

**Draft Minutes Detroit Board of Police Commissioners**  
**Date of Meeting: November 14, 2019 – 6:30 PM**  
**Location: Second Grace United Methodist Church, 18700 Joy Road, Detroit, MI 48228**

**BOPC Immediate Past Chair, Willie E. Bell called the BOPC Board Meeting to order at 6:34 PM (November 14, 2019)**

Detroit Police Commission Membership / Attendance		
	Attend	Not-Attend
Lisa Carter, Chairperson	Excused	
Eva Garza Dewaelsche, Vice Chairperson	Excused	
Willie E. Bell	Yes	
Elizabeth Brooks	Yes	
Darryl D. Brown (6:45 PM)	Yes	
Shirley A. Burch	Excused	
Willie E. Burton (6:45 PM)	Yes	
William M. Davis	Yes	
Evette Griffie	Excused	
Jim Holley	Yes	
Annie Mae Holt	Yes	
Quorum (Yes)	7	

**The Board acting in accordance with its rules approved the Agenda for November 14, 2019. (6:45 PM)**

**The Board acting in accordance with its rules approved the following Board Minutes: Thursday, November 7, 2019.**

**BOPC Immediate Past Chair, Willie Bell, opened the meeting and said Good Evening! I am Police Commissioner Willie Bell, I represent District #4. I serve as the Immediate Past Chair of the Board and will be conducting our meeting tonight. 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, Eva Dewaelsche, Evette Griffie and Shirley Burch have requested to be excused. Chaplain Charles Bailey provided the invocation. Chair Bell requested introductions of Commissioners, BOPC and DPD staff and others.**

**Chair Bell continued, "Tonight we are meeting in the 6<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct. The Commissioner representing this District is William Davis. Commissioner Davis welcomed the Board and public to the 6<sup>th</sup> Precinct." Bell continued, "We are pleased to meet at Second Grace United Methodist Church. The Church will soon celebrate its 96<sup>th</sup> year. On November 23, 1923, sixty-five persons met in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Berry G. Rowe at 6390 30<sup>th</sup> Street in Detroit to organize what has become Second Grace United Methodist Church. The Church is currently headed by Reverend Dr. Darryl E. Totty and Church Leader Louis Moore will welcome the Board to Second Grace United Methodist Church. Church Leader Louis Moore addressed the Board and welcomed the BOPC to the church. Bell also acknowledged Trustee Gordon Hendrix and Meeting Coordinator Ida Hendrix. Bell continued, "In any community effort there are various partnerships. In policing, the work of the Police-Community Relations teams are critically important. I want to acknowledge Mary McGhee, President and Teresa Harris, Secretary of the 6<sup>th</sup> Precinct Police Community Relations Organization."**

**Chairperson's Report: Chair Bell said "On behalf of the Board, I want to express our concern and support for fallen and injured officers and their families. Our concerns for officer safety and citizen protection is ranked as two of the most important priorities of the Board. Our Board receives a weekly report from the Department listing injured officers. I would ask the Chief of Police 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 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. 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 Board investigates non-criminal citizen complaints, monitors the Department for compliance with all laws, and reviews and modify police policy to eliminate misconduct, discriminatory police practices and unnecessary use of force by police. As a civilian oversight agency, we protect the civil rights of citizens. Our objective is to increase the quality of life for residents and visitors to Detroit."**

Bell continued, "I want to point to several important items for your consideration and information. On the back table we have cards for any individual interested in addressing the Board. At our community meetings we limit our agenda to the monthly reports from DPD Human Resources and the Local Police Precinct Report. Our hope is to bring to you the most important information that impacts your neighborhood and police operations closest to you. Our Board meets weekly. Our schedule is very demanding. We meet 12 times a year in evening community meetings across the city. Tonight is an example of our evening community meetings. These community meetings are outreach efforts to connect citizens with police services. We also meet three times a month in regular sessions at police headquarters at 3:00 PM. For our regular meetings, our practice has been to meet in one convenient location so that the public is aware of our meetings and can get to the Board at any time. In the Board package today, you have a copy of the agenda, minutes from the last meeting and various reports including the monthly HR Report and the 3<sup>rd</sup> DPD Facial Recognition Report.

On our agenda tonight, we have four resolutions. The first is to honor the life and contributions of former United States Representative John Conyers. Representative Conyers championed the interests of the 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, having served as the longest African American member of Congress. Representative Conyers was regarded as the best of law makers. His legislative history, as a member of Congress and his ability to work within coalition politics has distinguished him as an iconic leader for the century. At the appropriate point on the agenda, I will ask one of our Commissioners to read the resolution into the record and we will vote on the resolution so that it will become a part of the archival history of the work of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners.

We also have three other resolutions. Sergeant Starr Gonzales has long worked with the Board in our efforts to identify and recruit future police officers to join the Detroit Police Department. Ms. Lashonta Smith and Mr. Judah Abusalah, both work alongside law enforcement in the 6<sup>th</sup> precinct will also be honored for their contributions. We have two presentations. (1) The DPD Monthly Human Resources Report by Dr. Marcella Anderson, Director DPD Personnel. The report will cover recruitment, processing and hiring procedures for both sworn and civilian employees of the Police Department. The HR Report was e-mailed to the Board Tuesday as part of the Tuesday package and is also reproduced for your attention tonight. (2) We will have the 6<sup>th</sup> Precinct Command Report presented by Commander Arnold Williams and Captain Lashanna Potts. They will discuss crime fighting strategies in the precinct as well as partnerships that they use to deliver services within the precinct. Under the Chief's Report, I am requesting an update on our city-wide crime statistics and any critical issues facing the Police Department."

Bell continued, "Again, at the end of the meeting we will have public comments from the audience. 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. He will need your card before the end of the Chief of Police Report. We will hold each speaker to the allotted 2 minutes. I ask that everyone place your cell phones and other electronic devices on vibrate to make sure that they are not interrupting the meeting.

As a final matter, I would like to encourage cooperation and order at our meetings. We have discussed in the past the need to treat each other with respect and control our behavior within the limits of professionalism. Commissioners who do not have the floor should not speak until they are recognized by the Chair. I am asking Commissioners to restrict their comments to issues that are relevant to the agenda and to be brief so that we will have ample time for public comments. For the attending audience, please note there is time on the agenda for citizen feedback. My objective tonight is to run an orderly meeting including public comments and have us out of the meeting by 8:00 PM. After which we will have some refreshments and exit the church by 8:30 PM.

**Resolutions: (a) FORMER U.S. REPRESENTATIVE JOHN CONYERS, 13<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (POSTHUMOUSLY), read into the record by Commissioner Annie Holt.**

Whereas, on Sunday, October 27, 2019, the world suffered the loss of America's Congressman, the honorable U.S. Representative John Conyers, a legendary leader and legislator who relentlessly stood up for civil rights, voting rights, and human rights. As a military veteran, as an attorney, as civil rights leader, and as an elected official for 53 years, Rep. Conyers always held high a guiding torch for principles, policies, and laws to ensure our nation lived up to its best, defining ideals for freedom and equality, and,

Whereas, Detroit took great pride in this amazing man who was born May 16, 1929 into a labor rights family in Highland Park. The Conyers moved to Detroit, where John Jr. graduated from Northwestern High School. He served in the Michigan National Guard, the U.S. Army, including a year in the Korean War, and the U.S. Army Reserves. He earned BA and Law degrees from Wayne State University, and later became an aide to the iconic U.S. Rep. John Dingell and an attorney to several local labor unions, and

Whereas, often travelling far and wide in fighting for social and economic reforms, his advocacy and work often put him shoulder-to-shoulder with other giants of the era – Rosa Parks, who later worked for him, Damon Keith, Coleman Young, John Lewis, and Martin Luther King Jr., who was older than Conyers by only four months, and

Whereas, he first ran for office in 1964 with a platform of “Jobs, Justice, and Peace.” The slogan truly embodied his vision and his goals for America, and led him to introduce – or reintroduce – bills year after year for civil rights, voting rights, health care for all, and slavery reparations. Such tenacity became the trademark that made him America’s Congressman. Communities that saw Jim Crow and gerrymandering rob them of their votes had John Conyers as their Congressman pushing voting protections. Motorists stopped and searched without cause by police anywhere had John Conyers as a member or leader of the House Judiciary Committee. People afraid to get sick or scared by doctor bills had John Conyers introducing single-payer health care every year since 2002. Every American committed to righting historic wrongs had their Congressman John Conyers, pushing every year since 1989 for reparations for descendants of slavery to remove the “blemish on this nation’s history.” There was no one as tenacious as America’s Congressman, who famously introduced a federal holiday bill four days after Martin Luther King’s assassination in 1968 – and Congressman Conyers did not stop until it became law, with the first celebration held in 1986, and

Whereas, U.S. Congressional journals will record his many other achievements, such as co-founder of the Congressional Black Caucus in 1969, chair or top Democrat on the powerful House Oversight Committee, 44<sup>th</sup> Dean of the U.S. House of Congress for his longevity of service, the longest-serving African American in Congress, and

Therefore be it Resolved, that the Board of Police Commissioners, speaking on behalf of the Police Department and the citizens of Detroit, salutes the life and legacy of U.S. Rep. John Conyers. This city and this nation were very fortunate to have such a wise, tenacious man as America’s Congressman for more than half a century. We wish him Godspeed and extend condolences and prayers to his family.

Chair Bell recognized Commissioner Holt. Commissioner Annie Holt moved approval of the resolution honoring the life and contributions of the Honorable John Conyers, Jr., Commissioner Holley, second.

The family of Congressman John Conyers, Jr. (Monica Conyers and John Conyers, III received the resolution and addressed the meetings thanking the Board for its acknowledgment of the late John Conyers, Jr.).

Motion by: Holt      Second by: Holley      Vote: Yes=7, No=0 Abst.=0      Results: Motion Approved.

**Resolutions: (b) RESOLUTION HONORING SERGEANT STARR GONZALES, read into the record by Commissioner Elizabeth Brooks.**

**WHEREAS** Starr Gonzales was appointed to the Detroit Police Department on September 26, 2007. Upon graduating from the Detroit Metropolitan Police Academy, Officer Gonzales began her career at the Southwestern District; and

**WHEREAS** On August 31, 2016, Officer Gonzales was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and assigned to the Recruiting Unit. Always striving in her commitment to the Detroit Police Department, Sergeant Gonzales channeled her energy to recruitment. She immediately showed her dedication to doing whatever it took by attending career events, and fairs, and by arranging speaking engagements. She developed recruiting materials and relationships with colleges, high schools, and agencies to familiarize them with the opportunities available at the Detroit Police Department; and

**WHEREAS** Since joining the Recruiting Unit, she provides inspiration through her energetic spirit, leadership, and willingness to get down in the trenches and do whatever it takes. The Unit has processed numerous applicants and launched new careers for several police officers since her tenure; and

**WHEREAS** A recent review of seven top cities that are currently hiring, the Detroit Police Department ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> with the highest number of recruits hired. This has been possible through Sergeant Gonzales ability to devise and implemented aggressive strategies to bring candidates to the doors of the Detroit Police Department. Sergeant Gonzales continues to reach out and emphasis quality, dedication, and diversity in all that we do, and has reached the goals without compromise; and

**WHEREAS** Sergeant Gonzales was nominated for Women in Blue-Female Officer of the Year 2018. Sergeant Gonzales has started a “Drive to Success” Program that is geared toward providing driver’s education for Detroit Public School students. Since the inception, several Detroit Public School students have completed the program.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking on behalf of the citizens of the great City of Detroit recognize and honor the contributions and commitment to excellence in public service of Sergeant Starr Gonzales. She personifies the true ethic of the Detroit Police Department. She has proven to be an exemplary and dedicated to her profession and the City of Detroit

**Chair Bell recognized Commissioner Brooks. Commissioner Elizabeth Brooks moved approval of the resolution honoring the service of Sergeant Starr Gonzales. Commissioner Davis, Second. Discussion.**

**Motion by: Brooks      Second by: Davis      Vote: Yes=7, No=0 Abst. =0      Results: Motion Approved.**

**Resolutions: (c) RESOLUTION HONORING MS. LÁSHONTA SMITH, read into the record by Commissioner William Davis.**

**WHEREAS** Ms. LáShonta Smith was born and raised in Southwest Detroit. She is the mother of three sons and one daughter; and

**WHEREAS** Ms. Smith holds a certificate in Biblically Lead Counseling through Moody Bible College. She also serves as a Sunday school teacher at her church, Trinity Christian Church in Taylor. Ms. Smith serves on the Youth Advisory Board for New Heaven Ministries in Ecorse; and

**WHEREAS** Ms. Smith serves on civic and community organizations, including several that have been important partners to the Board of Police Commissioners in the area of public safety and justice. She is currently, the Community Engagement Coordinator for Brilliant Detroit Cody Rouge, where she has helped implement programs such as Mom's Circle, Camp Read Aloud, and Police Talk. With Brilliant Detroit and their partnership with Gleaners Food Bank, they fed over 50 families weekly, throughout the summer of 2019; and

**WHEREAS** Ms. Smith is dedicated to preserving and improving our community by offering a loving hand of assistance to families and their children alongside Brilliant Detroit. She is committed to the overall well-being of the residents of the Sixth Precinct.

**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 dedicated, diligent, committed support of Ms. LáShonta Smith. Her service and devotion to improving the quality of life for the citizens in the Sixth Precinct and throughout the city of Detroit, merits our highest regards.

**Chair Bell recognized Commissioner Davis. Commissioner William Davis moved approval of the resolution honoring the community service of Ms. LáShonta Smith. Commissioner Holley, Second. Discussion.**

**Motion by: Davis      Second by: Holley      Vote: Yes=7, No=0 Abst. =0      Results: Motion Approved.**

**Resolutions: (d) RESOLUTION HONORING MR. JUDAH ABUSALAH, read into the record by Commissioner William Davis.**

**WHEREAS** Mr. Judah Abusalah was born and raised in Dearborn, Michigan. Mr. Abusalah is married to Nour Abusalah, and they are expecting their first child in February 2020; and

**WHEREAS** Mr. Abusalah attended and graduated from Fordson High School. Mr. Abusalah attended Henry Ford Community College and received an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice; and

**WHEREAS** Mr. Abusalah is an enterprising Detroit business owner and community leader. He has been the owner of a Subway franchise for five years. At 18 years of age, he is the youngest franchisee in Subway history. Mr. Abusalah also manages 12 apartment complexes with 86 different units. He also owns Suds 'n' Vac Car Wash; and

**WHEREAS** Mr. Abusalah has participated in ride-a-longs with the Sixth Precinct officers and is a strong business and community partner. He supports the precinct during various community events.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking on behalf of the citizens of the great City of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department acknowledge the dedicated, humble, caring giving and longtime support of Mr. Judah Abusalah. His generous spirit and commitment to improving the quality of life for all citizens in the Sixth Precinct and throughout the city of Detroit, merits our highest regards.

**Chair Bell recognized Commissioner Davis. Commissioner William Davis moved approval of the resolution honoring the community service of Mr. Judah Abusalah. Commissioner Holley, Second. Discussion.**

**Motion by: Davis      Second by: Holley      Vote: Yes=7, No=0 Abst. =0      Results: Motion Approved.**

**Chair Bell recognized Commander Arnold Williams. Commander Arnold Williams presented Hassan Fayed a Spirit of Detroit Award from the Detroit City Council. Commissioner Annie Holt moved approval of the Spirit of Detroit Award (for the record), Commissioner Davis, Second.**

**Motion by: Holt      Second by: Davis      Vote: Yes=7, No=0 Abst. =0      Results: Motion Approved.**

**COP Police Report: Deputy Chief of Police, Charles Fitzgerald.** DC Fitzgerald reported crime and statistical data utilizing DPD Department report dated November 14, 2019. DC Fitzgerald reported year-to date data by category including, 4% increase in Criminal Homicides, Sexual Assaults 1% decrease, Aggravated Assaults -5% decrease, non-fatal shootings 4% increase, Robbery -3% increase, Carjacking -24% decrease, Burglary -8% decrease, Larceny -3% decrease, Stolen Vehicle 5% increase and Part 1 offenses -2% decrease. DC Fitzgerald gave a update on injured officers and announced the next graduation of academy class 2019H. Commissioner Darryl Brown thanked the Detroit Police Department for their support and acknowledgement during a recent bereavement period related to his family.

**Presentations to the Board:** (A) Monthly Human Resources Report, Dr. Marcella Anderson, DPD Personnel Director  
(B) 6<sup>th</sup> Precinct Report, Commander Arnold Williams and Captain LaShanna Potts

**(A) Monthly Human Resources Report, Dr. Marcella Anderson, DPD Personnel Director,** provided statistical data for October 2019 (November 9, 2019 Report). Dr. Anderson indicated that of the total positions (2,671 Sworn) in the Department, DPD has 154 vacant Police officers. Of the 667 (Civilian) positions in the Department, 58 are vacant. Dr. Anderson discussed recruitment and MCOLES processing indicating the Department has 2093 applications from 7/1/2019 to 10/31/2019 the Department hired 49 individuals. Anderson reported 657 are awaiting MCOLES certification, 63 are in process. Anderson also indicated that our residency data as of 10/31/2019 reflect Detroit residents at 569 Sworn, 335 Civilian and 31 Police Assistants. For non-Detroit residents for the same period, 1886 Sworn, 274 civilians and 31 Police Assistants. Anderson also provide attrition data and leaves of absence and restricted duty data. Dr. Anderson indicated that her report covered officers suspended and not at work (7 Police Officers suspended, 1 Detective, 1 Sergeant, 1 Command Officer for a total of 10 individuals).

**(B) 6<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct Report, Commander Arnold William and Captain LaShanna Potts** discussed with the Board precinct level statistical data of crimes that took place in the 6<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct and outlined the several of the crime fighting measures conducted by the precinct. Also discussed were some of the outreach and partnerships underway in the precinct along with grant programs and deployments supported by the grant programs.

**Report from Secretary to the Board: Mr. Hicks** reported five incoming items listed on the agenda under the Secretary to the Board's Report listed as (1) Letter from Chief of Police Re: Response to Board of Police Commissioners Questions regarding DPOA Grievance #19-044, (2) DPD Monthly Human Resources Report, (3) DPD Facial Recognition Report #3 (11/13/2019), (4) 2018 Disciplinary Administration Case Audit (11/14/2019), (5) Detroit Police Basic Recruit Class 2019-H Graduation on Friday, November 22, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. to be held at Second Ebenezer Church, 14601 Dequindre, Detroit, MI 48212.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business: Chair** recognized Commissioner Holley. Commissioner Jim Holley requested consideration of a crime summit to address the homicide rate within the City of Detroit. Holley indicated that the current rate was unacceptable and there is a need to pull together the best thinking on how we can joint impact the current homicide rate and suggested a goal of reducing homicides within the city to below 200 in 2020. Commissioner Willie Burton inquired about alternate meeting space for the Board. Chair Bell indicated this item is being addressed and Burton should take up the above with the Chair upon her return.

**Announcements: Chair Bell,** The next regular meeting of Board is scheduled for November 21, 2019 at 3:00 PM at Detroit Public Safety Building (Police Headquarters), 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 1301 Third Street, Detroit, MI 48226. The following months community meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2019 at 6:30 PM at Historic Little Rock Baptist Church, 9000 Woodward Avenue, Detroit MI 48202 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Police precinct.

**Oral Comments / Public Comments: Ms. Faith** complimented the Board on the acknowledgement of former U.S. Congressman John Conyers, Jr, and the good work of the Department. Ms. Teddi Ragland, 10<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct Community Relations Organization reported on the recent Senior Ball in the 10<sup>th</sup> Precinct.

**Chair Bell** recognized Commissioner Elizabeth Brooks. Commissioner Brooks moved adjournment. Commissioner Holley, second. Motion by: Brooks Second by: Holley Vote: Yes=5, No=0 Abst. =0 Results: Motion to Adjourn Approved.

**Meeting Adjourned. 8:19 PM.**