discussed a recent conference which

addressed the current attacks on black males under the Trump Administration, depression and marijuana legalization. **Tyrone Carter** discussed the need for traffic enforcement in the south end of Detroit specifically on Fort Street, Brandon and I-75. He indicated the need to deploy sufficient police resources to slow traffic and protect the lives of people living in the area and especially as citizens go between their homes and the local neighborhood park. **Dewaelsche** indicated that this issue exists on Michigan Avenue, Ford Road and all of the major streets heading west and southwest. In southwest Detroit. The Department indicated that they would investigate and give special attention to these concerns.

**New Business: Closed Session for P.O. Jerold Blanding, Change of Duty Status, Suspension without Pay**

**Commissioner Bell** moved that the Board of Police Commissioners go into a Closed Session to take up a personnel request from the Chief of Police to suspend without pay **Jerold Blanding Badge # 2994**, under the Open Meeting Act exception for Personnel matters.

Second, **Commissioner Davis**.

**VOTE: Yes = 8 No = 0 Abst. = 0 MOTION APPROVED**

**Board adjourned to the Woodward Room for the Closed Session.**

**Commissioner Bell** moved to return to regular order.

Second, **Commissioner Dewaelsche**

**VOTE: Yes = 8 No = 0 Abst. = 0 MOTION APPROVED**

The BOPC reassembled into regular Order and the Chair called the meeting to order.

**Chairperson Carter** asked for motion practice flowing from the Closed Session.

**Commissioner Bell** moved that the Board of Police Commissioners concur with the recommendation to place on Administrative Leave without Pay / Suspension without Pay of PO Jerold Blanding Badge #2994 for violation of DPD policy.

Second, **Commissioner Dewaelsche**.

**VOTE: Yes = 8 No = 0 Abst. = 0 MOTION APPROVED**

**Commissioner Bell** moved that the Board of Police Commissioners meeting be adjourned.

Second, **Commissioner Dewaelsche**.

**VOTE: Yes = 8 No = 0 Abst. = 0 MOTION APPROVED**

**Adjournment.**