



INDEPENDENT CITIZEN POLICE REVIEW BOARD

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Draft for
05/23/2023
Review

NOTES of the CPRB Meeting Held on April 25, 2023 (Mtg. No. 253)

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

Video of the meeting: <https://cprbpg.org/471916>

<p>Members Present:</p> <p>Dr. Mary Jo Guercio, Chair Dr. Emma Lucas-Darby Mr. Sheldon Williams, LEP*</p> <p>Solicitor: Atty. William F. Ward</p> <p>Staff Present: 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>Excused Members:</p> <p>Mr. Raymond Robinson, Vice Chair Ms. Lakeisha Brown Mr. Elwin Green Ms. Karen McLellan, LEP*</p> <p>Absent: None</p> <p>Vacancy: None</p> <p>*Law Enforcement Professional</p> <p>Excused staff: All present.</p>
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The entire meeting may be viewed here: [Independent CPRB Meeting 04/25/2023](#)

Dr. Mary Jo Guercio, Chair, called the online Zoom meeting to order at approximately 6:24 pm. Dr. Guercio acknowledged there was not a quorum.

Ms. Pittinger, Executive Director of CPRB, reported that Mr. Robinson, Ms. Brown, Ms. McLellan, and Mr. Green were excused

Opening remarks by the Chair:

Dr. Guercio had no opening remarks.

Executive Director's Report:

Ms. Pittinger reported that the intake year to date was 77 complaints, contacts or referrals that involved City of Pittsburgh police officers' conduct.

Ms. Pittinger reminded the Board of the upcoming four terms expiring October 31, 2023. Terms for Board Council Seats #1, Ms. Brown, seat #3, Mr. Green, both are nonlaw enforcement and Mayoral Seats #6, Dr.

Darby, nonlaw enforcement and #7, Mr. Williams, a law enforcement professional, will expire on October 31, 2023. The forthcoming terms will be from November 1, 2023, through October 31st of 2027. Dr. Guercio, Chair, is required to give public notice of the expiring seat terms and such publication will appear in locally circulated media and online. Members must be a resident of the city of Pittsburgh, not an employee of the City at the time of service on the Board, nor may you be an active sworn duty law enforcement professional at the time of your service on the Board. Residents may notify their City Council representative, the Mayor's office, or the office of the City Clerk. Additional information is available on the Board's website, cprbpg.org. Official notification will be transmitted to the Mayor and City Council on or about June 1, 2023.

Ms. Pittinger reminded the Board that Ms. Hampton emailed all board members, staff, and the CPRB solicitor, reminding everyone that the Statement of Financial Interest ([SoFi](#)) is due May 1. Please reach out to Ms. Hampton with any questions.

Ms. Pittinger informed the Board that the City upgraded CPRB's tech equipment. Ms. Pittinger said the team appreciated the City supporting the efforts of the upgrade and the support from the Department of Innovation and Performance.

Ms. Pittinger informed the Board that a proposed blog posting was circulated with the meeting notes for discussion. The blog would be a summarized, more casual manner of the board meetings. It was suggested that the Board consider doing something like that to make the Board's work more accessible or easily or accessible to people who aren't interested in going through line by line in our formal minutes or watching the video. Ms. Pittinger asked for the Board's thoughts on starting a blog. Dr. Darby replied that she thought the blog captured enough for the public to have a sense of what the Board is engaged in and thought it would be helpful for the public, crisp and short. Dr. Guercio and Mr. Williams agreed with the method. Mr. Ward said it would be helpful when there is no quorum to accurately capture what is discussed, even though no formal action was taken. Mr. Ward suggested that in future meetings when there is a quorum, the notes provided in conjunction with the meeting minutes reflect that the notes are not the official minutes.

The Community Liaison position has been delayed for posting as the position is newly created and its classification is awaiting approval by the Chief Operating Officer in the Mayor's office.

The Pittsburgh SWAT unit has a new facility on Rte. 51 and they have extended an invitation to the Board to tour the facility.

There has been much discussion regarding the selection of the next Chief of Police for the City of Pittsburgh. Unfortunately, the process that was employed to select the finalists was not transparent. Ms. Pittinger's understanding is that there were three committees, one composed of members of the community at large, one composed of City employees and administrators and one composed of representatives of the Fraternal Order of Police. The three committees conducted interviews and turned their recommendations to the Mayor's office. As it was told to Ms. Pittinger, members of the committee were asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement regarding their activities around the selection process, which is troubling and gave rise to controversy.

Ms. Pittinger updated the Board that the Law Department has still not responded to recent reminders about the CPRB's request for supervisory training information. In addition to Pittinger's inquiries, Mr. Ward, CPRB Solicitor, has reached out to the Assistant Solicitor designated as the responsible party in the law department for handling this matter. We will update at the May meeting.

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 04/25/2023](#)

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

None

Next Meeting:

Dr. Guercio announced the time and location of the next Board meeting: Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 6:00 pm via Zoom. The meeting link will be posted on the cprbpg.org website and Facebook page.

Public Comment:

Ms. Katie Moss Crawford spoke about strengthening or implementing the Conflict of Interest policies. Ms. Moss Crawford acknowledged that it was not a City officer but that all police authorities need to look into the importance and value of adopting and enforcing a Conflict of Interest policy.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Stephanie M. Dorman
Assistant Executive Director

Attachments (1): 04/25/2023 Draft Case Review Agenda

CPRB CASE REVIEW AGENDA 04/28/2023

CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	SUMMARY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE
				PUBLIC HEARING (0)
				FULL INVESTIGATION (5)
035-23 Hunt`	16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Toward the Public	The Cx alleges the SO has been intimidating her during criminal court proceedings by staring at her.	Authorize Full Investigation	Preliminary Inquiry (PI) Supports the cause to investigate if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
Ellwood 029-23	16-01.3.7.2 Conduct Toward the Public 40-19.5.1.5 Mandatory Reports by Bureau Policy	The Cx alleges that the SO broke PBP policies by being rude to her and not taking a report when one was requested.	Authorize Full Investigation	More time is needed to determine if the SO violated PBP Policy and procedures when he allegedly failed to provide the Cx with a report that she requested.
017-23 Hunt	11-3 Unbiased Policing 16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Toward the Public	The Cx alleges that he was racially profiled and harassed when the SO approached him outside of his sister's home, asked what he was doing there, then pressured him to let him search his vehicle.	Authorize Full Investigation	Preliminary Inquiry (PI) Supports the cause to investigate if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
016-23 EDI Bridgett	Unbiased Policing 11-3 Use of Force 12-6 Conduct Unbecoming a Member or Employee 16-1 (3.06) Conduct Toward the Public 16-1 (3.07) Motor Vehicle Stops 40-4 (3.0)	An Executive Director Inquiry (EDI) has been opened because CPRB was made aware of a traffic stop on January 16, 2023, in the 7600 block of Frankstown Avenue.	Authorize Full Investigation	More time is needed to interview the victim and the witnesses.
005-23 Bridgett	16-01 (3.13) Conduct Unbecoming a Member	The Cx alleges the SOs were acting unprofessional while weaving their motorcycles in and out of the bicycle lane safety posts in a highly populated area.	Authorize Full Investigation	More time is needed to determine the training standards for the motorcycle units and to request and receive documents.

CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	SUMMARY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE
30-DAY EXTENSION OF FULL INVESTIGATION (6)				
Ellwood 028-23	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, her daughter, when dealing with an incident involving W#2, a juvenile.	Authorize 30-day investigation	More time is needed to determine 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.	Authorize 30-day investigation	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
004-23 Ellwood	16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 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.	Authorize 30-day investigation	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
206-22 Bridgett	16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Toward the Public 36-02 Property Room Procedures 45-2 Warrantless & Search and Seizure	The Cx alleges that the SOs conducted a search warrant at her boyfriend's (W#1) residence and ended up taking several of her electronics and searching her vehicle.	Authorize 30-day investigation	Waiting for the SO statements and to review the BWC footage.
186-22 Hunt	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 the SOs neglected their duties when they failed to investigate her ongoing identity theft Case.	Authorize 30-day investigation	More time is needed to determine if the SO violated PBP Policy and Procedures when the SO allegedly failed to investigate identity fraud claims.
085-22 Bridgett	16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Toward the Public	The Cx alleges the SO conducted a search warrant at her home and the target of the investigation (W#1) does not reside there.	Authorize 30-day investigation	Waiting for the SO statements and to review the BWC footage.
UNFOUNDED (0)				

CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	SUMMARY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE
UNSUSTAINABLE (2)				
171-22 Hunt	11-3 Unbiased Policing 12-6 Use of Force 16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Toward The Public 16-1 (3.19.1) Truthfulness	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 Dismiss as unsustainable	Nothing gathered in the evidence points to the SO violating Policy and Procedures.
138-21 Elwood	12-06.3.2 Use of Force 16-01.3.06 Conduct Unbecoming 16-01.3.07 Conduct Toward the Public	Cx alleged that PBP officers detained him unlawfully and forced him to provide his ID without suspecting him of a crime.	Authorize Dismiss as unsustainable	Nothing gathered in the evidence proves the SO violated Policy and Procedures.
OTHER (1)				
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	Cx alleges the SO was unprofessional during an incident at her residence.	Authorize Dismiss as resolved	The SO was given a verbal reprimand and the Cx is satisfied.
SUSPENSION (6)				
200-22 EDI 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 suspension until May 2023.	Waiting on documents that were requested from the PBP.
187-22 Ellwood	16-1.3.13: Neglect of Duty 40-19 Reports 41-3.3.4.4 Crash Response Investigation and 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.	Authorize suspension until May 2023.	More time is needed to gather information to determine if the SO violated PBP policies and procedures when he neglected his duty to take a report for a traffic accident.
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 PBP 41-03 Crash Response.	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 and would not provide a badge number	Authorize suspension until May 2023.	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.

CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	SUMMARY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE
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 69-03 (8.0) Body Worn Camera	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	Authorize suspension until May 2023.	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
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.	Authorize suspension until May 2023.	More time is needed to determine if the SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures when they interacted with the Cx during two separate incidents.
099-22 Hunt	11.3 (3.0) 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 Cx#2 alleged that SOs were inappropriate and used excessive force toward them when they (SOs) responded to a shoplifting call.	Authorize suspension until May 2023.	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.

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

**CONTINUED SUSPENSIONS (13)
SUMMARIES PROVIDED UPON REQUEST OF MEMBERS**

CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	REASON FOR CONTINUED INVESTIGATION	POSSIBLE CLOSING DATE
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
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
197-22 Ellwood	16-1.3.06 Conduct Unbecoming 16-01.3.07 Conduct Toward the Public 16-1.3.13 Neglect of Duty	More time is needed to obtain BWC footage, SO statements,	TBD

CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	REASON FOR CONTINUED INVESTIGATION	POSSIBLE CLOSING DATE
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
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
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

