



INDEPENDENT CITIZEN POLICE REVIEW BOARD

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Draft for
6/25/2024
Review

NOTES of the CPRB Meeting Held on May 28, 2024 (Mtg. No. 264)

Online Zoom Webinar # 854 0367 9472

Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Neighborhood: Citywide

Video of the meeting: <https://cprbpggh.org/707789>

<p>Members Present:</p> <p>Dr. Mary Jo Guercio, Chair Mr. Daylon Davis Mr. Gregory Kottler Ms. Terri Shields</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, Admin. Assistant Ms. Nicole Edwards, Investigator Mr. David Ellwood, Investigator Ms. Tiffani Hunt, Investigator</p>	<p>Excused Members:</p> <p>Mr. Raymond Robinson Mr. Sheldon Williams</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 Citizen Police Review Board Meeting 5/28/24](#)

Dr. Mary Jo Guercio, Chair, called the online Zoom meeting to order at approximately 6:06 p.m.

A motion to approve the 04/23/2024 Board meeting minutes was offered by Mr. Davis, seconded by Ms. Shields, and approved unanimously.

Opening remarks by the Chair:

No opening remarks

Executive Director's Report:

Ms. Elizabeth Pittinger, Executive Director, deferred to Mr. Ward, Solicitor, for an announcement regarding his status.

Mr. Ward informed the Board that he will be leaving the CPRB Solicitor position to accept appointment as a Federal Prosecutor with the US Office of the Inspector General and designated as a Special Assistant US Attorney, admitted to all national courts and one of two such positions in the country.

Mr. Ward explained that notification of his appointment was received recently with an effective date of June 1, 2024. To maintain legal representation of the Board without interruption, Mr. Ward described his and Ms. Pittinger's consideration of candidates to assume the Board's representation as Solicitor. The contract with Mr. Ward/Rothman Gordon delegates to Mr. Ward the right to assign the contract to an alternative attorney for fulfillment. Mr. Ward reported that he has identified a suitable replacement in Alec B. Wright, Esq. Mr. Wright, is a highly accomplished attorney and a prominent civil rights advocate. He has a strong track record of working with local nonprofit, social justice concerns and has dedicated significant time to pro bono work.

Board members and Ms. Pittinger congratulated Mr. Ward on his new position and wished him well on his journey.

Dr. Guercio asked if a letter regarding his departure from the Board would need to be sent to him. Mr. Ward stated that he would need a response to the email he sent earlier that day. Dr. Guercio directed Ms. Pittinger to reply, indicating the Board's consent to Mr. Ward's action.

Mr. Davis asked if it would be possible to approve the new solicitor after he is formally introduced to the Board.

Dr. Guercio stated that holding off on a decision would not be in the Board's best interest because the Board would be left without a Solicitor.

Mr. Ward stated that he didn't think that would be a good idea due to his early departure. If they were to hold off, there would be no solicitor for the Board, which could cause issues. Also, because the contract is Mr. Ward's, he ultimately has the right to choose who he sees fit for the position until his contract is up. And then, at that point, there could be a conversation about a different solicitor.

Mr. Davis also asked Mr. Ward if he would be willing to attend the training session Ms. Pittinger will be doing together for the new Board members. Mr. Ward said that he would see what he could do, but there was no guarantee because it is still to be determined where he will be when that meeting is scheduled to take place. Ms. Pittinger clarified that this session would be more of an informational session to review some of the rules and codes that the Board has to follow and to get a fresh perspective from the new solicitor, Mr. Alec Wright.

Ms. Pittinger reported Intake has received 83 complaints, year-to-date.

The entire meeting may be viewed here: [Independent CPRB Board Meeting 5/28/2024](#)

Dr. Guercio announced that she had to leave at 6:30 p.m. which would result in the loss of quorum and suspension of regular business.

Case Review:

Review deferred to the regular meeting scheduled on June 25, 2024.

Unfinished Business:

No unfinished business.

New Business:

No new business was introduced.

Next Meeting:

Prior to departing, Dr. Guercio announced the date and time of the next Board meeting: Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. The meeting link will be posted on the cprbpg.org website and FaceBook page.

Public Comment:

No public comments

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

Dr. Guercio adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:33 p.m.

The entire meeting may be viewed here: [Independent CPRB Board Meeting 05/28/2024](#)

Respectfully Submitted,



Stephanie M. Dorman
Assistant Executive Director