



## INDEPENDENT CITIZEN POLICE REVIEW BOARD

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Final of  
07/27/2021

### **Minutes of the Regular CPRB Meeting Held on June 22, 2021 (Mtg. No. 234)**

Online Zoom Webinar # [864 3185 9374](#)  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Neighborhood: Citywide

Video of the meeting: <https://cprbpg.org/2837>

<p><b>Members Present:</b> Dr. Emma Lucas-Darby Chair Dr. Mary Jo Guercio Ms. Karen McLellan, LEP Mr. Sheldon Williams, LEP</p> <p><b>Solicitor:</b> Atty. William F. Ward</p> <p><b>Staff Present:</b> Ms. Elizabeth C. Pittinger, Exec. Director Ms. Stephanie Hampton, Asst. Exec. Director Ms. Michelle Gamble, Lead Investigator Ms. Sherri Bridgett, Investigator Mr. David Ellwood, Investigator</p>	<p><b>Excused Members:</b></p> <p><b>Absent:</b> Mr. Elwin Green</p> <p><b>Vacancy:</b> None</p> <p><b>Excused staff:</b> All present.</p>
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The entire meeting may be viewed here: [Independent CPRB Meeting 06/22/2021](#)

Dr. Lucas-Darby, Chair, called the online Zoom meeting to order at approximately 6:04 p.m.  
Dr. Darby recognized Board members present and the excused member.

Dr. Darby announced Mr. Thomas Waters, the vice chair has resigned from the board effective immediately. Ms. McLellan found that disappointing and Dr. Darby agreed that it was very disappointing. Dr. Darby directed Ms. Pittinger to make the required notifications.

Dr. Darby asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the regular Board meeting conducted on June 22, 2021. There were none and according to the Robert Rules of Order, the minutes were adopted as distributed.

#### **Opening remarks by Chair:**

Dr. Darby thanked Ms Pittinger and her team for compiling the detailed report of the Kopy's Bar incident that occurred in October 2018. Discussion of the report was deferred to this meeting, however, due to the resignation of the Member seeking the discussion and no other call for discussion, the matter was closed.

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

Ms. Pittinger reported that to date, the CPRB has received 103 complaints and six (6) general service contacts.

City Council and the Mayor were notified on June 7<sup>th</sup> of the three (3) term expirations that were reported at last month's board meeting. The public notice was given at the beginning of May. The three terms will expire on October 31, 2021:

Seat #2: City Council appointment, designated Law Enforcement Pro. seat  
Incumbent: Ms. Karen McLellan, Law Enforcement Professional  
Retained: 11/1/2017 Ms. McLellan is a Law Enforcement Professional.

Seat #4: City Council appointment, non-law enforcement seat  
Incumbent: Dr. Mary Jo Guercio  
Retained: 11/1/2017. Dr. Guercio is not a Law Enforcement Professional.

Seat #5: Mayoral appointment, non-law enforcement seat  
Incumbent: Sr. Patrice Hughes (To be vacated due to residential change)  
Appointed: 11/1/2017 to a term expiring 10/30/2021 is not a Law Enforcement Professional.

CPRB will notify the City Council and the Mayor of the resignation and subsequent vacancy in the seat held by Mr. Waters as directed by Dr. Lucas-Darby.

Kopy's summary has been published and may be viewed here: [Kopy's Bar Executive Summary](#). Ms. Pittinger thanked investigator Ellwood for pulling out the highlights and putting an executive summary together at the Board's request.

Dr. Darby called for a motion to post the Kopy's executive summary to the CPRB website. A motion to post the executive summary was offered by Mr. Williams and seconded by Ms. McLellan and the motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Pittinger informed the Board that there remains an open investigator position. The Department of Human Resources & Civil Service has screened applicants and forwarded those qualified to the office for consideration. The goal is to identify a candidate for appointment by the July meeting.

Discussion of the 2022 budget will commence shortly. Staff intends to offer a proposal that significantly expands the role of the CPRB to fulfill the recent Charter amendments and community engagement. The proposal is informed by the Board's priorities and the findings & recommendations that were published by the City Controller pursuant to the performance audit conducted on the Board's operations. The Controller recommended a funding mechanism for the CPRB that operates on an equivalency of the budget allocated to the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police but not as a part of the Bureau's allocation or budget.

There is a campaign to amend the Home Rule Charter by repealing the establishment of the CPRB and replacing it with a 9-member elected community council with complete control of police. Details are still not clear, but CPRB did invite members of "Stop the Station" to come and speak to the board in February about what it is they are looking for and how we can improve the relationship that they have between what they perceive the community at large and the PBP but they declined the invite.

The group of activists is calling this a campaign for community control over the police. The activists want a democratically elected civilian police control council to be created. The nine-person council would have full powers over the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police. The proposed council would be able among many things, to hire, fire, investigate and discipline police officers, set policies, negotiate contracts with the FOP, and make budget allocations. As this effort began to take shape in February, the CPRB invited a spokesperson for the lead organization, "Stop the Station", to meet with the Board but the invitation was declined.

Ms. Pittinger invited anyone having an opportunity to invite an organizer to come and speak to the Board to do so for the July meeting noting the Board's August break.

The entire meeting may be viewed here: [Independent CPRB Meeting 06/22/2021](#)

**Unfinished Business:**

No unfinished business.

**New Business:**

No new business

**Case Review:**

Dr. Darby moved to the Case Review Agenda (copy attached). Each group of recommendations was voted upon as recorded on the attached Case Review Actions.

**Public Comment:**

No public comment.

**Next Meeting:**

Dr. Darby announced the time and location of the next Board meeting: Tuesday, July 27, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. The meeting link will be posted on the cprbpg.org website and Face Book page. Keep in mind the Board will not meet in August.

Mr. Williams commented that he was not sure of protocol, but he would like to extend gratitude and appreciation to Sr. Patrice and Mr. Waters for their service to the Board. Dr. Darby replied that a formal recognition will be given.

*Dr. Darby called for a motion to adjourn, and the motion was offered by Dr. Guercio and seconded by Mr. Williams and the motion was adopted unanimously.*

The entire meeting may be viewed here: [Independent CPRB Meeting 06/22/2021](#)

Respectfully Submitted,

Handwritten signature of Stephanie M. Dorman in cursive script.

Stephanie M. Dorman  
Assistant Executive Director

Attachments (1): 06/22/2021 Case Review Actions

Action Date:  
06/22/2021

## CPRB CASE REVIEWS 6/22/2021

CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	SUMMARY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE
<b>PUBLIC HEARING (0)</b>				
<b>FULL INVESTIGATION (1)</b>				
063-21 Ellwood	45-2, (6.0) Investigative Stops and Warrantless Searches of Motor Vehicles 11-3, (1.1.1) Unbiased Policing 16-1, (3.06) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1, (3.07) Conduct Towards The Public	Cx alleges that PBP officers have been harassing her and stopped her vehicle multiple times.	Authorized full investigation 4-0	Preliminary evidence provides cause to advance the investigation.
<b>30 DAY EXTENSION OF FULL INVESTIGATION (1)</b>				
070-21 Bridgett	16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Toward the Public 44-1 Arrests	The Cx was pulled over on 03/05/2021 and was informed there was a warrant for his arrest from a previous traffic stop that occurred on 08/20/2020. The Cx believes his constitutional rights were violated.	Authorized 30-day Extension 4-0	More time is needed for the investigation
<b>UNSUSTAINABLE (0)</b>				
<b>UNFOUNDED (2)</b>				
041-21 Bridgett	16-1 (3.6.) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1, (3.7) Conduct Toward the Public 16-1 (3.13) Neglect of Duty	The Cx alleges that on several occasions she tried to have the PBP assist her with the harassment she received from her neighbor (W#3 but instead of the police taking reports, she has been the one charged with harassment.	Dismissed as unfounded 4-0	The SOs didn't violate PBP policy
040-21 Ellwood	12-06(5.0) Use of Force 12-10 Critical Incident Procedures Involving Police 11.3 Unbiased Policing 16.1, (3.06) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16.1, (3.19) Truthfulness 40.0, (10.17) Patrol Operations	Cx alleges that her son, the Victim, was shot and killed by the SO on March 5, 2020 during a traffic stop and she had not heard from the DA's office if the SO will be charged, Cx added the SOs were not wearing body cameras.	Dismissed as unfounded 4-0	The SOs didn't violate PBP policy

CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	SUMMARY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE
<b>OTHER (0)</b>				
<b>SUSPENSION (3)</b>				
039-21 Bridgett	16-1 (3.6.) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Toward the Public 12-6 (5.0) Use of Force	The Cx alleges the SO removed his service weapon from his holster and pointed it at his head.	Authorized suspension until July 2021 4-0	Waiting for SO statements from OMI
038-21 Ellwood	44-1(4.0) Arrests - Physical, Summons, or Warrant 12-06(3.0) Use of Force	Cx alleges that he was arrested while trying to enter his home while the SOs were serving a search warrant to obtain video from his surveillance system from a homicide that happened in his neighborhood.	Authorized suspension until July 2021 4-0	Waiting for SO statements from OMI
008-21 Bridgett	16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 10-1 Code of Ethics	The Cx alleges the SO began a romantic/sexual relationship with her girlfriend after he responded to a call where she and her girlfriend were assaulted.	Authorized suspension until July 2021 4-0	Waiting for SO statements from OMI

**\*\*\*Suspensions follow\*\*\***

**CONTINUED SUSPENSIONS (18)**  
**SUMMARIES PROVIDED UPON REQUEST OF MEMBER**

CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	REASON FOR CONTINUED INVESTIGATION	POSSIBLE CLOSING DATE
019-21 Ellwood	Lost-Stolen-Abandoned-Property 37-01 Evidence Procedures 36-01,(6.0)	Waiting for SO Statements	TBD
012-21 Bridgett	Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.6) Conduct Toward the Public 16-1 (3.7) Neglect of Duty 16-1 (3.13)	Waiting for SO statements from OMI	TBD
252-20 Ellwood	Conduct Toward the Public 16-01 (3.7.1) Motor Vehicle Stops 40-04	Waiting for SO statements.	TBD
247-20 Bridgett	Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.6) Conduct Towards the Public 16-1 Use of Force 12-6 (3.2) Truthfulness 16-1 (3.19)	Police Criminal Complaint was received on 04/13/2021 and is being reviewed.	TBD
225-20 Ellwood	Towing Procedures; Reasons for Towing 41-04.01 (11.0 Parking Violations)	Waiting for SO statements.	TBD
192-20 Ellwood	Unbiased Policing 11-3, 4.1.1 4.1.2 Use of Force 12-6, 3.1 Continuum of Control 12-8 3.0	Waiting for SO statements.	TBD
130-20 Bridgett	Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.6) Property Room Procedures 36-2	Waiting on a follow up with the Chief	TBD
112-20 Bridgett	Unbiased Policing 11-3 Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1, (3.6) Conduct Toward the Public 16-1, (3.07)	Waiting on for the Daily Activity Log/ Running Sheet	TBD
057-20 Ellwood	Unbiased Policing 11-3 Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1, (3.6) Conduct Toward the Public 16-1, (3.07)	Cx alleges that the SO is harassing her and falsely arrested her.	TBD

CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	REASON FOR CONTINUED INVESTIGATION	POSSIBLE CLOSING DATE
041-20 Ellwood	Use of Force 12-6 (3.2) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1, (3.6) Conduct Toward the Public 16-1, (3.07)	Cx alleges the SOs used excessive force in their arrest of them during a domestic violence call to Complaint daughters house	TBD
006-20 Ellwood	Crash Response Investigations and Reports 41-03 (3.3.6, 3.4.4, 4.1.1, 4.1.3)	Outstanding details must be resolved	TBD
003-20 Ellwood	Conduct Unbecoming 16-1 (3.6) Conduct Toward the Public 16-1 (3.7) Neglect of Duty 16-1 (3.13)	Waiting on SO statements	TBD
230-19 Ellwood	Warrantless Searches and Seizures 45-2 (10.0) Use of Force 12-06 Motor Vehicle Stops 40-04 (03.2, 03.4)	Waiting for transcripts of BWC from OMI	TBD
217-19 Ellwood	Conduct Toward the Public 16-01 (3.7) Arrest 44-1 Unlawful Search and Seizure 45-2	Waiting on Abel's arbitration.	TBD
190-19 Bridgett	Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.6) Conduct Toward the Public 16-1 (3.7) Police-Response-to-Domestic-Violence-Incidents 40-12	Reviewing SO statement.	TBD
029-19 Bridgett	Obedience to orders/ laws 16-1 (3.1) Conduct unbecoming a member 16-1 (3.6) Insubordination, 16-1 (3.9) Truthfulness 16-1 (3.19) False report 62-1 (2.10)	Waiting on SO statements	TBD
016-19 Bridgett	Conduct unbecoming a member 16-1 (3.6) Neglect of duty 16-1(3.13)	W#1 has not been apprehended. The DAs office will prosecute when W#1 is arrested.	TBD
87-18-ED Gamble	Use of Force 12-6 Discharge of firearms 12-7 Conduct unbecoming a member 16-1 (3.6) Truthfulness 16-1(3.19) Records/Reports/Files 62-1	Waiting for witnesses to cooperate.	TBD