

Draft Minutes Detroit Board of Police Commissioners

Date of Meeting: September 13, 2018 – 6:30 PM

Location: Marathon Petroleum Michigan Headquarters, 1001 S. Oakwood, Detroit MI 48217

BOPC Chairman Willie Bell called the BOPC Board Meeting to order at 6:30 PM (September 13, 2018)

Detroit Police Commission Membership / Attendance	Attend	Not-Attend
Willie E. Bell, Chairperson	Yes	
Darryl D. Brown, Vice Chairperson	Yes	
Lisa Carter	Excused	
Elizabeth Brooks	Excused	
Eva Garza Dewaelsche	Excused	
Shirley A. Burch	Yes	
Willie E. Burton	Excused	
William M. Davis	Yes	
Conrad Mallett, Jr.	Excused	
Jim Holley	Yes	
Vacant	N/A	
Quorum (No)	5	

The Board being unable to reach the required members in attendance for a quorum proceeded informally and referred all matters requiring a vote to be held over until the next meeting of the Board, September 20, 2018.

Chair's Greetings: BOPC Meeting of September 13, 2018 (Chair Willie Bell) - Welcome: Good Evening. I am Police Commissioner Willie Bell, I represent District #4. I serve as Chair of the Board and will be conducting our meeting today. On behalf of the Board, for those in attendance, thank you for joining us. For people viewing this meeting on your government cable channel, thank you for viewing our meeting. Commissioners Lisa Carter and Eva Garza Dewaelsche are all away from the city and have asked to be excused. Commissioner Elizabeth Brooks has also asked to be excused.

I also want to thank the Marathon Petroleum Michigan Headquarters and the 4th Police Precinct for hosting our meeting tonight. Tonight's meeting is the 9th community meeting of the Board.

INVOCATION: The invocation was provided by Rev. Jim Holley, PhD., Pastor Little Rock Baptist Church.

Introductions of Commissioners, BOPC staff and DPD staff was provided. Representing the Chief of Police, James Craig was Deputy Chief David LeValley.

Chairman's Report –Bell said, “On behalf of the Board, I want to express our concern and support for fallen and injured officers. Our concerns for officer safety and citizen protection is continuous. Our Board receives a weekly report from the Department listing injured officers. I would ask DC David LeValley during his remarks to provide us with any additional information related to injured and fallen officers. I also want to note that today is DC LeValley's birthday, and on behalf of the Board, Happy Birthday.”

“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 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM. Tonight is the 9th community meeting this calendar year. It is our objective to meet in every section of the City, so that we can hear and respond to citizen concerns related to police matters.”

“Under the Detroit City Charter, Article 7, Chapter 8, the Board of Police Commissioners is empowered to provide civilian oversight and supervisory control of the Police Department. Our citizens are justified in asking “How does civilian oversight of law enforcement help you as a citizen within our community?” Our answer is, we protect the civil rights of citizens. I want to change the script and one of the things that we do not do is to describe the focal point of the Board. The City Charter makes the Board responsible for investigating complaints about DPD through its Chief Investigator and the Office of the Chief Investigator. The OCI

directs the process for receiving and investigating citizen complaints that are non-criminal against the Detroit Police Department and its personnel.” Bell continued, “If you have a non-criminal, complaint against any Detroit Police Department employee, whether it be police or civilian. Use the following method-- in person, You can go down to the Office of the Chief Investigator, located at Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third Street, Suite 767, you can also go to any precinct, 4th Precinct or any police precinct in the City of Detroit, you can walk in and ask for a supervisor. They will entertain your complaint; they will not try to talk you out of it. That was back in my day. We are required to take your complaint. You can telephone us at 596-2499 or you can go on line www.detroitmi.gov/bopc you can also fax. Who faxes this day and age, only business people, but the number is 596-2482. Complaint Forms are available at neighborhood City Halls, Detroit Public Libraries and Detroit Police Department Precincts. You may also have someone else file a complaint on your behalf. You would need to plan to have an in-person interview with the investigator, and they would work that up. Bell asked the Chief Investigator and OCI Personnel to stand.”

“Now, if you have good things to say regarding a good encounter with Police department do not contact them, you contact the Board of Police Commissioners or any Command. We would love to hear from you in writing or in person and say some great things are happening every day let us know. Do not be shy, those recommendations, writing and calls enforce to help the officers in their jobs. Sometimes they (officers) receive criticism. Body Camera we enhanced that whole process to protect the officers and to protect the citizens. To give you an idea Aretha Franklin home going was 4 or 5 days. The Police were out there monitoring, performing crowd control. It was outstanding, however very demanding being with the public and sometimes, they were not always good Christians. Because they wanted to be in the mix. Parking, VIP, there no issues, no problems, on an international scene that was a good example of how we operate.”

Bell continued, “I would like to call to your attention a few items, (1) I would like to invite each of you to a “Never Forgotten Remembrance Picnic” that will be held on the lawn in front of Police Headquarters, tomorrow starting at 12:00 Noon, Friday September 14, 2018. (2) I want to also focus our attention on an impending storm that will hit the southeastern coast of the United States. The storm is projected to cause great property damage and hopefully limited loss of life. Hurricane Florence will likely impact the lives of 1 million people over the course of the next few days. We pray for the first responders and communities that will be called to service to deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Florence. (3) I also want to indicate that we had planned to acknowledge the heroic work of Chaplin Cedric Wychoff who saved the life of a citizen in an incident occurring on the Detroit Princess, but he was unable to join us tonight. We will honor him in our next Board meeting. (4) I also want to report some progress on the city’s effort to reduce speeding and cut down on the rate of accidents in our neighborhoods. In a combined effort between the DPW and DPD, speed bumps designed to slow down traffic are being installed in various neighborhoods. This Board has advocated for a solution to speeding, hopefully this is one of the solutions.

On today’s agenda, we are acknowledging the service and partnership of Ms. Sylvia Gucken and The Venegas Family both from the 4th Police Precinct. At the appropriate time we will recognize these fine contributions.

We also have three presentations, the 1st is our monthly report from Police Personnel. The Report will be provided by Ms. Bridget LaMar, Interim Director of Personnel. The 2nd report will be from the 4th Police Precinct. I hope that this report will focus on crime hotspots and the strategies employed by the Precinct to address crime. The 3rd Presentation is an update on immigration. As many of you know, because of the demographic of the city, the issue of immigration is of great concern in southwest Detroit. We have asked the Department to provide us with an update on its activity related to immigration. As you notice, I said, an update on activity related to immigration. I want to draw out that Detroit has little responsibility, if any, to enforce immigration laws, but as other law enforcement agencies do, oftentimes their operations are mistaken for DPD operations. I would like that clarified by our Department. Additionally, we have invited LASED which is represented by David Sanchez and Abril Valdes, representing the ACLU to briefly share what is occurring in the community surrounding immigration. Immigration is such a big and complex issue, it will be impossible to cover all aspects of immigration, so I ask that both updates be brief and identify any community resources that might be helpful in addressing the problems of citizens and families who are tied up in the current issues around immigration. Also, immediately following the immigration updates, I will entertain questions only related to the immigration presentation. Later, in the normal order of business, we will have our oral remarks from the citizens. We are requesting that for those who have questions related to immigration, to write your questions on a card and we will collect them before the start of the immigration presentation. We are asking for this, just in case we do not have time to respond to each of the immigration questions or that the question is personal and might require a follow-up. We will share these questions with LASAD and the ACLU representatives tonight.

Toward the end of the meeting we will have oral communications. 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.

Resolution: Commissioner Darryl Brown read into the record BOARD RESOLUTION HONORING THE IDEAL GROUP AND THE VENEGAS FAMILY

RESOLUTION HONORING THE IDEAL GROUP AND THE VENEGAS FAMILY

- WHEREAS** The Ideal Group is a family of business that has grown since its start in (1979) by Chairman and CEO Frank Venegas, into eight companies with international reach; and
- WHEREAS** The Ideal Group companies manufacture products you see everywhere and strive to be industry leaders in safety and innovation, focused on quality and care for the community; and
- WHEREAS** As a collective, the Ideal Group and the Venegas Family support the members of the Detroit Police Fourth Precinct in good and bad times. The Ideal Group reaches out without fail to lift the officers' spirits when a tragedy occurs. It is their mantra "What can we do? The Ideal Group spearheaded the remodel of the Fourth Precinct Fitness Center where officers work on their minds and bodies improving a space rarely used, to a true destination committed to their well-being; and
- WHEREAS** The Ideal Group takes special interest in the Southwest Detroit Community, welcoming members of the neighborhood to various events such as the Motor City Makeover. During GM Cares Week, the Ideal Group brings hundreds of students and GM Workers to Southwest Detroit to partner with the community working on beautification projects. The Ideal Group is dedicated to giving back to the community through educating our youth. In 2013, Mr. Venegas started a robotics program at the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation with a dozen kids from Southwest Detroit and the programs grows every year preparing them to compete globally.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking for the citizens of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department, acknowledges the outstanding and dedicated commitment to community service and education of the Ideal Group and the Venegas Family. Their generous contribution to the City of Detroit and the Fourth Precinct merit our highest regards.

(Resolution referred to next regularly scheduled meeting) – No action taken.

Certificate of Recognition, Mrs. Sylvia Gucken, presented, No action required.

COP Police Report: Deputy Chief of Police David LeValley, representing COP James E. Craig. DC LeValley reported that crime is continuing to trend downward. DC LeValley commented on the 911 ceremony held this past Tuesday. DC LeValley reported on CompStat data for the reporting period ending September 9, 2018. LeValley reported Homicides percentage change between 2016 and 2017, -5% decrease in Homicides, Sexual Assaults 51% increase, Robbery -12% decrease, Carjacking 7% increase, Aggravated Assaults -4% decrease, non-fatal shootings -11% decrease, Burglary -16% decrease, Larceny -0% decrease, Stolen Vehicle -22% decrease and Part 1 offenses -8% decrease.

Presentations to the Board: (A) Monthly Human Resources Report, , Bridget LaMar, Interim Personnel Director, (B) 4th Police Precinct Report, Commander Whitney Walton, (C) Immigration Update – Panel DC David LeValley, DPD, Abril Valdes, ACLU and David Sanchez, Michigan United and Board Member LA SAD.

(A) Human Resources Report, Bridget LaMar, provided statistical data for August 2018. She indicated that of the total positions (2,639 Sworn) in the Department, DPD has 177 Vacant. Of the 682 (Civilian) positions in the Department, 74 are vacant. Ms. LaMar discussed recruitment and MCOLES processing indicating the Department has 174 recruits in process and from 7/1/2017 to 6/31/2018 the Department hired 40 individuals from 401 applicants. LaMar also provide residency data, attrition data and leaves of absence and restricted duty data. **Commissioner Jim Holley** requested information as to why applicants are not proceeding through the application process and the Detroit Police Academy. Holley indicated if we understood why people are not making the grade we can seek a fix by enhancing our support efforts in the identified areas of concern. Ms. LaMar indicated that applicants were having the most difficulty in the written test; passing drug screens; having a driver's license; turning in documentation and passing the physical examination. Holley also asked if information from the credit reports disqualify candidates. **Commissioners Brown** added to the discussion that the 36 District Court has a ticket penalty weaver program currently underway and effective October 1, 2018 the State of Michigan Driver's Responsibility fees will be eliminated.

(B) 4th Police Precinct Report, Commander Whitney Walton, Commander Walton reported that year-to-date crime within the 4th precinct was down including a 72 % decrease in Homicides, 11% property crimes, 9% in violent crimes and 41% increase in taking guns off the streets. Commander Walton also briefly outlines some of the other efforts and partnerships within the precinct. **Commissioner William Davis** inquired about carjacking in the precinct. **Commissioner Brown** asked about the Ceasefire efforts within the precinct.

(C) Immigration Update – Panel DC David LeValley, DPD, Abril Valdes, ACLU and David Sanchez, Michigan United and Board Member LA SAD.

BOCP Standing Committee Reports: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: none.

Report from the Board Secretary. Mr. Hicks reported on an update calendar of BOPC Board meetings and their associated discussion/presentation issues.

Announcements: The next meeting of the BOPC is on September 20, 2018 at 3:00 PM at the Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third Street, 3rd Floor Detroit MI 48226. The next community meeting of the BOPC is October 11, 2018 at 6:30 PM 7th Precinct, @ Hunt Street Station, 2200 Hunt Street, Detroit. MI 48207

Oral Communications from the Audience / Public Comments:

Ms. Thresa Lundrum complained about speeding on Fort Street and a current project underway by the Michigan Department of transportation to increase the speed limit on Fort from 35mph to 45mph. Ms. Lundrum indicated that the renovated Kenny Recreation Center is and will attract increase numbers of children to the area and they will need to cross Fort Street, therefore it is not in the interest of the children and community to increase the speed limit, Ms. Lundrum also requested DPD assistance to reduce speeding on Schaefer and Outer Drive.

At the call of the Chair the meeting was closed at Adjournment 8:00 PM.