

**Draft Minutes Detroit Board of Police Commissioners**

**Date of Meeting: March 1, 2018 – 3:00 PM**

Location: Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third St., Detroit, MI 48226

**Chairperson Eva Garza Dewaelsche called the BOPC meeting to order at 3:00 PM (March 1, 2018)**

Detroit Police Commission Membership / Attendance	Attend	Not-Attend
	Excused	
Lisa Carter, Chairperson	Excused	
Eva Dewaelsche, Vice Chairperson	Yes	
Willie E. Bell	Yes	
Elizabeth Brooks	Yes	
Darryl D. Brown	Excused	
Shirley A. Burch	Yes	
Willie E. Burton	Yes	
William M. Davis	Yes	
Conrad Mallett, Jr.	Excused	
Derrick Sanders	Yes	
Vacant	N/A	
Quorum (Yes)	7	

**The Board acting in accordance with its rules approved the Agenda for March 1, 2018.**

**The Board acting in accordance with its rules approved the following Board Minutes:**

**Thursday, February 22, 2018**

**BOPC Officers Report(s):** After welcoming attendees to the meeting **the Vice Chair (Dewaelsche)** invited **Pastor Matthew Nickel, Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church** to provide the invocation. **Chairperson Dewaelsche** 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. Dewaelsche also welcomed **Assistant Chief of Police Arnold Williams**, representing Chief of Police James E. Craig to the meeting and invited him to introduce DPD staff.

**Chairperson Dewaelsche** said **“Welcome:** Good Afternoon. I am Police Commissioner Eva Garza Dewaelsche, Vice Chair. Chairperson Lisa Carter is unable to attend today’s meeting. Commissioner Darryl Brown has also asked to be excused. On behalf of the Board, thank you for attending today’s Board meeting.

**INVOCATION:** Matthew Nickel, Pastor Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church has been invited to provide our invocation for today.

On behalf of the Board, I want to express our concern and support for fallen and injured officers. The Department, as we all, are still rocked by the deaths and injuries in the Department over the last few weeks. I would ask the Chief during his remarks to provide us with any additional information related to injured and fallen officers.

The Mayor delivered his annual Budget message and the City Council has begun its traditional budget hearings. The Council hearings are designed to hear directly from City Departments and Agencies to best align our resources to provide the most effective services. The BOPC participated in its budget hearing Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. Attending the hearing was Commissioner Bell, Sanders and myself. We responded to several questions from the Council. It was clear that the Council is very interested in the work of the Board. Several of the Councilmembers had written questions. Our staff is in the process of preparing responses to their questions.

A day after the Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> mass killings at a Florida high school, this Board acted and approved a resolution calling for the end of retail sales of military-like weapons. Dicks Sporting Goods did not get our resolution, but they got the message. This top retailer ended all sales of assault-style rifles and high-capacity magazines. These are the weapons and ammunition holders that make it possible to murder dozens of people in just a couple of minutes – like at the Parkland high school, the Sutherland Springs, Texas church, the Las Vegas concert, the Newtown, Connecticut elementary school, the movie theater in Colorado. Walmart—the nation’s largest seller of guns – also was listening and took action. It was a smaller step, but Walmart did join Dicks Sporting Goods in a new policy that prohibits selling guns to anyone under 21 years old. Please keep in mind that Dicks and Walmart are still offering a vast array of guns, and they likely will continue to have very brisk sales. However, these actions by leading Corporate America gun retailers are very important steps to have a rational conversation about the practical, Constitutional ways that can help end mass shootings and mass killings. There are many such steps that can help ensure a safer and more civilized quality of life for all Americans, and especially our children.

Today, we had scheduled a presentation from Disciplinary Administration, but will have it another time to allow a fuller presentation. Our concern, as an oversight body, is to understand the nature of contact between the public and police. We know that the overwhelming majority of our police exercise the trust that we invest in them as police officers. We also know that in a small number of cases it is necessary to review the conduct of our police and impose disciplinary measures to correct negative contacts with people. Within the Department there are several agencies and commands that investigate police behavior. The BOPC investigates non-criminal citizen complaints. Other sections of the Department investigate criminal behavior, use of force and other serious activity. But it is our understanding that the place within the Department where all of these investigations are channeled is into Disciplinary Administration. Disciplinary Administration tracks each offense, records the disciplinary actions taken by the Chief of Police and, in our opinion, is the best place for us to obtain information on the behavior of our police in a comprehensive, coordinated, organized fashion. To do an effective job in examining the contact between citizens and police, we need to understand the impact that our police are having on our citizens. To get the best and the most recent information, Disciplinary Administration has asked for a 30 day postponement of their report so that they can respond to specific concerns from the Board. With that note, we will grant the request and reschedule the presentation from Disciplinary Administration. Therefore we will not have a presentation to the Board on this agenda.

Additionally, under new business, we will take up a resolution to support school safety without arming teachers. Two drafts of this resolution was distributed in advance and a copy of the most recent version is in your package for review. When we get to new business, I will ask Ms. Teresa Blossom of our staff to read it into the record.

Toward the end of the meeting, we will have oral communications from the audience, so 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 Willie Bell read into the record a resolution honoring the service of Former State Senator Burton Leland (deceased).**

**RESOLUTION HONORING SENATOR BURTON LELAND**

- WHEREAS** Senator Burton Leland was born and raised in Detroit Michigan. He married Rosanne, his wife of 45 years and had two sons, Zachary and Detroit City Councilmember Gabe Leland; and
- WHEREAS** He attended Detroit Public Schools and graduated from Mumford High School, earned a business degree at Wayne State University and Master’s Degree in Social Work at the University of Michigan; and
- WHEREAS** Senator Leland was first elected as a State Representative and then a State Senator, and finally as a Wayne County Commissioner with a career span of 37 years. He focused on the community and developed a clean-up program that battled the blight threatening the neighborhoods in his district. He provided support to food banks, community gardens, neighborhood associations, and the Detroit Police Precincts; and
- WHEREAS** He believed that higher education was necessary and created the Burton Leland scholarship fund; and
- WHEREAS** One of Senator Leland major achievements in Lansing was the Lemon Law in the 1980’s. A consumer advocacy law that gave automobile buyers a brand new replacement vehicle, if a defect was found that could not be fixed.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners speaking for the citizens of the city of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department, acknowledge the leadership, dedication, and exemplary service of Senator Burton Leland. His devotion and standard of commitment to the city of Detroit and its citizens merit our highest regards.

**MOTION: Commissioner Bell moved the resolution honoring the service of Former State Senator Burton Leland  
Second, Sanders**

**VOTE:                    Yes = 7                    No = 0                    Abst. = 0                    MOTION APPROVED**

**COP Police Report:** AC Arnold Williams reported on crime continuing to trend downward. AC Williams reported on CompStat data for the reporting period ending February 25, 2018. AC Williams reported Homicides percentage change between 2016 and 2017 of -10% decrease, Sexual Assaults 9% increase, Robbery -23% decrease, Carjacking -2% decrease, Aggravated Assaults -4% decrease, non-fatal shootings -25% decrease, Burglary -27% decrease, Larceny -10% decrease, Stolen Vehicle -29% decrease and Part 1 offenses -17% decrease. AC Williams gave an update on injured and fallen officers.

**Presentations to the Board: None**

**BOCP Standing Committee Reports: None.**

**Report from the Board Secretary. Mr. Hicks** reported on two items (1) BOPC Budget Presentation Package before the Detroit City Council, Monday, February 26, 2018 and (2) DPD Graduation class 2018-B 3/9/2018

**Old Business: None.**

**New Business: (A) Disqualification Appeal (B) Resolution Supporting Safer Schools Without Arming Teachers.**

**(A) Personnel Committee: Candidate (Disqualification) Appeal to the Academy – Nathaniel Sandrich**

**Commissioner Willie Bell** reported the BOPC Personnel Committee had meet and recommend to the full Board to grant a hearing before the full Board for Mr, Nathaniel Sandrich who had applied to the Detroit Police Academy but was rejected. Bell indicated as a result of the intensive review of Mr. Sandrich's case including a review of his applicant personnel file it is the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to grant Mr. Sandrich appeal the full Board and give him the opportunity to discuss his case with the Board. The appeal is granted under the Board's authority, Detroit Police Department – Police Recruiting Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), Chapter 6 (Appeals Process).

**Commissioner Willie Bell** moved to grant **Mr. Nathaniel Sandrich** a hearing before the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners at a date and time available to all parties.

**Second, Sanders**

**VOTE:                    Yes = 7                    No = 0                    Abst. = 0                    MOTION APPROVED**

**Chairperson Dewaelsche asked Ms. Teresa Blossom to read into the record the Draft Resolution Supporting Safer Schools Without Arming Teachers**

**Draft Resolution Supporting Safer Schools Without Arming Teachers Detroit Board of Police Commissioners**

**Whereas**, the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners has a special role in ensuring public safety and advocating for effective policies and practices that help keep people and communities safe. Thus, the Board wants to express its opposition to arming school teachers amid renewed calls for arming teachers are made in the aftermath of the February 14, 2018 massacre at a Parkland, Florida high school, and

**Whereas**, the Board of Police Commissioners believes that everyone concerned needs to engage in a full discussion and examination of all possible remedies to stop such violence against our vulnerable youth and the incredible short time it now takes to create such lasting mayhem. However, we do not see arming educators as the solution, just as it is not a solution to arm pastors in response to the fatal shootings at churches, and

**Whereas**, our opposition is reinforced by the investigation underway in Parkland, Florida into the actions or inactions of trained and experienced members of law enforcement. Unlike teachers, these law enforcement members were solely first responders accustomed to the chaos and

pressures of active violence and crime. Yet, as one professional law enforcement member's resignation indicates, even experience, skill and training may not suffice in confronting such situations as active shooters; so

**Therefore be it Resolved**, that the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners looks forward to a robust discussion and concrete plan for public policy and government action to address violence, crime, and the social ills that often lead to them. We seek to have schools remain gun-free safe zones as an important measure of quality of life in all communities and believe that there are additional steps – from additional on-site security officers, to real time or other proactive video surveillance, to better education generally, to school campus structural design– that can further provide a safe environment on school campuses without diverting teachers from their primarily and important role of educators.

**Commissioner Derrick Sanders** moved the approval of the resolution entitled **Draft Resolution Supporting Safer Schools Without Arming Teachers Detroit Board of Police Commissioners**

**Second, Sanders**

**VOTE:                      Yes = 7                      No = 0                      Abst. = 0                      MOTION APPROVED**

**Announcements:** The next Community Meeting of the BOPC is March 8, 2018 at 6:30 PM, at Wayne County Community College District, 801 W. Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48226, for April the Community meeting is April 12, 2018 in the 11<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct at Peace Baptist Church.

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

**Ms. Fredia Butler**, community activists read the following statement into the record “Thursday, February 22nd there was an issue of money being allotted for towing and at another meeting there was a discussion about the amount of money being spent for a building renovation. In my opinion, our tax dollars are not being used wisely. Addressing towing, why use or create a system that will encourage corruption? The police are to solve crimes and enforce the law. If citizens violate the law, they are ticketed or arrested. And if ticketed, they go to court and pay a fine. When there is a need for a tow truck, the same method should apply. The administrators, officers and tow operators should have nothing to do with collection of money. This solution might not completely solve all of the concerns regarding towing, but setting up a system for the department to be responsible for collecting money, I believe encourages corruption in the department and is very costly to the tax payers. Please consider how our tax dollars are being spent.” **Tom Wilson, Jr.** addressed the issue of teachers in school with guns indicating he was opposed to such actions. Wilson stated “We do not need to have teachers armed, not one, not any and not ever.” Wilson indicated that he respectfully disagreed with the Chief of Police James Craig on this matter.

**MOTION to Adjourn by Commission Bell.**

**Adjournment 3:36 PM**