

News Brief:



New Board Member

Civic leader Jesus Hernandez joined the BOPC in late May. Mayor Mike Duggan appointed and the City Council confirmed Police Commissioner Hernandez. He fills an at-large vacancy after the latest term ended for Eva Garza Dewaelsche, who had also served during the Archer Administration. Also, after the term for Police Commissioner Elizabeth Brooks ends, Martin Jones of Detroit 300 will join the Board.

Key Dates on Surveillance and Facial Recognition

- 2016**
 - March** Detroit City Council approves Project Green Light, whose camera feeds from eight gas stations form the basis of the “real time” crime monitoring
 - October** Detroit City Council approves license plate readers
- 2017**
 - July** City Council approves contract for facial recognition
 - November** DPD opens state of art Real Time Crime Center
- 2018**
 - November** BOPC receives draft directive 303.6 on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
- 2019**
 - January** Facial recognition draft directive 307.5 received
 - April** Board receives draft directive 307.6 on traffic light-mounted cameras and facial recognition
 - June** Board approves traffic light-mounted cameras policy directive without facial recognition
 - September** Board approves facial recognition policy with restrictions and limits
- 2020**
 - January** The BOPC posts required weekly DPD facial recognition reports to detroitmi.gov/bopc

DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS DISTRICTS & PRECINCTS



BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

BOPC Meeting Schedule During the Coronavirus Outbreak

The BOPC is holding remote or virtual meetings each Thursday at 3 p.m. during the public health precautions against the coronavirus COVID-19. The Board also reminded the public to observe social distancing rules by using the telephone hotline 313-596-2499 or online form for complaints against DPD officers and other employees. Go to detroitmi.gov/bopc for information on how to call or log in to meetings on zoom.us.

After the Outbreak

The BOPC will return to its regular schedule when possible. For its regular schedule, meetings for the Board of Police Commissioners are open to the public and held Every Thursday at 3 p.m. at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters except 2nd Thursdays when the BOPC meets at 6:30 p.m. at community sites. For a full schedule & list of agenda topics, visit us at: detroitmi.gov/bopc

For news alerts and updates, subscribe to newsletters at detroitmi.gov/bopc.

BOPC-led policy changes help Detroit lead U.S. police reforms, new social justice movement *(continued)*

Leading police reforms

- ▶ Prohibit retaliation when officers report misconduct or cooperate with investigations
- ▶ Require monitoring and evaluation of use of force, along with data collection and analysis.
- ▶ Add reporting requirement by DPD to the BOPC and other state or federal oversight agencies

Retooling for effective oversight

Charter changes suggested by the Board include:

- ▶ Giving the Board the power to fill a District vacancy. Currently, the Mayor appoints and City Council confirms someone, the same process for at-large appointments.
- ▶ Items to clarify Charter language that gives the Board the final say on promotions and discipline. The Charter states “all promotions shall be with the approval of the Board” and the Board “shall act as final authority in imposing or reviewing discipline.” However, arbitrator decisions often have upended the discipline mandate and, for some time, police chiefs have used appointments to move officers to new or higher positions.
- ▶ Changing meeting requirements to allow a summer recess in August.
- ▶ Reduce from the term of appointed, at-large members to match four-year elected terms.

Protecting rights in emerging technology

The Board held several meetings for public comment and input, as well as reviewing research, best practices, and Supreme Court and other legal decisions. As a result, board members led policy changes that ensure protections of Constitutional rights and provide police tools to identify and arrest dangerous suspects. Key changes include:

- ▶ Banning the use of facial recognition in traffic lights
- ▶ Prohibiting the use of facial recognition in real time

The Board’s changes also restricted the use of facial recognition technology in general. The Board also created a two-step limit on the use of facial recognition:

- ▶ DPD can only use it to help identify existing images of suspects
- ▶ The only images of suspects used are the suspects in violent crimes, such as homicides, aggravated assault, rape, and carjacking.

The Board also required a detailed weekly report on requests for the use of facial recognition and the outcomes. The proposal for drones is still pending before the Board.

Three Ways to Get Involved with BOPC

1. Stay Active and Informed



- View meetings, proposals and other information anytime, and subscribe to BOPC news and alerts at: Detroitmi.gov/bopc

2. Share Your Voice



- Attend the weekly meeting each Thursday
- File complaints against police misconduct with BOPC investigators
- Share comments on policies and procedures under BOPC review

3. Enhance Police-Community Relations



- Know your precinct and Police Commissioner (see map above)
- Join your Precinct Police-Community Relations Council or block club
- Host a BOPC meeting at your organization

Did you know?

Detroit Board of Police Commissioners is an all-volunteer board. Members get a reimbursement for attending meetings.

Community Connections

Top Photo: Neighborhood leaders and police-community relations advocates helped celebrate the 1974 City Charter, which created the Board and civilian oversight of the police department as part of groundbreaking reforms.



Bottom Photo: The Board honored America's Congressman John Conyers, the late civil rights giant. His family accepted the award.



Detroit Board of Police Commissioners COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Accountability Through Civilian Oversight Since 1974

Spring · Summer
2020
Board of Police Commissioners
CITY OF DETROIT

FROM THE CHAIR



Lisa Carter with Ife Johnson, daughter of the Rev. Charles Butler, a leader on the first Board of Police Commissioners and personal pastor to Mayor Coleman A. Young.

BOPC-led policy changes help Detroit lead U.S. police reforms, new social justice movement

Detroit is again helping to lead the nation in a new civil rights movement to achieve lasting equality and social justice. The global movement grew from outrage to a series of deaths of unarmed black and brown people by whites engaging in police brutality and vigilante or terrorist-like acts.

“Detroit is showing the power of peaceful protests and of having an infrastructure to make change immediately, like with police de-escalation requirements and bans on chokeholds proposed in June by the Board of Police Commissioners,” said Chair Lisa Carter.

The Board of Police Commissioners proposed some 16 changes to Detroit Police Department training and use of force policies. The latest reform proposals follow other action by the Board to enhance accountability and public review through improved oversight tools and civil rights protections in facial recognition use to meet 21st Century challenges.

“Detroit helped lead the nation 45 years ago by creating robust, citizen-led oversight of a police department in our 1974 City Charter,” says Chair Lisa Carter. “Today’s community and generation make it possible for us to lead again for the next 45 years.”

Leading police reforms

BOPC changes, which are open to review by DPD and the public, include proposals to:

- Ban neck holds, also called chokeholds
- Require a de-escalation continuum and a minimal reliance on force
- Establish measures for reporting when an officer threatens to use force
- Create a duty for officers to intervene or intercede and report when others use excessive force (*continued inside*)

Retooling for effective oversight

Board actions have included:

- Expanding training to include board effectiveness and parliamentary procedure. In 2016, the Board started an annual training each spring and an orientation for new members. Also, the Board held a December 2019 training conducted by the Michigan Municipal League on Robert’s Rules of Orders and standards for elected and public officials.
- Approved new by laws for the Board to serve as a committee of the whole on all items.
- Recommended important changes to the Detroit Charter Revision Commission. That panel soon will make its recommendations to the public. Voters approve any Charter revisions in the November 10, 2020 election. (*continued inside*)

Protecting rights in emerging technology

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- Banning the use of facial recognition in traffic lights
- Prohibiting the use of facial recognition in real time (*continued inside*)

A Salute To Our 61 Detroit Police Commissioners Since 1974

Every day, I consider it a distinct honor to serve as a Police Commissioner. I feel that I represent not only my southwest Detroit district today but also the visionary men and women whose sacrifices for civil rights and commitment to justice gave birth to the Board of Police Commissioners seven years after the 1967 Detroit Uprising against police brutality and discrimination.

As recent protests of the Minneapolis police killing of George Floyd show, it is important for civilian oversight and the Detroit Police Department to reach for the highest hopes held by those Detroiters then -- and those of our residents today.

When the Board celebrated the 45th Anniversary of the 1974 Charter and its creation of civilian oversight, it was powerful to see so many past Police Commissioners and to hear their stories. Each one could recall challenges in implementing change, building responsiveness and professionalism, and navigating public expectations. Those demands were in addition to full-time jobs, community leadership roles, and other professional, civic, and personal commitments. To date, 61 city residents have served in vital role of police commissioners.

As we paid tribute to Detroit’s rich legacy in this key civil rights area, it was interesting to note the transition from five appointed members to the 2012 Charter’s requirement for seven elected and four appointed members amid unique challenges: emergency management, suspension of the Board and other democratic powers, two federal consent decrees, and bankruptcy.

Public oversight of the police prevails through every decade and every challenge. Based on our city’s history and our community commitment, I know it always will.

Lisa Carter, a retired Wayne County deputy sheriff, has served as the Police Commissioner for District 6 since 2012. She currently serves as chair of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners and works as an administrator with the AmeriCorps Urban Safety Program at the Center for Urban Studies at Wayne State University.

Board of Police Commissioners
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