



CITIZEN POLICE REVIEW BOARD

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Approved
3/25/14

Meeting Notes of CPRB Meeting Held on February 25, 2014 (Mtg. No. 163)

City Council Chambers
510 City County Building
414 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Neighborhood: Citywide

Members Present: Dr. Emma Lucas-Darby, Chair
Mr. Thomas C. Waters, Vice Chair
Ms. Leshonda R. Roberts

Excused: Ms. Karen McLellan

Absent:
Vacancies: 1 Mayoral Appointment, LEP
2 Council Seats

Solicitors: Mr. Robert J. Ridge, Esq. & Ms. Elizabeth Collura, Esq.

Staff Present: Ms. Elizabeth C. Pittinger, Executive Director
Ms. Sherri Bridgett, Investigator
Mrs. Kathy Carson, Investigator
Ms. Michelle Gamble, Investigator
Ms. Carolyn L. Gaskin, Executive Assistant

Excused: Mr. Michael Ayoob, Intake Coordinator

Vacancies: Investigative Associate

Administrative Matters:

Dr. Darby, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Dr. Darby acknowledged the Members present and noted the absence of a quorum necessary to conduct a regular business meeting. Dr. Darby offered an abbreviated meeting, where no cases were discussed or moved toward disposition.

A motion to adopt the meeting minutes for December 3, 2013 was offered by Ms. Roberts, seconded by Mr. Waters, and approved unanimously.

Dr. Darby expressed condolences for former CPRB Chairwoman, Marsha Hinton, whose funeral service was held earlier today. Dr. Darby acknowledged Ms. Hinton as a dedicated member of CPRB, serving the Board for more than 11 years. Ms. Hinton was relieved of her CPRB duties under unpleasant circumstances during the Ravenstahl Mayoral Administration; however she continued to passionately support the mission of the Board.

Dr. Darby announced that the Board did not meet in January due to inclement weather.

Executive Director's Report

- Ms. Pittinger thanked Dr. Darby for acknowledging Marsha Hinton and stated that she was an inaugural CPRB member who began officiating in November 1997.
- Ms. Pittinger briefly reported on the progress of the CPRB vacancy and term expirations. To date, no new appointments have been made to fill seats resulting from one vacancy and three

expired terms. Ms. Pittinger stated that a meeting has been scheduled with City Council President Bruce Kraus to discuss how to expedite the appointments to the two Council vacancies; after which time she will report any progress to the Board.

- Ms. Pittinger reported on the 2014 CPRB Solicitor Contract. At this time, the proposed legislation has not yet been formally introduced to City Council for authorization; however it is expected to be finalized soon.
- Ms. Pittinger mentioned that a Public Hearing was held for CPRB case #180-13 (Henderson vs. Gromek). The Findings and Recommendations are pending a final review by the Hearing Panel comprised of Dr. Darby, Mr. Waters, and Ms. McLellan.
- Ms. Pittinger mentioned that a Pre-hearing Conference was held on 1/28/14 for CPRB case #212-13 (Ferretti vs. Kacsuta); which was continued and held today, prior to this meeting. The Hearing Officer has set forth dates for communication between the legal representatives and a follow-up discussion will be offered at the March 25, 2014 CPRB meeting.
- On January 25, 2014, Ms. Pittinger attended the Black & White Reunion's 16th Annual Summit Against Racism. Ms. Pittinger stated that the summit was well attended and she publicly acknowledged an appreciation for the work of the Black and White Reunion, including meeting attendees Mark and Tris Ozark.
- Ms. Pittinger reported that K-9 Officer Rocco died on 1/30/14 from injuries sustained during a citizen/police encounter in Lawrenceville. Ms. Pittinger stated that an acknowledgement of the loss of Rocco was conveyed through formal condolences sent on behalf of CPRB members and staff.
- On February 5, 2014, Ms. Pittinger was a guest on PCNC Night Talk. A general discussion was held regarding the status of the current leadership of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police and Department of Public Safety.
- Ms. Pittinger informed the Board that Mayor Peduto publicly announced on 2/18/14, that former CPRB Chairwoman Deborah L. Walker has been selected as the Director of the Office of Municipal Investigations. Ms. Pittinger stated that she is hopeful that through mutual efforts, CPRB and OMI will mitigate the political resistance that has contributed to thwarting the Board's efforts to fulfill its mission.
- Ms. Pittinger reported that the Community Police Relation Group meetings established by US Attorney David Hickton reconvened on 2/21/14 for the purpose of orienting the newly installed City Solicitor Lourdes Sanchez Ridge and developing common discussion about improving the relationship between youth and law enforcement.
- Ms. Pittinger informed the Board that Former PBP Chief Harper was sentenced today, to 18 months in prison for engaging in criminal acts. Ms. Pittinger noted the unfortunateness of the circumstance; however remains hopeful that the PBP department can begin transitioning.
- Mr. Waters inquired about the status of City Council Bill No. 2013-1762, sponsored by Councilman Burgess; which proposed to allocate funding for CPRB to design a Police/Community Relations Summit. Ms. Pittinger stated that the bill expired during the last legislative session. Ms. Pittinger also noted that during a forthcoming scheduled meeting with

City Council President Kraus, the topic can be revisited; in addition to discussion regarding the two required CPRB City Council appointees and excluding CPRB from Councilman Lavelle's Public Safety Services Committee, due to the Board's independence.

Public Comment

Dr. Darby invited public comment. Ms. Julie Charles offered comment.

Next Meeting

Dr. Darby announced that the next regular board meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at the South Side Chamber of Commerce, 1100 East Carson Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn L. Gaskin
Executive Assistant

Attachment (1):

1. Executive Director's Report

A video recording of this meeting is available at www.CPRBpgh.org

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Emma Lucas-Darby, Chair
Honorable Members of the Board
From: Elizabeth C. Pittinger
Executive Director
Date: February 25, 2014
Re: Executive Director's Report: 02/25/2014

Suite 400
816 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh PA 15219

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Intake Summary through 02/24/14: 50 total cases

Citizen Complaints: 11 Pending Citizen Action: 36 EDI: 0 Total Intake: 50
Out of Jurisdiction: 03 Statute of Limitation: 0

(Actual Totals for 2013:	CC: 73; PCA: 224; OJ: 32; SL: 07	EDI: 05	Total: 341)
(Actual Totals for 2012:	CC: 49; PCA: 194; OJ: 23; SL: 06	EDI: 01	Total: 273)
(Actual Totals for 2011:	CC: 38; PCA: 215; OJ: 18; SL: 09	EDI: 02	Total: 282)
(Actual Totals for 2010:	CC: 79; PCA: 221; OJ: 30; SL: 05	EDI: 01	Total: 336)
(Actual Totals for 2009:	CC: 80; PCA: 380; OJ: 18; SL: 09	EDI: 05	Total: 490)
(Actual Totals for 2008:	CC: 66; PCA: 288; OJ: 45; SL: 05	EDI: 03	Total: 412)
(Actual Totals for 2007:	CC: 71; PCA: 227; OJ: 65; SL: 08	EDI: 10	Total: 425)
(Actual Totals for 2006:	CC: 76; PCA: 280; OJ: 85; SL: 09		Total: 450)
(Actual Totals for 2005:	CC: 59; PCA: 284; OJ: 70; SL: 18		Total: 431)
(Actual Totals for 2004:	CC: 61; PCA: 352; OJ: 62; SL: 14		Total: 489)
(Actual Totals for 2003:	CC: 61; PCA: 380; OJ: 66; SL: 20		Total: 527)
(Actual Totals for 2002:	CC: 75; PCA: 330; OJ: 83; SL: 26		Total: 514)
(Actual Totals for 2001:	CC: 77; PCA: 362; OJ: 87; SL: 11		Total: 537)
(Actual Totals for 2000:	CC: 75; PCA: 394; OJ: 92; SL: 30		Total: 590)
(Actual Totals for 1999:	CC: 80; PCA: 383; OJ: 27; SL: 11		Total: 501)

1. Board Membership

a. The following seats remain open:

- i. City Council Seat #3 (2017): (Mr. Howard Joe Brown)
- ii. City Council Seat #4 (2017): (Mr. Paul Homick, Esq.)
- iii. Mayoral Seat #7 (vacated 4/2013):

Law Enforcement Professional, Term expires 10/31/15

- b. Council President Kraus has agreed to meet with Pittinger to discuss the appointments needed for the CPRB.

2. Solicitor's Contract

- a. The Honorable Bill Peduto, Mayor-elect, announced and Council confirmed, his choice for City Solicitor to be Atty. Lourdes Sanchez Ridge, a former CPRB solicitor.
- b. The Board voted to retain Atty. Robert Ridge as solicitor for the Independent CPRB. The contract has been submitted to the Law dept. and is pending City Council's authorization.

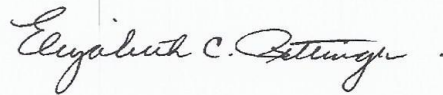
3. Public Hearing(s)

- a. 1/16/14 held: 180-13, Henderson v. Gromek
- b. 1/28/14: Pre-hearing conference, 212-13, Ferretti v. Kacsuta, continued.
- c. 2/25/14: Pre-hearing conference, 212-13, Ferretti v. Kacsuta, scheduled

4. Miscellaneous

- a. 1/6/14: William Peduto sworn-in to the Office of Mayor
- b. 1/25/14: Black & White Reunion
- c. 1/30/14: K-9 Officer Rocco died from injuries received on 1/28/14.
- d. 2/7/14: Memorial for Rocco held. Acknowledged with CPRB condolences.
- e. 2/5/14: Night Talk, discussion about current PBP leadership status.
- f. 2/19/14: Mayor Peduto announced the appointment of former CPRB Chair Deborah L. Walker as Director of the Office of Municipal Investigations.
- g. 2/21/14: Community Relations Group re-convened by US Atty. David Hickton.
- h. 2/25/14: Past Chair, Marsha V. Hinton was laid to rest. Former Chief of Police Nate Harper was sentenced to 18 months in federal prison for convictions of failing to pay income tax and conspiracy to divert public funds.

Respectfully submitted,



02/25/14