



**INDEPENDENT CITIZEN POLICE REVIEW BOARD**

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Final  
01/24/2023  
Review

Minutes of the CPRB Meeting Held on December 06, 2022 (Mtg. No. 249)

Online Zoom Webinar # 854 0367 9472  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Neighborhood: Citywide

Video of the meeting: <https://cprbpg.org/344983>

<p><b>Members Present:</b></p> <p>Dr. Mary Jo Guercio, Acting Chair Mr. Elwin Green Ms. Lakeisha Brown Mr. Raymond Robinson</p> <p><b>Solicitor: Atty. William F. Ward</b></p> <p><b>Staff Present:</b></p> <p>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 Ms. Tiffani Hunt, Investigator</p>	<p><b>Excused Members:</b></p> <p>Ms. Karen McLellan, LEP* Mr. Sheldon Williams, LEP* Dr. Emma Lucas-Darby</p> <p><b>Absent: None</b></p> <p><b>Vacancy: None</b></p> <p>*Law Enforcement Professional</p> <p><b>Excused staff: All present.</b></p>
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Dr. Mary Jo Guercio, Acting Chair, called the online Zoom meeting to order at approximately 7:53 p.m., immediately after the public Rude & Discourteous hearing. Dr. Guercio acknowledged the presence of a quorum. Mr. Williams, Ms. McClellan and Dr. Darby were excused.

Dr. Guercio reminded the Board that at the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board had decided to hold an election for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Citizen Police Review Board (CPRB) during this meeting, the Board would open nominations for both.

Dr. Guercio asked if CPRB had received any nominations. Ms. Pittinger, Executive Director, answered that the only nomination received was for Dr. Guercio to serve as Chair.

Mr. Ward, the Solicitor, asked if she was accepting the nomination. Dr. Guercio answered yes. Mr. Ward called for any other nominations in addition to Dr. Guercio. Hearing no additional nominations for Chair, Mr. Ward asked the Board if they approved of the election of Dr. Guercio as Chair by acclamation. The Board unanimously voted yes. Dr. Guercio thanked the Board for the appointment.

Dr. Guercio, Chair, called for nominations for Vice Chair, reminding that members can nominate each other or nominate themselves. Mr. Green nominated Mr. Williams, who was not present. Ms. Brown nominated Mr. Raymond Brown. Dr. Guercio nominated Mr. Green.

The Board unanimously agreed to close the nominations for Vice Chair on December 13, 2022, notifying the members by December 15, 2022 that the election for Vice Chair would be conducted electronically by secret ballots cast by Members between Sunday, December 18, 2022 and Friday, December 23, 2022.

Dr. Guercio called for corrections or additions to the Board meeting minutes of October 25, 2022. No modifications or additions were offered, and hearing no objection, Dr. Guercio declared the minutes approved as distributed according to Robert's Rules of Order.

**Opening remarks by the Chair:**

Dr. Guercio thanked the Board for the appointment and said she would do her best to represent the Board at meetings and other events that are required by the position of Chair.

**Executive Director's Report:**

Ms. Pittinger reported that intake received year to date is 220 complaints; she characterized the nature of the complaints as less egregious and on track to be fewer than received in previous years. The last four years:

2021	227 complaints
2020	286 complaints
2019	253 complaints
2018	273 complaints

Pittinger has been participating in a community working group convened to meet with the Chief of Police, administrators and City Council representatives to review, discuss and offer recommendations on various police policies and related legislation. Currently, the group is focused on a legislative proposal on pedestrian stops and stop & frisk protocols. The legislation remains pending and is sponsored by Rev. Burgess, who has been very progressive on legislation dealing with police enforcement activities that tend to have poor outcomes such as traffic and pedestrian stops.

still needs to select a candidate for appointment to an investigator position. Selection will be made at the beginning of the coming year. The community liaison position is being formalized with tasks and a description of the expected activities. The Community Liaison position will be posted within the first quarter of the coming year.

The CPRB budget hearing with City Council was held today. Pittinger made a request for an administrative support position. Discussed was the work the Board does and the current situation with the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police (PBP), their personnel shortage, their return to an eight hour shift to recoup what was lost on ten hour shifts, the recruitment problem that is resulting in a reduction of qualification for educational requirements and a brief discussion on the value of 60 college credits.

An Executive Director Inquiry (EDI) was opened into two separate incidents of the police not showing up where they were supposed to be, and bicycle officers saying they were somewhere when they weren't. The three incidents suggest a deficiency in supervisory leadership. Seeking to understand the professional development of newly promoted officers, staff requested the curricula and supporting material related to the leadership and ethical preparation of supervisors. The request was submitted to the Bureau on November 15, 2022 and forwarded on November 16, 2022 by the Bureau to the Law Department for review and

determination if the CPRB is permitted to receive such material. At the Bureau's recent budget hearing before City Council, Chief Stangrecki did confirm that there is a preparation period of a week or up to two weeks for sergeants and lieutenants being promoted.

Mr. Robinson noted that in 2020 there were 280 complaints during the pandemic and the George Floyd murder and he is interested to see what that number will look like going into 2023.

**Unfinished Business:**

CPRB 2023 meeting calendar

**New Business:**

None

**Case Review:**

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

**Next Meeting:**

Dr. Guercio announced the time and location of the next Board meeting: Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 6:00 pm via Zoom. The meeting link will be posted on the cprbpg.org website and Facebook page.

Mr. Robinson asked how the suspended cases impact the workload of the investigators with adding suspensions every month.

Ms. Pittinger responded that the suspended cases do not affect the investigators' workload but keep the Board aware of the case status. Typically they are waiting for some action to happen, someone may be incarcerated and not accessible to the investigator or waiting for subject officer statements from the Office of Municipal Investigations (OMI). CPRB cannot receive those statements until the OMI investigation is completed.

Ms. Pittinger reminded Members that Mayor Gainey was invited to the October 25, 2022, meeting to discuss the policy change related to the 60 college credit requirement for police applicants. The Mayor was unable to attend because of a scheduling conflict. An invitation had not been extended for the December meeting because of the scheduled public hearing. Pittinger asked the Board if they would like to extend the invitation to the Mayor or his designee for the new year and the Board responded unanimously yes.

Dr. Guercio asked when the new police academy class was coming on. Ms. Pittinger responded that she wasn't sure but the plan was to have two classes next year.

Lisa Frank, Chief Operating Administrative Officer, informed the Board that she, Lee Schmidt, Director of Public Safety and the Mayor had the meeting on their calendars for this evening and were in attendance. Ms. Frank said they would be happy to come back and have the discussion at the next meeting but that it would be courteous to remember they were invited and call on them to speak and allow them to be earlier on the

agenda. Ms. Pittinger apologized and informed Ms. Frank that she did not recall receiving confirmation for tonight's meeting.

Ms. Frank informed the Board that the PBP is accredited. The PBP worked with the accrediting agency to maintain accreditation despite the change in policies (traffic stops). She confirmed that two academy classes would be held in 2023. The first class will consist of officers coming from other jurisdictions who will be oriented to Pittsburgh policies and procedures and the City Code; the other class is anticipated for mid-year and comprised of new recruits.

**Public Comment:**

None

*A motion to adjourn the meeting was offered by Mr. Green, seconded by Ms. Brown, and approved unanimously.*

Respectfully Submitted,



Stephanie M. Dorman  
Assistant Executive Director

Attachments (1): 12/06/2022 Case Review Actions

CPRB CASE REVIEW AGENDA 12/06/2022

CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	SUMMARY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE
<b>PUBLIC HEARING (0)</b>				
<b>FULL INVESTIGATION (4)</b>				
200-22 ED Bridgett	16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Toward the Public	According to multiple news reports, PBP Officers failed to show up and provide security at a youth football game on 08/14/2022 and a funeral for a homicide victim on 10/28/2022.	Authorize Full Investigation	Prelim Inq. supports the cause to investigate if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
197-22 Ellwood	16-1.3.06 Conduct Unbecoming 16-01.3.07 Conduct Toward the Public 16-1.3.13 Neglect of Duty	The Cx alleges that the SO is harassing him based on calls made to 911 by the Cx's son for abuse.	Authorize Full Investigation	Prelim Inq. supports the cause to investigate if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
181-22 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 he was the victim of a hit and run accident and the SOs refused to take a report or file charges against the person who hit his vehicle. The Cx also states the SO did not provide his name or badge number.	Authorize Full Investigation	Prelim Inq. supports the cause to investigate if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
175-22 Hunt	16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Toward The Public 16-1 (3.19.1) Truthfulness	Cx states that he encountered the SO while riding his bike through downtown Pittsburgh and noticed an illegally parked vehicle in the bike lane. When the Cx asked the SO if the vehicle had a permit, the SO admitted it was his vehicle.	Authorize Full Investigation	Prelim Inq. supports the cause to investigate if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures by illegally parking in a bike lane and turning on/off BWC.
<b>30-DAY EXTENSION OF FULL INVESTIGATION (3)</b>				
171-22 Hunt	11-3 Unbiased Policing 16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Toward The Public 16-1 (3.19.1) Truthfulness 12-6 Use of Force	Cx alleges that the SOs lied about their reason for entering his apartment and then forcefully put him into handcuffs, causing more injury to a pre-existing condition.	Authorize 30-day investigation	More time is needed to determine if the SOs violated PBP policy and procedures during the Cxs arrest.

<b>CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR</b>	<b>ALLEGATION(S)</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>RATIONALE</b>
170-22 Ellwood	11.3 Unbiased Policing 12.3 Oath of Office 16.3.01 Obedience to orders and laws 16-1.3.06 Conduct Unbecoming 16-1.3.13 Neglect of Duty	Cxs allege that SO#1 got behind the wheel of his vehicle intoxicated and hit Cx#1's parked vehicle while trying to pull out of a parking space and continued driving down liberty avenue in a hit and run situation.	Authorize 30-day investigation	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
157-22 Bridgett	16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Toward the Public	The Cx alleges that she was wrongfully arrested for child endangerment and the SO wouldn't listen to her side of the story.	Authorize 30-day investigation	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
<b>UNSUSTAINABLE (1)</b>				
<b>UNFOUNDED (1)</b>				
134-22 Hunt	11-3 Unbiased Policing 16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Toward The Public 16-1 (3.19.1) Truthfulness	The Cx alleges that he was pulled over by the SO and was lied to about the reason for the stop.	Dismiss as unfounded	BWC footage reviewed does not corroborate the Cx statements that the SO was rude and discourteous.
<b>OTHER (0)</b>				
<b>SUSPENSION (4)</b>				
143-22 Ellwood	016-1.3.06 Conduct Unbecoming 016-1.3.07 Conduct Toward the Public	The Cx alleges that the SO was rude and unprofessional toward her during her encounter and arrest.	Authorize suspension until January 2023	More time is needed to determine if the SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
123-22 Ellwood	016-1.3.06 Conduct Unbecoming 40-04 Motor Vehicle Stops 41-04.01 Towing Procedures, Reasons for Towing 44-02 Arrests, Summary Citations, Non-traffic 44-03 Arrests, Electronic Citations, Traffic and Non-traffic 54-01 Traffic Citations	The Cx alleges that the SO pulled V#1 over and asked to search the vehicle he was driving but the SO and other officers present would not explain their probable cause to V#1 at the time of requesting the search.	Authorize suspension until January 2023	More time is needed to determine if the SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
100-22 Bridgett	16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Toward the Public	The Cx alleges that she was charged with trespassing on her property.	Authorize suspension until January 2023	More time is needed to determine if the SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.

CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	SUMMARY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE
020-22 Hunt	16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member or Employee 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Toward the Public 16-1 (3.13) Neglect of Duty 16-1 (3.19.1) Truthfulness 53-01, Court Appearances	The Cx, the victim of a home invasion, alleges that SO#1 was rude and discourteous towards her when she questioned why W#1 did not appear in court that day.	Authorize suspension until January 2023	More time is needed to determine if the SOs violated PBP policy and procedures when they did not provide an Officer to represent the Cx in her court proceedings.

\*\*\*\*\* Continuing Suspensions Follow \*\*\*\*\*

**CONTINUED SUSPENSIONS (10)  
SUMMARIES PROVIDED UPON REQUEST OF MEMBERS**

<b>CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR</b>	<b>ALLEGATION(S)</b>	<b>REASON FOR CONTINUED INVESTIGATION</b>	<b>POSSIBLE CLOSING DATE</b>
063-22 Bridgett	16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 40-4 Traffic Stops	More time is needed to review BWC footage	TBD (Updated 10/25/22)
035-22 Hunt	16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming A Member 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Toward The Public 16-1 (3.9) Truthfulness 44-1 Arrests 45-2 (5.1) Warrantless Searches & Seizures	More time is needed to obtain BWC footage, SO statements, Affidavit of Probable Cause, receipts for vehicle repairs, and identify witnesses.	TBD
001-22 ED Bridgett	16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 20-01 (6.4.1, 6.4.5, 6.4.6) No Harassment	More time is needed for the investigation.	TBD
177-21 Hunt	16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.13) Neglect of Duty 45-2 Warrantless Searches & Seizures 54-01 Traffic Citation	More time is needed to obtain BWC footage, SO statements, affidavit of probable cause, receipts for vehicle repairs, and identify the witnesses.	TBD
160-21ED Ellwood	11-3 (3.1, 3.2, 4.1.2) Unbiased Policing 12-6 (3.0, 4.0, 5.0) Use of Force 12-8 (3.0, 4.0) Matrix of Control 12-13 Taser 16-1 (3.06) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.07) Conduct Towards the Public	More time is needed to view the ER video footage to view the officer's conduct.	TBD
138-21 Ellwood	12-06.3.2 Use of Force 16-01.3.06 Conduct Unbecoming 16-01.3.07 Conduct Toward the Public	More time is needed to determine if the SO violated PBP Policy and Procedures.	TBD
252-20 Ellwood	16-01 (3.7.1) Conduct Toward the 40-04 Public Motor Vehicle Stops	Waiting for SO statements.	TBD
112-20 Bridgett	11-3 Unbiased Policing 16-1, (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1, (3.07) Conduct Toward the Public	Waiting for the Daily Activity Log/ Running Sheet from the PBP	TBD

CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	REASON FOR CONTINUED INVESTIGATION	POSSIBLE CLOSING DATE
190-19 Bridgett	16-1, (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1, (3.7) Conduct Toward the Public 40-12 Police-Response-to-Domestic-Violence-Incidents	The investigator is trying to determine what disciplinary action the SO received.	TBD
87-18-ED Gamble	12-6 Use of Force 12-7 Discharge of firearms 16-1 (3.6) Conduct unbecoming a member 16-1, (3.19) Truthfulness 62-1 Records/Reports/Files	Waiting for witnesses to cooperate.	TBD