



INDEPENDENT CITIZEN POLICE REVIEW BOARD

816 Fifth Avenue, Suite 400
Pittsburgh PA 15219
412-765-8023 Telephone – 412-765-8059 Facsimile
cprb@pittsburghpa.gov

Draft for
3/26/24
Review

NOTES of the CPRB Meeting Held on February 27, 2024 (Mtg. No. 261)

Online Zoom Webinar #884 1894 4985

Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Neighborhood: Citywide

Video of the meeting: <https://cprbpg.org/658156>

<p>Members Present:</p> <p>Dr. Mary Jo Guercio, Chair Mr. Daylon Davis Mr. Gregory Kottler Ms. Terri Shields Mr. Sheldon Williams, LEP*</p> <p>Solicitor: Atty. William F. Ward *Law Enforcement Professional</p> <p>Staff Present:</p> <p>Ms. Elizabeth C. Pittinger, Exec. Director Ms. Stephanie Hampton, Asst. Exec. Director Ms. Michelle Kirchner, Lead Investigator Ms. Sherri Bridgett, Community Liaison Ms. Da'Mesha Carpenter, Administrative Assistant Mr. David Ellwood, Investigator Ms. Nicole Edwards, Investigator Ms. Tiffani Hunt, Investigator</p>	<p>Excused Members:</p> <p>Absent: Mr. Raymond Robinson, Vice Chair</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 2/27/2024](#)

Dr. Mary Jo Guercio, Chair, called the online Zoom meeting to order at approximately 6:04 p.m. Dr. Guercio acknowledged the presence of a quorum.

Opening remarks by the Chair:

Dr. Guercio had no opening remarks.

A motion to approve the 1/23/2024 Board meeting minutes was offered by Mr. Gregory Kottler, seconded by Ms. Terri Shields, and approved unanimously.

Executive Director's Report:

Ms. Elizabeth Pittinger, Executive Director, informed the Board of the current intake status of 30 complaints.

Ms. Pittinger updated the Board regarding Chief Sciotto's reorganization of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police which took effect on February 26, 2024. As described by the Chief, these are data-driven decisions related to the deployment of officers. Officers will now work four 10-hour days while having three consecutive days off, which is to prioritize the Officer's wellness. Overnight coverage in the city has been reduced to having 20-27 officers available to patrol the entire City overnight. The number and ranks of supervisors throughout the city are still being determined.

All zones will be closed from 3 a.m. to 7 a.m., and a new Night Watch commander will be responsible for the overnight shift. Outside of the stations, call boxes have been installed to directly connect people to 911 if they have an emergency during those times.

Ms. Pittinger addressed the new Street Crimes Unit, focusing primarily on addressing areas where gun violence is most prevalent. Chief Sciotto insists the new unit will be different from the 'jump out squads' and other street crime units of the past. Ms. Pittinger notes that several years ago, a decision was made to avoid hotspot policing due to its tendency to develop practices driven by bias.

The Telephone Reporting Unit (TRU) is to be enhanced and available from 7 am to 3 am daily for people to call in their reports. Police will not respond to incidents that are not in progress, which means that people will be directed to the TRU before any officers are dispatched to the scene. There is also an online reporting method. The homicide, narcotics intelligence, and the violence prevention units will be combined to form the Violent Crime Unit

Ms. Pittinger informed the Board that a new class of officers will graduate soon while noting that the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police has had a decline in personnel, going from an authorized force of 917 officers to 740 available officers.

Mr. Kottler asked about the data used to develop these new implementations. He stated how alarming it is to make such a drastic leap from taking 200,000 calls to only taking 50,000 calls per year. Ms. Pittinger said she would request the data relied upon for the deployment revisions.

Ms. Pittinger spoke about utilization of a co-response team by the Pittsburgh Police. Currently, there is a trauma response team that goes out after a violent incident to help support victims or survivors. The trauma response team receives positive reports, people are pleased with it, but there needs to be more action, effectiveness, and availability for officers and civilians when managing a crisis.

Executive Director Inquiries (EDI) were opened on the following incidents:

A Police Sgt was captured on video pushing and shoving a teenager at Zone 3 police station. [11 Investigates Police sergeant accused of shoving handcuffed, shackled juvenile – WPXI.](#)

Faye McCoy- Hit and Run on the West End Bridge (There are some concerns regarding whether her death could have been prevented had there been a crisis intervention team to assist with this matter) [Woman's hit-and-run death raises questions about Pittsburgh police policy | TribLIVE.com](#)

Austyn Cousins- shooting in Southside Slopes (Shot by Pittsburgh Police Officer) [Suspect shot in South Side Slopes officer-involved shooting reached for firearms, county police say – WPXI](#).

Jim Rogers case—The DA has not made a formal declaration regarding a prosecutorial decision on the officers involved in the Mr. Rogers case, which limits a CPRB investigation. Staff will create a report on the Jim Rogers video to outline the propriety of what was observed. Mr. Daylon Davis has recused himself from the Jim Rogers Case.

Mr. Davis asked if there would be any further disciplinary action from the DA regarding the Officer who shoved the teenager at the Zone 3 police station. Ms. Pittinger responded that they had not taken any further disciplinary action and that information on the situation would be sensitive because the teenager is a minor.

The entire meeting may be viewed here: [Independent CPRB Meeting 2/27/2024](#)

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 2/27/2024](#)

Unfinished Business:

Consideration of scheduling an in-person meeting(s)

The board has decided it would be best to stay virtual but schedule a few meetings throughout the year to meet in person. The date for the next in-person meeting will be discussed at the next board meeting.

New Business:

Mr. Davis stated that the CPRB website could use some updates and needed to be more user-friendly. He would like to finish discussing the website at the next board meeting.

Mr. Davis requested an executive session regarding a current CPRB employee. Dr. Guercio said she would email all board members to schedule the session. Members have also agreed that it will take place via Zoom.

Next Meeting:

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024. Until further notice, all board meetings will be held via Zoom.

Public Comment:

Mr. and Mr. Ozark greeted the Board and thanked the Board for their service.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was offered by Mr. Davis, and seconded by Mr. Williams and approved unanimously.

Dr. Guercio adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:24 p.m.

The entire meeting may be viewed here: [Independent CPRB Meeting 2/27/2024](#)

Respectfully Submitted,



Stephanie M. Dorman

Assistant Executive Director

Attachments (1): 02/27/2024 Draft Case Review Agenda

Action Date: 02/27/2024
(13 Cases)

CPRB CASE REVIEW AGENDA 02/27/2024

CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	SUMMARY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE
PUBLIC HEARING (0)				
FULL INVESTIGATION (1)				
012-24 Edwards	16-01 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-01 (3.13) Neglect of Duty	The Complainant (Cx) alleges that the Subject Officers (SOs) neglected their duty to file a report on her behalf after she had an altercation with W#1, and he injured her foot.	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 (1)				
191-23 Edwards	12-6 Use of Force 16-01 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member	The Cx alleges the SO was rude, discourteous, and used excessive force on W#1 after asking for identification because they were sitting in her vehicle listening to loud music.	Authorized 30-day investigation 4-0	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
UNFOUNDED (3)				
194-23 Hunt	16-1 (3.06) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.07) Conduct Toward The Public 44-1 Arrests 45-2 Warrantless Searches & Seizures	The Cx alleged that the SOs harassed him because Environmental Services accused him of throwing objects at them, and the SOs helped CFY take away his children.	Authorized dismiss as unfounded 4-0	There was insufficient information to prove or disprove the Cx's allegations.
138-23 Ellwood	16-01.3.6.3 Conduct Unbecoming a Member or Employee 16-01.3.7.2 Conduct Toward the Public 41-04.01.8.1.2 Towing Procedures-Reasons for Towing a Vehicle 45-02 Warrantless Searches and Seizures	1The Complainant (Cx) alleged that the Subject Officers (SO) stopped him and did an illegal search after a 911 call for suspicious activity near W#2's home.	Authorized dismiss as unfounded 4-0	There was insufficient information to prove or disprove the Cx's allegations.
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	Authorized dismiss as unfounded 4-0	There was insufficient information to prove or disprove the Cx's allegations.

CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	SUMMARY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE
UNSUSTAINABLE (2)				
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 dismiss as unfounded 4-0	There was insufficient information to prove or disprove the Cx's allegations.
028-23 Ellwood	16-1.3.7 Conduct Toward the Public 16-1.3.13: Neglect of Duty 40-19 Reports	The Cx (grandmother) 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.	Authorized dismiss as unsustainable 4-0	There is insufficient information or evidence to determine if the SOs violated PBP Policies or Procedures.
OTHER (5)				
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.	Dismiss as Lack of Cooperation 4-0	The Cx has stopped cooperating. Two 10-day certified letters were issued, and both were returned to the sender. (investigator)
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	Dismiss as Lack of Cooperation 4-0	There is no evidence to prove the SOs violated the PBP Policy of Procedures. The Cx has not cooperated with the investigation since he swore to his complaint with the CPRB.
055-23 Ellwood	16-01.3.6 Conduct Unbecoming 16-1(3.7) Conduct Towards the Public 16-01.3.13 Neglect of Duty	The Cx alleges the SO neglected his duty when he refused a police escort to her destination when she was being followed by a suspicious male.	Dismiss as Lack of Cooperation 4-0	The Cx has been uncooperative and asked the Investigator to not contact her; she would contact him. There have been no calls from the Cx to date.
052-22 ED Ellwood	16-01.3.6 Conduct Unbecoming 16-01.3.7 Conduct Toward the Public	An Executive Directory Inquiry (EDI) has been opened due to information received from the Victim, who stated that he had	Dismiss as Lack of Cooperation 4-0	The Cx has not shown up for the scheduled interview. His phone number is disconnected,

	45-01 Strip and Body Cavity Searches 45-02 Warrantless Searches and Seizures	been detained and searched by the SOs for unknown reasons.		and there is no address for him.
CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	SUMMARY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE
112-20 Bridgett	11-3 Unbiased Policing 16-1, (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1, (3.07) Conduct Toward the Public	The Cx alleges that she was racially profiled after her vehicle was illegally pulled over and searched, including the trunk and her purse.	Dismiss as out of Jurisdiction 4-0	The Cx has moved out of state, and SO#1 and #2 have resigned and no longer work for the PBP. SO#3 was never identified.
SUSPENDED (1)				
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 suspension until March 2024 4-0	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.

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

**CONTINUED SUSPENSIONS (22)
SUMMARIES PROVIDED UPON REQUEST OF MEMBERS**

CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	REASON FOR CONTINUED INVESTIGATION	POSSIBLE CLOSING DATE
162-23 ED 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	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.	TBD
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	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.	TBD
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	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.	TBD
131-23 Ellwood	16-01.3.6 Conduct Unbecoming 16-01.3.7 Conduct Toward the Public 16-01.3.13 Neglect of Duty	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.	TBD
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	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.	TBD
106-23 Hunt	16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Toward the Public 16-1 (3.19) Truthfulness	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.	TBD

	16-1 (3.13) Neglect of Duty		
083-23 Bridgett	16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Toward the Public	More time is needed to speak with W#1 and obtain CAD and Duty Activity Log.	TBD
CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	REASON FOR CONTINUED INVESTIGATION	POSSIBLE CLOSING DATE
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	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.	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
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	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

	40-19 Reports 69-03 (8.1.2) Body Worn Camera		
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
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
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	Waiting for SO statements.	TBD

	40-04 Public Motor Vehicle Stops		
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