



**INDEPENDENT CITIZEN POLICE REVIEW BOARD**

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Draft for  
04/25/2023  
Review

NOTES of the CPRB Meeting Held on March 28, 2023 (Mtg. No. 252)

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

Video of the meeting: <https://cprbpg.org/453187>

<p><b>Members Present:</b></p> <p>Dr. Mary Jo Guercio, Chair Mr. Elwin Green Dr. Emma Lucas-Darby</p> <p><b>Solicitor:</b> Atty. William F. Ward</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>Mr. Raymond Robinson, Vice Chair Ms. Lakeisha Brown Ms. Karen McLellan, LEP* Mr. Sheldon Williams, LEP* Absent: None</p> <p><b>Vacancy:</b> None</p> <p>*Law Enforcement Professional</p> <p><b>Excused staff:</b> All present.</p>
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The entire meeting may be viewed here: [Independent CPRB Meeting 03/28/2023](#)

Dr. Mary Jo Guercio, Chair, called the online Zoom meeting to order at approximately 6:06 pm. Dr. Guercio acknowledged there was not a quorum. Mr. Robinson, Ms. Brown, Ms. McLellan, and Mr. Williams were excused.

**Opening remarks by the Chair:**

Dr. Guercio had no opening remarks.

**Executive Director's Report:**

Ms. Pittinger, Executive Director of CPRB, reported that intake year to date is 55 complaints, contacts or referrals that involved City of Pittsburgh police officers' conduct.

Ms. Pittinger reported that the spring session of the Citizen Police Academy (CPA) started on March 8 with approximately 20 people and one individual who is applying to the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police (PBP) to be an officer.

Ms. Pittinger updated the Board on the City Archivist meeting with the liaison to discuss what CPRB wanted to do for posterity. CPRB has many documents in hard copy that are not considered key enough for the City of Pittsburgh's central archivist to preserve but are essential to CPRB itself. Ms. Pittinger and Ms. Hampton met with the liaison. The Board's public hearing records, the founding documents and all related municipal records, referenda must be preserved. Ms. Pittinger assured Dr. Guercio that all litigation documents would also be preserved. Mr. Ward added that the court retains copies of everything that was filed, either hard or electronically. Ms. Pittinger put it in perspective, stating that 25 years of complaints amount to many storage boxes. Staff is considering tasking an intern to digitize the retained files.

Dr. Guercio recommended looking at a program called [Perceptive Content](#), used by the Community College of Allegheny of County (CCAC) for archiving/retention management. It is unclear what platform the City is using for archiving.

Ms. Pittinger updated the Board that no progress has been made regarding the inquiry into PBP's pre- and post-promotion training and development of supervisory personnel. Pittinger solicited the Members' interest in issuing a subpoena for the material. Mr. Ward reminded the Board that a vote could not take place because the authorization was extended by the Board to him and Ms. Pittinger. Instead, he recommended that he reach out to Solicitor Kubiak or Assist. Solicitor Kennedy and, based on the response, follow through with authority delegated to the Executive Director. Dr. Darby supported Mr. Ward's recommendation and reminded Ms. Pittinger that the Board had already voted on the action the Board would like and would like her to follow through. Mr. Green asked for clarification of when the request was initiated. Ms. Pittinger responded, November 15, 2022. Mr. Ward reminded the Board that a meeting with the City Solicitor occurred two months ago, on January 26, 2023. He was disappointed that there had been no meaningful response to the potential of the subpoena. Mr. Ward followed up after that meeting and provided the requested information about litigation over the past two decades, which generated a response saying thank you for providing this information, which was appropriate, but after that, there has been no response. Mr. Ward and Ms. Pittinger will coordinate and follow up.

Ms. Pittinger reminded the Board of the upcoming four terms expiring October 31, 2023. The Chair is required to give 180 days' notice of the expiration of any board terms. Terms for Board Council Seats #1, Ms. Brown, #3, Mr. Green, Mayoral Seats #6, Dr. Darby, and #7, Mr. Williams, will expire on October 31, 2023. Pittinger asked Members to advise her of their willingness to continue serving or their intention to step down. Dr. Guercio asked if the members should call or email their intent. Ms. Pittinger replied that either way would be fine.

Ms. Pittinger asked the Board to consider making recommendations to the PBP for inclusion in their 2024 and 2025 budgets: perhaps in the areas of training, technology, or engagement. The presentation last month from [Truleo demonstrated an innovative approach to training and might be useful to the Bureau.](#)

Dr. Guercio asked if CPRB would address anything about the recruits and their training. Ms. Pittinger replied that they receive approximately 900 hours of training before an officer comes out of recruit class and there is currently a veteran class with three recruits receiving abbreviated training.

A discussion of the recent Nashville school shooting noted that appeared Nashville has a tactical rescue response plan where Fire or EMS enters with SWAT/police to address any first responder needs arising from an active shooter event. It sounds like a promising idea; Pittinger will ask if Pittsburgh has a similar tactical response protocol. Pittsburgh SWAT responded to the active shooter at the Tree of Life and EMS and Fire/first responders were staged nearby, as they always are for any SWAT response.

**Case Review:**

No action was taken, although ongoing investigations will continue, and a report will be made at the next meeting in April.

The entire meeting may be viewed here: [Independent CPRB Meeting 03/28/2023](#)

**Unfinished Business:**

None

**New Business:**

None

**Next Meeting:**

Dr. Guercio announced the time and location of the next Board meeting: Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 6:00 pm via Zoom. The meeting link will be posted on the cprbpg.org website and Facebook page.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. and Mrs. Ozark, Mr. Nigel Parry and WPXI were in attendance. No comments were offered. Ms. Pittinger informed the Board that Mr. Parry updates the CPRB website and has brought the website up to date and will maintain it until further notice.

There was no motion offered to adjourn due to the absence of a quorum.

Respectfully Submitted,



Stephanie M. Dorman  
Assistant Executive Director

Attachments (1): 02/28/2023 Case Review Actions

CPRB CASE REVIEW AGENDA 02/28/2023

CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	SUMMARY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE
<b>PUBLIC HEARING (0)</b>				
<b>FULL INVESTIGATION (3)</b>				
028-23 Ellwood	16-1.3.7 Conduct Toward the Public 16-1.3.13: Neglect of Duty 40-19 Reports	The Cx alleges that SO#1 and SO#2 were rude and discourteous to her and W#1 when dealing with an incident involving W#2.	Authorized Full Investigation 4-0	Preliminary Inquiry (PI) Supports the cause to investigate if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures
010-23 Hunt	11-3 Unbiased Policing 16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1(3.7) Conduct Towards the Public 16-1(3.13.1) Neglect of Duty 40-9 Reports	The Cx alleges that he was in a motor vehicle accident and the SO refused to provide him with an accident report.	Authorized Full Investigation 4-0	Preliminary Inquiry (PI) Supports the cause to investigate if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures
004-23 Ellwood	16-1.3.7 Conduct Toward the Public	The Cx alleges that the SO came to her home while she was working and arrested her for disorderly conduct, he was rude and discourteous.	Authorized Full Investigation 4-0	Preliminary Inquiry (PI) Supports the cause to investigate if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures
<b>30-DAY EXTENSION OF FULL INVESTIGATION (5)</b>				
187-22 Elwood	16-1.3.13: Neglect of Duty 40-19 Reports	The Cx alleges that the SO neglected his duty when he failed to take a police report after the Cx called 911 for a traffic accident.	Authorized 30-day investigation. 4-0	More time is needed to determine 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.	Authorized 30-day investigation. 4-0	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
175-22 Hunt	16-1 (3.6.1 & 3.6.3) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.7.2) Conduct Toward The Public 16-1 (3.19.1) Truthfulness 29-01-01(14.10,14.11) Secondary Details	The Cx states that he encountered the SO while riding his bike through downtown Pittsburgh and noticed an illegally parked vehicle in the bike lane.	Authorized 30-day investigation. 4-0	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.

	69-03 (8.0) Body Worn Camera			
<b>CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR</b>	<b>ALLEGATION(S)</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>RATIONALE</b>
102-22 Ellwood	12-06 Use Of Force 16-1.3.06: Conduct Unbecoming 16-1.3.07: Conduct Toward The Public 16-1.3.13: Neglect Of Duty	Cx alleges that the SOs used excessive force in arresting her and that it was illegal to arrest her because she was trying to protect her wounded son from the police during his arrest.	Authorized 30-day investigation. 4-0	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
099-22 Hunt	11.3 (3.) Un-biased Policing 12-6 Use of Force 16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Toward The Public	Cx#1 and #2 alleged that SOs were inappropriate and used excessive force toward them when they (SOs) responded to a shoplifting call.	Authorized 30-day investigation. 4-0	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
<b>UNFOUNDED (0)</b>				
<b>UNSUSTAINABLE (1)</b>				
160-21 ED 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	Executive Director has opened an inquiry into an alleged incident on August 17, 2021, at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital.	Authorized Dismiss as unfounded. 4-0	Nothing gathered in the evidence points to the SO violating Policy and Procedures.
<b>OTHER (0)</b>				
<b>SUSPENSION (1)</b>				
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 W#1 for abuse.	Authorized suspension until March 2023.	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.

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

**CONTINUED SUSPENSIONS (14)  
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>
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	More time is needed to review BWC.	TBD
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	The investigator is trying to determine what disciplinary action the SO received.	TBD
143-22 Ellwood	016-1.3.06 Conduct Unbecoming 016-1.3.07 Conduct Toward the Public	More time is needed to gather officer statements.	TBD
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	More time is needed to gather officer statements.	TBD
100-22 Bridgett	16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Toward the Public	Verifying if there is body cam footage available.	TBD

<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	The investigator is trying to determine what disciplinary action the SO received.	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
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.	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	Waiting on a response from the Public Safety Director.	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, affidavits of probable cause, receipts for vehicle repairs, and identify the witnesses.	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
190-19 Bridgett	16-1, (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1, (3.7) Conduct Toward the Public	The investigator is trying to determine what disciplinary action the SO received.	TBD

	40-12 Police-Response-to-Domestic-Violence-Incidents		
<b>CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR</b>	<b>ALLEGATION(S)</b>	<b>REASON FOR CONTINUED INVESTIGATION</b>	<b>POSSIBLE CLOSING DATE</b>
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