



## Board of Police Commissioners

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### News Release

For Immediate Release:

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#### **Detroit Board of Police Commissioners Issues statement regarding robbery-attempt of an off-duty police officer and subsequent fatal shooting of robbery suspect**

Willie E. Bell, chair of Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, issued the following statement Monday in response to the attempted robbery of an off-duty officer and the subsequent exchange of gunshots, which left the off-duty officer in critical condition and the suspect fatally wounded, while two other suspects ran from the scene:

“As a city, we need to summon the strength of character and spirit to say this level of violence is not necessary, and these crimes against one another need to stop.

This latest unfortunate incident of violence is highlighted because the attempted robbery victim was an off-duty Detroit Police Officer. We pray for his recovery; we pray for his healthy return to his family, to his job, and to all the things that he enjoys in life. It is important to remember that he was running errands – just taking care of personal business like all of us do. And, like all of us going about the chores of daily life, he had every right to be safe and unharmed going to the store. The robber likely saw an ordinary customer, perhaps one like other customers targeted on other occasions; but this time, he sealed his fate by trying to rob someone who was armed and well trained in using a weapon. This customer may have been off-duty but he still counted as one of Detroit’s Finest.

So, as we pray for the health of this police officer, we recognize that we are praying for yet another victim of senseless crime and violence. Detroit as a city is better than these recent months of violence indicate, and we are certainly better as people than these criminal acts indicate. We

have to speak out and act as a unified city and people to say, ‘We reject this violence as though it is part of some kind of ‘new’ normal. It is not any kind of normal.’

For those of you who think crimes like robbery or burglary is a ticket to fast cash, like the two accomplices in this case who returned to the scene, not to give aid but to steal the weapons, the Police Department will catch up with you. Justice will find you. For those who are committing crimes: you can choose another path. Detroit is a city of growing opportunity again, opportunity that offers our residents and especially our youth a future better and brighter than it has been in a while, and certainly a path far better than one that ends in jail, prison or the cemetery. Please know that there are programs—community workshops, public safety outreach, education resources, and more -- to help you get out of the life of violence and crime now.

People like to say that Detroit is a city of neighborhoods, but really we are a city of neighbors. We could not have survived these past years of upheaval and sacrifice if we did not believe in each other just as much as we believed in our city. We have gone through too much to have our city or our daily lives marred by these senseless acts of crime and violence. ”



Created by City Charter in 1974, the Detroit Board of Police

Commissioners has supervisory authority and oversight over the Police

Department. Under the 2012 Charter, the Board is comprised of 11

civilian members; the current members are Bell, Elizabeth Brooks,

Willie E. Burton, Lisa Carter, Reginal Crawford, Eva Garza Dewaelsche,

Conrad L. Mallet Jr., Derrick Sanders, Richard Shelby and Bishop Edgar

L. Vann. Detroiters elect seven members by district (the seat for District 7 is vacant); the mayor appoints four at-large members.

The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners meets weekly on Thursday at 3 p.m. at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third Avenue, except for the second Thursday of the month when it holds community meetings at 6:30 p.m.

For the Board meeting schedule, video, minutes and other information, visit the website at [detroitmi.gov/boards/boardofpolicecommissioners](http://detroitmi.gov/boards/boardofpolicecommissioners).