



## CITIZEN POLICE REVIEW BOARD

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Approved  
4/22/14

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**Meeting Notes of CPRB Meeting Held on March 25, 2014 (Mtg. No. 164)**  
**South Side Chamber of Commerce**  
**1100 East Carson Street**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15203**  
**Neighborhood: South Side**

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**Members Present:** Dr. Emma Lucas-Darby, Chair  
Mr. Thomas C. Waters, Vice Chair  
Ms. Karen McLellan

**Excused:** Ms. Leshonda Roberts

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

**Solicitors:** 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 6:05 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 cases meriting any questions were discussed, but not moved toward disposition.

*A motion to adopt the meeting notes for February 25, 2014 was offered by Ms. McLellan, seconded by Mr. Waters, and approved unanimously.*

Dr. Darby publicly released the Findings & Recommendations from the Public Hearing into CPRB Case #180-13 (Henderson v Gromek). The Mayor and Chief of Police will receive notification tomorrow and will have 30 days to respond to the Board as to whether the findings and recommendations will be accepted, modified, or rejected. Dr. Darby read the charges and the corresponding findings into the record. The Hearing Panel comprised of Dr. Darby, Mr. Waters, and Ms. McLellan concurred unanimously on all of the findings and recommendations.

The meeting was preceded by the continuation of a pre-hearing conference in the matter of Ferretti v. Kacsuta, #212-13. Dr. Darby accepted the Executive Director's report that the matter was resolved to the satisfaction of the parties.

### **Executive Director's Report**

- Ms. Pittinger briefly updated the Board on the progress of the CPRB vacancy and term expirations. Ms. Pittinger stated that she recently spoke with personnel from Councilman

Bruce Kraus's office and the Mayor's office, in an effort to expedite the appointment process. Ms. Pittinger has been assured that the vacant seats are being addressed.

- Ms. Pittinger reported on the 2014 CPRB Solicitor Contract. The proposed legislation has been submitted to the Mayor and City Council and was expected to be formally introduced to Council today, but it was not. Ms. Pittinger stated that she will determine why the legislation did not appear before Council for consideration.
- Ms. Pittinger noted the public release of the Findings and Recommendations for the Public Hearing into CPRB case #180-13 (Henderson vs. Gromek), and the conclusion of CPRB case #212-13 (Ferretti v Kascuta); where both parties agreed to settle.
- Ms. Pittinger reported on the commencing of the second Jordan Miles Civil Lawsuit against former PBP Officer Ewing and current PBP Officers Sisak and Saldutte. Ms. Pittinger informed the Board that the CPRB complaint surrounding this matter was suspended on September 12, 2012, pending the conclusion of the second trial, at which time the complaint will be returned to case review. Investigators Carson and Bridgett will be attending the trial.
- Ms. Pittinger mentioned a March 12, 2014, City Paper article written by Alex Zimmerman, entitled, "More than 15 years after its creation, Pittsburgh's Police Review Board may finally get some respect." Ms. Pittinger noted that the article is encouraging and speaks to the Board's optimism.
- Ms. Pittinger mentioned the arbitration award that would permit the City of Pittsburgh Police Officers to reside within a 25 air-mile radius of the City-County Building. The topic has been the long-time subject of controversy; furthermore in November 2013, through referendum vote, the Home Rule Charter was amended with a requirement that all City employees reside within the city limits. Mayor Peduto has since filed an appeal to the arbitrator's ruling.
- Ms. Pittinger distributed and offered an explanation of a report that demographically captures the Board's disposition on cases for the 2013 calendar year. Mr. Waters requested that the report include complaints stemming from the LGBTQ community. Ms. Pittinger assured Mr. Waters that complainants are free to declare their status and the materiality of a complainant's status to the incident is considered when the complaint is evaluated.

### **Public Comment**

Dr. Darby invited public comment. Mr. Mark Ozark offered comment.

### **Next Meeting**

Dr. Darby announced that the next regular board meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at City Council Chambers, 414 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn L. Gaskin  
Executive Assistant

Attachment (1):

1. Executive Director's Report

*A video recording and transcript of this meeting will be made available at [www.CPRBpgh.org](http://www.CPRBpgh.org)*

*Minutes of the Independent CPRB meetings and public documents are available at the website cited above.*

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

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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: 18; 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.

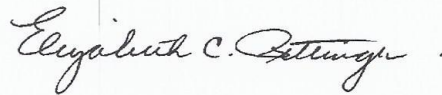
**3. Public Hearing(s)**

- 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