

Draft Minutes Detroit Board of Police Commissioners

Date of Meeting: March 29, 2018 – 3:00 PM

Location: Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third Street, 3rd Floor, Detroit, MI 48226

Chairperson Lisa Carter called the BOPC meeting to order at 3:00 PM (March 29, 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	Yes	
Shirley A. Burch	Yes	
Willie E. Burton (3:10 PM)	Yes	
William M. Davis	Yes	
Conrad Mallett, Jr.	Excused	
Derrick Sanders	Yes	
Vacant	N/A	
Quorum (Yes)	9	

The Board acting in accordance with its rules approved the Agenda for March 29, 2018.

The Board acting in accordance with its rules approved the following Board Minutes:
Thursday, March 22, 2018

BOPC Officers Report(s): After welcoming attendees to the meeting **Chairperson Lisa Carter** invited **DPD Chaplin Dennis Gover** 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 **Assistant Chief of Police Arnold Williams** to the meeting and invited him to introduce DPD staff.

Chair Carter, said “Welcome: Good Afternoon. I am Police Commissioner Lisa Carter, Chairperson of the Board of Police Commissioners. I represent District #6. Thank you for attending our meeting today. For people viewing this meeting on your government cable channel, thank you for viewing.

The Department within the last day lost another officer, Lieutenant Shawn Wesley. Lieutenant Wesley had a massive heart attack and was unable to recover from his injuries. I would ask for a period of silence to reflect on his career and life.

Thank you! I would also like to note the death of Linda Brown, the namesake of the landmark 1954 Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court case that abolished school segregation. Ms. Linda Brown made her transition at the age of 75. The Brown decision remains one of the most pivotal opinions ever rendered by the U. S. Supreme Court impacting national education, social policy and equal rights.

I also want to note a critical date in our history, April 4, 1968, the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The 50th anniversary of his assassination will be observed between our regularly scheduled meetings. Therefore, it is appropriate to note and reflect on this tragic event in the nation’s history. Fifty years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was killed in Memphis, Tennessee, fighting for sanitation workers and preparing to lead the poor people’s campaign. It was exactly one year since Dr. King delivered his Beyond Vietnam sermon from the pulpit of Riverside Church in Harlem, New York. Dr. King’s death came as his criticism of America’s racial divide incorporated a challenge to inequalities in all facets of American life.

Dr. King would be confrontable today in criticizing the recent shooting in Sacramento, California of 22-year-old Stephon Clark who died as a result of 20 some bullets fired by police officers. King would also be disappointed with the response from the White House and the Attorney General of the United States that indicated the shooting of Mr. Clark is a local matter and it is unlikely that the resources of the federal government will be invoked to help focus light on another tragic incident, in a string of tragic incidents, arising from communities of color. Again, I would ask that we pause to remember Dr. King, Linda Brown and 22-year-old Stephon Clark.

Pastor Matthew Nickel, Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church is sick today and will not join us. We have requested a pastor from the Police Chaplain Corp, Dennis Gover will provide the invocation.

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 Thursday's at 3:00 PM. We also meet in the community every 2nd 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 working 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 dollar to improve on the quality of life within our city. As a Board, we bring a unique prospective 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 of accountability, transparency, rights to appeal and citizen control. These principles are important nationally as well as locally. At the top of our meetings, we always indicate, on behalf of the Board, 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.

Today, we have 2 presentations. We are pleased to have Detroit Corporation Counsel Lawrence Garcia who was recently appointed and will discuss resolutions to our concerns that lawsuits and settlement information be shared with this body. This information is critical in monitoring the Department as well as reviewing and modifying operational policy within the Department. We will also receive a report from the Office of the Chief Investigator. Dr. Polly McCalister will give the report. 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.

COP Police Report: Assistant Chief of Police Arnold Williams reported that crime is continuing to trend downward. Williams reported on CompStat data for the reporting period ending March 25, 2018. AC Williams reported Homicides percentage change between 2016 and 2017, -18% decrease in Homicides, Sexual Assaults 28% increase, Robbery -22% decrease, Carjacking -13% decrease, Aggravated Assaults -3% decrease, non-fatal shootings -23% decrease, Burglary -28% decrease, Larceny -4% decrease, Stolen Vehicle -25% decrease and Part 1 offenses -14% decrease. Williams gave an update on injured and fallen officers including Lt. Shawn Wesley. **Commissioner Brown** acknowledged the work related to the Department's data portal. **DC Todd Bettison** updated the board on a few enhancements to the site and gave the site for the record - [detroitmi.gov\crime-viewer/index.html](http://detroitmi.gov/crime-viewer/index.html). Commissioner Sanders complimented the department for facilitating another Commission observation into the work of police officers (ride along).

Presentations to the Board: (A) Lawrence Garcia, Corporation Counsel, City Law Department (B) Dr. Polly McCalister, OCI Chief, Office of the Chief Investigator.

(A) Lawrence Garcia, Corporation Counsel, City Law Department, shared with the Board his, and he added, the Mayor's support for data driven decision-making. Garcia indicated he would make available to the Board data on the amount of judgments and settlements paid by the City related to incidents within the Police Department. The data, as outlined by Garcia will give the name of officer, plaintiff, date of filing, basic description of claim, adjudication/disposition. Garcia added that this information can be helpful in isolating repeat offenders as well as drive training and risk management efforts. Corporation Counsel Garcia indicated that in 2016 Payouts of \$4.792 million and in 2017 Payouts of \$6.461 million, respectively had been paid by the city for police related settlements. Garcia also discussed three categories of violations that are most responsible for payouts by the city; constitutional violations like excessive force, illegal arrests and wrongful deaths, auto related payouts and property payouts. Garcia indicated the information would be made available monthly and have some descriptive information contained within so that the Board can use it for policy driven discussions. **Commissioner Dewaelsche** inquired about the difference between payout between 2016 and 2017. Garcia responded that much of the difference may be due to the backlog created by the city bankruptcy and the time in processing and settling cases.

(B) Dr. Polly McCalister, OCI Chief, Office of the Chief Investigator gave an overview of the mission of the Office of the Chief Investigator. OCI Chief McCalister compared citizen complaints and their source for February 2017 and 2018 indicating that 79 complaints were filed in 2017 and 80 complaints were filed in 2018, a 1% increase. McCalister also reported that 96 cases had been closed in February 2018 and provided corresponding numbers on the impact of scout car audio video equipment in investigating complaints. McCalister also discussed complaints by gender and race indicating that of the 2490 officers only 114 or 5% of the force had complaints and complaints by seniority and rank. OCI Chief concluded the presentation by outlining goals for 2018 which included continuing to increase public confidence and trust in law enforcement, the identification of trends and input into the police academy by addressing new recruits of excellence and ethics. **Commissioner Bell** inquired into methods that could be used to obtain more feedback from recruits in the academy and to determine reasons for the high attrition rates in police ranks. **Bell and Dewaelsche** suggested a greater focus on the curriculum within the academy as a starting place to address attrition. AC Williams added that MCOLES mandates 594 training hours designed to equip officers for the job and that adjustments to the curriculum are governed by MCOLES.

BOCP Standing Committee Reports: Commissioner Bell reported on the continued work of the Board's Policy Subcommittee and its current agenda addressing departmental directives.

Report from the Board Secretary. Mr. Hicks reported on four items listed on the agenda. Hicks indicated he wanted to expand on the Report on Police Reimbursements for Special Events. Hicks indicated that the group which meet focused on collecting data, verifying the accuracy of the data and developing a set of recommendations to correct the process moving forward. Hicks also underscored that by implementing the recent policy related to suspensions without pay the next suspension hearing will be held April 5, 2018 for PO Tammy Barnes. Hicks indicated that all parties have been notified for the above hearing.

Old Business: Commissioner Burch reaffirmed her support for officer appreciation day and suggested that each district set up some type of day to honor police officers.

New Business: None.

Announcements: The next regular meeting of the BOPC is Thursday, April 5, 2018 at Police Headquarters at 3:00 PM. The next Community Meeting of the BOPC is April 12, 2018 at Peace Baptist Church, 13450 Goddard Avenue, Detroit Mi., 48212 (11th Police Precinct).

Oral Communications from the Audience / Public Comments:

Ms. Michelle George discussed three concerns. The first was the lack of an outcry for the shootings of unarmed citizens by police, U. S. Senator Stabenow efforts to add training dollars to the federal budget to support training of police officers and lastly a shooting incident on Warren and Tireman which involved 45 shots from an automatic weapon. Ms. George indicated that she had called 911 three times and was placed on hold three times. Bernice Smith discussed two items abandoned cars at or around 1426 W. Grand Blvd and a public distraction wherein residents and/or landlords are placing furniture on the sidewalks. Some of the furniture is discarded and others is for sale. Ms. Smith wanted to know the legality of this process and requested special attention for the area.

MOTION to Adjourn by Commission Bell.

Second, Sanders

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

Adjournment 4:17 PM