



**INDEPENDENT CITIZEN POLICE REVIEW BOARD**

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Final  
12/05/202  
3 Review

**NOTES** of the CPRB Meeting Held on October 24, 2023 (Mtg. No. 258)

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

Video of the meeting: <https://cprbpg.org/590102>

<p><b>Members Present:</b></p> <p>Dr. Mary Jo Guercio, Chair Ms. Lakeisha Brown Mr. Elwin Green Mr. Sheldon Williams, LEP*</p> <p>Solicitor: Atty. William F. Ward</p> <p>*Law Enforcement Professional</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, Community Liaison Mr. David Ellwood, Investigator Ms. Tiffani Hunt, Investigator Ms. Da'Mesha Carpenter, Administrative Assistant</p>	<p><b>Excused Members:</b> Mr. Raymond Robinson, Vice Chair Dr. Emma Lucas-Darby</p> <p><b>Absent:</b></p> <p><b>Vacancy:</b> Seat #2 – LEP – Council Designate</p> <p><b>Excused staff:</b> All present.</p>
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The entire meeting may be viewed here: [Independent CPRB Meeting 10/24/2023](#)

Dr. Mary Jo Guercio, Chair, called the online Zoom meeting to order at approximately 6:15 p.m. Dr. Guercio acknowledged the presence of a quorum.

*A motion to approve the 09/26/2023 Board meeting minutes was offered by Mr. Sheldon Williams, seconded by Ms. Lakiesha Brown, and approved unanimously.*

**Opening remarks by the Chair:**

Dr. Guercio had no opening remarks.

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

Ms. Elizabeth Pittinger, Executive Director, stated that Dr. Lucas-Darby expressed her intent to attend the meeting but had noted a scheduling conflict with another engagement.

Ms. Pittinger reported to the Board that, thus far, 188 complaints have been received this year. She also wanted to thank Lead Intake Director/Investigator Michelle Gamble Kirchner for her hard work. She extended congratulations and best wishes to her on her recent marriage.

Community Conversations with Chief Sciroto have concluded. Community Empowerment Association in Homewood held the fourth conversation on October 5, 2023. There was good conversation and a lot of community engagement. Zone 5 Police officers were present at this meeting.

Trinity AME Zion Church hosted the fifth and final conversation on October 19, 2023. Ms. Pittinger thanked each host of the community conversation on behalf of the Board and expressed appreciation for extending the opportunity to give an overview of the Board. Ms. Sherri Bridget, Community Liaison, also attended the Community Conversations and is well-informed on the needs and concerns that the community expressed.

Ms. Pittinger invited Mr. English Burton to join the meeting to present his approach to creating positivity by changing the nature and tone of language and messaging. Mr. English did not attend the meeting but will be invited to a future meeting.

Many people have applied for the two open Investigator Positions. These positions will be filled before the end of this year with the hope that CPRB will be operating with a full staff by the start of the new year.

Four Board members' terms will expire on October 31, 2023. These include Council Seat #1, which Ms. La'Keisha Brown currently holds; Council Seat #3, which Mr. Elwin Green currently holds; Mayoral Seat #6, which Dr. Emma Lucas-Darby currently holds; and Mayoral Seat #7, a Law Enforcement Seat, which Mr. Sheldon Williams presently holds. Ms. La'Keisha Brown succeeded Mr. Thomas Waters who resigned in 2021. City Council has confirmed Mr. Gregory Kottler as Ms. Brown's successor in Council Seat #1 and Ms. Terry Shields as Mr. Green's successor in Council Seat #3. A nominee to succeed Dr. Emma Lucas Darby in Mayoral Seat #, Mr. Daylon Davis, is pending a confirmation interview with City Council. Mr. Sheldon Williams' successor is pending mayoral action. Ms. Terry Shields and Mr. Daylon Davis attended this Board meeting.

The 2024 Board Meeting Calendar has been shared with all current members and will be published and posted on CPRB social media.

The entire meeting may be viewed here: [Independent CPRB Meeting 10/24/2023](#)

## **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.

Ms. Pittinger addressed Mr. Jim Rogers' case and the pending settlement of \$8M with his estate. CPRB can't investigate the incident because the district attorney has not disclosed the prosecutorial decision. CPRB is restrained from conducting any investigation while a criminal investigation is still underway.

The entire meeting may be viewed here: [Independent CPRB Meeting 10/24/2023](#)

**Unfinished Business:**

CPRB's 2024 meeting calendar

**New Business:**

None

**Public Comment:**

Mr. & Mrs. Ozark thanked the Board members who will be leaving.

Mr. Sheldon Williams also thanked the Board members leaving.

Ms. Terry Shields thanked City Council Member Barbara Warwick for nominating her to the Board. Ms Shields looks forward to this new learning experience.

Mr. Daylon Davis expressed his appreciation for being nominated to the Board and if confirmed, is ready to work with the Board.

Ms. Lakeisha Brown, Mr. Sheldon Williams, and Mr. Elwin Green all gave a final farewell and expressed sincere appreciation of the Board's work and gratitude for the opportunity to serve with professional colleagues and staff.

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

The entire meeting may be viewed here: [Independent CPRB Meeting 10/24/2023](#)

Respectfully Submitted,



Stephanie M. Dorman

Assistant Executive Director

Attachments (1): 10/24/2023 Draft Case Review Agenda

**Final Action Date:**  
**10/24/2023**  
*(15 Cases)*

## CPRB CASE REVIEW AGENDA 10/24/2023

CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	SUMMARY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE
<b>PUBLIC HEARING (0)</b>				
<b>FULL INVESTIGATION (4)</b>				
161-23 Ellwood	16.1.3.07 Conduct Toward the Public 40-15.5.0 Responding to Incidents Involving People with Mental Illness	The Cx alleges the SO was inappropriate towards her during a medical emergency.	Authorized Full Investigation 4-0	Preliminary Inquiry (PI) supports the cause to investigate if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
155-23 Hunt	12-6 Use of Force 16-1 (3.06) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.07) Conduct Towards the Public 44-01 Arrests	The Cx alleges the SOs neglected their duty and used excessive force on him when they refused to write a citation or tow an illegally parked vehicle on his property and then arrested him.	Authorized Full Investigation 4-0	Preliminary Inquiry (PI) supports the cause to investigate if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
147-23 Hunt	16-1 (3.06) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 41-04.01 Towing: Reasons for Towing	The Cx alleges that the SO had her vehicle towed for no reason, which caused her towing fees.	Authorized Full Investigation 4-0	Preliminary Inquiry (PI) supports the cause to investigate if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
085-23 Hunt	16-1 (3.06) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.13) Neglect of Duty	The Cx alleges that the SOs were inappropriate when they responded to a minor call by driving their vehicles at a high rate of speed through a residential area.	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>				
136-23 Ellwood	16-01.3.6 Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-01.3.13 Neglect of Duty 41-03.3.3.6 Crash Response Reporting 69-03.8 Body Worn Camera and Digital Evidence Storage Systems	The Cx alleges that on 12/18/2022, the SO neglected his duty when he did not write a report for the traffic accident he was involved in.	Authorized 30-day Investigation 4-0	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.

131-23 Ellwood	16-01.3.6 Conduct Unbecoming 16-01.3.7 Conduct Toward the Public 16-01.3.13 Neglect of Duty	The Cx alleges that the SO was unprofessional and neglected his duty when he refused to help her with the ongoing dispute between her and her neighbors.	Authorized 30-day Investigation 4-0	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
<b>CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR</b>	<b>ALLEGATION(S)</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>RATIONALE</b>
113-23 Ellwood	12-03 Oath of Office 12-06.3.0 De-escalation (Use of Force) 16-01.3.6 Conduct Unbecoming a member or employee 16-01.3.7 Conduct Toward the Public	The Cx alleges that the SOs used excessive force and illegally detained him when he was taken into custody at the Juneteenth parade for trying to approach W#1.	Authorized 30-day Investigation 4-0	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
106-23 Hunt	16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Toward the Public 16-1 (3.19) Truthfulness 16-1 (3.13) Neglect of Duty	The Cxs allege that they contacted Zone 4 to file a complaint about the noise from her neighbor upstairs. SOs have responded but did not do anything about the noise.	Authorized 30-day Investigation 4-0	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
049-23	16-01.3.6 Conduct Unbecoming 16-01.3.7 Conduct Toward the Public 36-01.4.0.4.2 Evidence Procedures 45-02.3.0 Consent to Search	The Cx alleges that the SOs took her firearm without cause and conspired with the landlord to charge her with crimes and damages she did not commit.	Authorized 30-day Investigation 4-0	More time is needed to determine if the SOs violated PBP policy and procedures.
<b>UNFOUNDED (2)</b>				
137-23 Ellwood	16-01.3.7 Conduct Toward the Public 16-01.3.13 Neglect of Duty	The Cx alleges that the SOs neglected their duty and were unprofessional and discourteous with her when they called her a "dope fiend" and refused to provide medical treatment for her.	Authorized dismiss as unfounded 4-0	The evidence gathered does not prove the SO violated Policy and Procedures.
094-23 Ellwood	16-01.3.6 Conduct Unbecoming 16-01.3.7 Conduct Toward the Public 36-01.4.0.4.2 Evidence Procedures 45-02.3.0 Consent to Search	The Cx alleges that the SOs took her firearm without cause and conspired with the landlord to charge her with crimes and damages, she did not commit.	Authorized dismiss as unfounded 4-0	The evidence gathered does not prove the SO violated Policy and Procedures. PBP has no jurisdiction over PNC's hiring/firing.
<b>UNSUSTAINABLE (0)</b>				
<b>OTHER (1)</b>				

120-23 Hunt	41-04.01 Towing Procedures: Reasons for Towing	The Cx attended her hearing for illegal parking, where signs prohibit it, and the charges were dismissed.	Authorized a withdrawal 4-0	The Cx attended her hearing for illegal parking, where signs prohibit it, and the charges were dismissed. The Cx was satisfied and would like to WD her complaint.
<b>CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR</b>	<b>ALLEGATION(S)</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>RATIONALE</b>
<b>SUSPENDED (3)</b>				
083-23 Bridgett	16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Toward the Public	The Cx alleges that the SO pulled her son (W#1) over at the West End Exit near Rt. 51 because he hesitated before taking the exit.	Authorized Suspension Until December 2023 4-0	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
043-23 Hunt	12-6 Use of Force 16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member/Employee 16-1 (3.7) Conduct toward the public	The Cx alleges that SO#1 and other unknown PBP Officers harassed him and used excessive force to remove him from Tequila Cowboy Bar without reason.	Authorized Suspension Until December 2023 4-0	More time is needed to determine if the SO violated PBP policies and procedures when he neglected his duty to take a report for a traffic accident.
025-23 Ellwood	16-01.3.6 Conduct Unbecoming 16-01.3.19 Truthfulness 40-19.3.4 Reports General	Cx alleges that the SO was not truthful in his charges against him. The Cx alleges that the SO made a false report against him to humiliate him due to the nature of the charges.	Authorized Suspension Until December 2023 4-0	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.

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

**CONTINUED SUSPENSIONS (16)  
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>
055-23 Ellwood	16-01.3.6 Conduct Unbecoming 16-1(3.7) Conduct Towards the Public 16-01.3.13 Neglect of Duty	More time is needed to identify the SO for this case and determine if they violated PBP policy by denying an escort from the church to the Cx home when called.	TBD
029-23 Ellwood	16-01.3.7.2 Conduct Toward the Public 40-19.5.1.5 Mandatory Reports by Bureau Policy	More time is needed to determine if the SO violated PBP Policy and procedures when he failed to provide the Cx with a report that she requested.	TBD
028-23 Ellwood	16-1.3.7 Conduct Toward the Public 16-1.3.13: Neglect of Duty 40-19 Reports	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.	TBD
016-23	11-3 Unbiased Policing 12-6 Use of Force 16-1 (3.06) Conduct Unbecoming a Member or Employee 16-1 (3.07) Conduct Toward the Public 40-4 (3.0) Motor Vehicle Stops	More time is needed to determine if the SOs violated PBP Policies and Procedures during a traffic stop and searched the Victim's vehicle for unknown reasons.	TBD
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 40-19 Reports 69-03 (8.1.2) Body Worn Camera	More time is needed to determine if the SO violated PBP policies and procedures when he neglected his duty to take a report for a traffic accident.	TBD
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	Waiting on additional information regarding the Cx's vehicle.	TBD
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	More time is needed to review BWC.	TBD

CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	REASON FOR CONTINUED INVESTIGATION	POSSIBLE CLOSING DATE
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	More time is needed to determine if the SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures when interacting with the Cx during two separate incidents.	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
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	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.	TBD
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
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
<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