



INDEPENDENT CITIZEN POLICE REVIEW BOARD

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Final
01/23/2024

NOTES of the CPRB Meeting Held on December 5, 2023 (Mtg. No. 259)

Online Zoom Webinar # 854 0367 9472

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Neighborhood: Citywide

Video of the meeting: <https://cprbpg.org/618969>

<p>Members Present:</p> <p>Dr. Mary Jo Guercio, Chair</p> <p>Ms. Terri Shields</p> <p>Mr. Gregory Kottler</p> <p>Mr. Sheldon Williams, LEP*</p> <p>Solicitor: Atty. William F. Ward</p> <p>*Law Enforcement Professional</p> <p>Staff Present:</p> <p>Ms. Elizabeth C. Pittinger, Exec. Director</p> <p>Ms. Stephanie Hampton, Asst. Exec. Director</p> <p>Ms. Michelle Kirchner, Lead Investigator</p> <p>Ms. Sherri Bridgett, Investigator</p> <p>Mr. David Ellwood, Investigator</p> <p>Ms. Tiffani Hunt, Investigator</p> <p>Ms. Da'Mesha Carpenter, Administrative Assistant</p>	<p>Excused Members: Mr. Raymond Robinson, Vice Chair</p> <p>Dr. Emma Lucas-Darby</p> <p>Absent:</p> <p>Vacancy: Seat #2 – LEP – Council Designate</p> <p>Excused staff: All present.</p>
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The entire meeting may be viewed here: [Independent CPRB Meeting 12/05/2023](#)

Dr. Mary Jo Guercio, Chair, called the online Zoom meeting to order at approximately 6:02 p.m. Dr. Guercio acknowledged there was no quorum and the board would not be doing a case review.

Mr. William Ward, Solicitor, informed the board there was a quorum. Dr. Guercio replied that there would be a case review.

Dr. Guercio asked if there were any absent members. Ms. Elizabeth Pittinger, Executive Director, advised that Ms. Emma Lucas-Darby had a conflict with another meeting and she would try to attend the Board meeting. Mr. Raymond Robinson, Vice Chair, was dealing with a family matter which would prevent him from attending the meeting tonight.

Dr. Guercio welcomed the new Board members, Mr. Gregory Kottler and Ms. Terri Shields.

Opening remarks by the Chair:

Dr. Guercio had no opening remarks.

Executive Director's Report:

Ms. Pittinger welcomed new members, Ms. Terri Shields and Mr. Gregory Kottler, to the Citizen Police Review Board (CPRB).

Ms. Pittinger informed the Board that CPRB's budget hearing occurred earlier in the morning and confirmed no changes were expected to the budget for the upcoming year.

Ms. Pittinger reported a year-to-date intake of 217 complaints received. Of those 217 complaints, 22 were out of jurisdiction, and 7 exceeded the permissible time limit to file, leaving 146 pending complaints.

Mrs. Kirchner, Lead Investigator/ Intake, has prepared a summary of the complaints from the Police Zones as we have done over the years. The summary shows that Zone 3 has had the most complaints, which is reasonable given the district's hospitality and enforcement actions on the Southside. There has been a slight decline in complaints compared to the past two years. In 2022, we received 232 complaints; in 2021, we received 227 complaints. Although the number of complaints is similar, they are significantly lower than years past.

Ms. Pittinger informed the Board that last Tuesday (11/28/2023), Board members, Ms. Shields, and Mr. Kottler, were sworn into their seats by Council President Theresa Kail Smith.

Ms. Pittinger introduced and welcomed Chief Larry Sciroto of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police (PBP) to discuss the reorganization of the PBP. Chief Sciroto thanked the Board for having him and informed them he would take any questions or comments, and the Board could lead the way.

Ms. Pittinger addressed the community feedback regarding eliminating the Community Engagement Unit and asked Chief Sciroto to give details on why this was happening.

Chief Sciroto responded that the change is to have a better, more refined approach to community engagement. This new approach will have officers in the patrol zones who have more responsibility for the areas within the zones, and it will also have sergeants who will be responsible for the community groups within the zone. Ultimately, the goal is to make the officers more available and accessible without losing connectivity with the community groups. The Chief mentioned [Zone 1 Cares](#), established on the Northside, as an example of what he would like to duplicate within the Zones throughout the City.

Ms. Pittinger asked the Chief about the Street Response Units, the history of the response units in the past, and how this model would be different. Chief Sciroto stated that he was a sergeant along with Sergeant Eric Holmes for the PBP with a similar unit from 2009-2010 that was high functioning with only one citizen complaint. He noted that these units would be intelligence-led, precision policing. The unit has data and information to focus on individuals in the community who are pre-disposed to commit gun violence. Chief stated this is that the street crimes unit will be building relationships in the communities, and partnering with

groups such as the Boys and Girls Club, Bigs and Blue <https://www.bbbs.org/bigs-in-blue/bigs-blue-news/> (Note: copy and paste is the only thing that works for the link). The unit is meant to be a part of the Bureau's Group Violence Intervention Strategy, and the Chief said his number one strategic initiative is the reduction of violence, specifically gun violence, in the City.

Ms. Pittinger asked about the officer/staff shortage in the PBP and how the Community Service Aides will help supplement his goals for PBP. Chief Scirotto says they plan to bring the Community Service Aides to bridge the gap between the city's youth (specifically 18-22 but not limited to) and the police. The Community Service Aides will likely come from one of the programs like the Boys and Girls Club, CTE, or CCAC Brushton, where they are already working with city officers. This position will be like a mentorship, where they will work with officers and help with calls which would not require a firearm. It also would help recruit diverse officers from within the community. It is hoped that some young people starting in the program with the Bureau will stay.

Ms. Pittinger replied that the Board would be very supportive of such an endeavor. She noted that approximately 20 years ago the Board recommended consideration of a Cadet program that sounds similar to the Chief's plan.

Ms. Pittinger also asked about incentives for new officers or officers who previously worked for the PBP to come back. The Chief replied that there has been some discussion about bringing officers back in different positions throughout the Bureau. Some pension barriers/legalities need to be worked out before any of these incentives can come to fruition.

Ms. Shields commented she liked all the programs, she was new to the Board and asked how information regarding these programs can be found for the children and communities. Chief Scirotto replied that he and the Bureau are currently working through what the program would look like, and more information will be brought to the public in 2024.

Mr. William Parker, from the chat, asked if Chief Scirotto had been certified as the Chief of Police when he assisted in the arrest of William Parker. Chief Scirotto said he was not certified at that time.

Dr. Guercio thanked the Chief for his time and reiterated what Ms. Pittinger said, that the Board is here to support him and any ideas he may have that are consistent with the Board's mission.

Mr. Daylon Davis has been nominated to Mayoral Seat #6. He was interviewed by the Council on 12/04/2023 to succeed Dr. Emma Lucas-Darby. Mr. Davis' appointment is pending confirmation by City Council. Mayoral Seat #7, a Law Enforcement Professional seat, is currently held by Mr. Sheldon Williams. City Council Seat #2, also a LEP, has been vacant since July due to Ms. McLellan's relocation out of the City.

Ms. Nicole Edwards has been appointed a CPRB Investigator and will be starting December 18, 2023. Ms. Edwards has an extensive resume, which includes a Master's of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from IUP, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication from Howard University, and studied at the University of Cambridge England. She has over six years of experience working in the Pennsylvania Parole Office, served as a Deputy Constable and worked as a private investigator in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

A motion to approve the 10/24/2023 Board meeting minutes was offered by Mr. Sheldon Williams, seconded by Ms. Terri Shields, and approved unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

The proposed Board meeting schedule for 2024 was offered for review.

A motion to adopt the 2024 Board Meeting Calendar was offered by Mr. Sheldon Williams, seconded by Mr. Gregory Kottler, and approved unanimously.

New Business:

No new business was introduced.

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.

The entire meeting may be viewed here: [Independent CPRB Meeting 12/05/2023](#)

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024. All Board Meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice.

Public Comment:

Mr. and Mr. Ozark thanked the Board for their service and wished the Board a Happy Holiday.

Ms. Pittinger expressed her appreciation for the new members joining the board and wished them a Happy Holiday.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was offered by Mr. Sheldon Williams, seconded by Ms Terri Shields, and approved unanimously.

Dr. Guercio adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:40 p.m.

The entire meeting may be viewed here: [Independent CPRB Meeting 12/05/2023](#)

Respectfully Submitted,



Stephanie M. Dorman
Assistant Executive Director
Attachments (1): 12/05/2023 Draft Case Review Agenda

Action Date:
12/05/2023
(14 Cases)

CPRB CASE REVIEW AGENDA 12/05/2023

CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	SUMMARY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE
PUBLIC HEARING (0)				
FULL INVESTIGATION (1)				
073-23 Ellwood	16-01.3.6 Conduct Unbecoming 16-1.3.13 Neglect of Duty	The Cx alleges that the SOs were aggressive toward her and neglected their duties after she called about W#1 harassing her. The SOs initially suggested mediation, then threatened to remove her and W#1 from the area	Authorized Full Investigation 4-0	Preliminary Inquiry (PI) supports the cause to investigate if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
30-DAY EXTENSION OF FULL INVESTIGATION (5)				
162-23 Ellwood	12-06 Use of Force 12-08 Matrix of Control 16-01.3.06 Conduct Unbecoming 16-01.3.07 Conduct Toward the Public 44-01 Arrests	The Executive Director opened an inquiry because of a video of an incident on 08/25/2023, at the corner of Strawberry Way & Smithfield St. in Downtown Pittsburgh, involving the SOs allegedly using excessive force in the arrest of the victim.	Authorized 30-day Investigation 4-0	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
161-23 Ellwood	16-1.3.13 Neglect of Duty 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 30-day Investigation 4-0	More time is needed to determine 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 30-day Investigation 4-0	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
109-23 Hunt	16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Toward the Public 16-1 (3.19) Truthfulness	The Cx alleges she was falsely arrested for interference with custody of children, intimidation, retaliation, and obstruction related to a child abuse case in the neighborhood.	Authorized 30-day Investigation 4-0	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.

CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	SUMMARY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE
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 driving their vehicles at a high rate of speed through a residential area	Authorized 30-day Investigation 4-0	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
UNFOUNDED (1)				
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	There is no evidence that shows the SOs violated PBP Policy or Procedures. The Cx willingly declined additional medical.
UNSUSTAINABLE (1)				
016-23 Bridgett	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	An Executive Director Inquiry (EDI) was opened when CPRB was made aware of a traffic stop on January 16, 2023, in the 7600 block of Frankstown Avenue. In addition, the CPRB Executive Director was tagged in a video live streamed by W#1 of a young black male that several PBP officers stopped in the Zone 5 area	Authorize dismiss as unsustainable 4-0	There is insufficient information or evidence to determine if the SOs violated PBP Policies or Procedures, and the Victim has never come forward for an interview.
OTHER (1)				
SUSPENDED (6)				
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 Suspension Until January 2024 4-0	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.

CPRB Case No. Investigator	ALLEGATION(S)	SUMMARY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE
136-23 Ellwood	16-01.3.6 Conduct Unbecoming 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 16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member/Employee 16-1 (3.7) Conduct toward the public	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 Suspension Until January 2024 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 Suspension Until January 2024 4-0	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures
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 Suspension Until January 2024 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 alleges 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 Suspension Until January 2024 4-0	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
049-23 Ellwood	16-01.3.6 Conduct Unbecoming 16-01.3.7 Conduct Toward the Public 16-01.3.19 Truthfulness 40-19.3.10.3 Correction of Reports 46-01.7.0 Interrogations 46-01.8.0 Administering Miranda 69-03.8.0 Body Worn Camera Recordings	The Cx alleges that on 12/12/2022, the SOs falsely charged him with brandishing a weapon and harassment during an interaction with W#5, his neighbor.	Authorized Suspension Until January 2024 4-0	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures

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

**CONTINUED SUSPENSIONS (19)
SUMMARIES PROVIDED UPON REQUEST OF MEMBERS**

CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	REASON FOR CONTINUED INVESTIGATION	POSSIBLE CLOSING DATE
083-23 Bridgett	16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Toward the Public	The investigator is waiting to speak with W#1	TBD
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
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	More time is needed to obtain BWC footage from PBP and CCTV footage from Tequila Cowboy.	TBD
025-23 Ellwood	16-01.3.6 Conduct Unbecoming 16-01.3.19 Truthfulness 40-19.3.4 Reports General	The Investigator is working to locate W#2 to conduct an interview.	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

CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	REASON FOR CONTINUED INVESTIGATION	POSSIBLE CLOSING DATE
010-23 Hunt	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
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 the the FOP Attorney, who is trying to verify whether there was a warrant to search 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 PBP 41-03 Crash Response.	More time is needed to review BWC	TBD
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 or Employee 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Toward the Public 16-1 (3.19.1) Truthfulness 45-2 Warrantless & Search and Seizure	More time is needed to obtain BWC footage, SO statements, Affidavit of Probable Cause, receipts for vehicle repairs, and identify witnesses.	TBD

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