



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
9/24/2024
Review

NOTES of the CPRB Meeting Held on July 23, 2024 (Mtg. No. 266)

Online Zoom Webinar # 854 0367 9472

Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Neighborhood: Citywide

Video of the meeting: <https://cprbpg.org/734882>

<p>Members Present:</p> <p>Dr. Mary Jo Guercio, Chair Mr. Raymond Robinson, Vice Chair Mr. Daylon Davis *Mr. Sheldon Williams</p> <p>Solicitor: Alec B. Wright, Esq.</p> <p>*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. Gregory Kottler Ms. Terri Shields</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 7/23/24](#)

Dr. Mary Jo Guercio, Chair, called the online Zoom meeting to order at approximately 6:03 p.m. Dr. Guercio acknowledged the presence of a quorum.

A motion to approve the 06/25/2024 Board meeting minutes was offered by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Robinson, and approved unanimously.

Opening remarks by the Chair:

No opening remarks

Executive Director's Report:

Ms. Elizabeth Pittinger, Executive Director, reported that intake is currently at 124 complaints, three general service and eleven out-of-jurisdiction complaints and four Executive Director Inquiries (EDI). Two EDIs were recently opened. One into the involvement of Pittsburgh Police officers at the Trump Rally in Butler on July 13th, 2024, and the aftermath of that event. We seek to understand why the PBP officers were involved and if they were authorized to participate. Reportedly, there were at least ten PBP units at the rally in Butler County. During the rally, shots were fired in an attempt to shoot Trump and one member in the audience was killed and several injured, including PBP officers. Subsequently, disciplinary action, disbanding of the MC Unit and transfer of motorcycles to the Zones occurred. On the same day in the City of Pittsburgh, Dr. Jill Biden, the First Lady of the United States, was visiting and required dignitary protection. Unfortunately, due to PBP staffing, Dr. Biden's escort and supplemental protection relied on mutual aid from other law enforcement agencies.

The other recent EDI is into an officer-involved shooting in Garfield stemming from a domestic incident. Investigators Ellwood and Edwards were at the scene after the incident occurred, and everything was managed according to policy. It was also determined that, according to policy, Allegheny County Police will lead the investigation of this shooting and submit findings to the District Attorney. The involved officer was placed on administrative leave immediately, which is standard protocol.

Ms. Pittinger distributed a Case Category Metrics report spanning 2020-2024. The metrics include allegations, complainant demographics (self-declared gender and race), collectively and distinguished by police Zone. The most common allegations include conduct unbecoming, conduct towards the public, and use of force. Mr. Robinson thanked Ms. Pittinger for sending out the Metrics Report and stated that he believes it is very informative.

Ms. Pittinger mentioned the Board Development session which took place on July 18th, 2024. It was an informational session, and an opportunity to provide the information necessary for members to become informed on the intricacies and nuances of the review process, the role of the Board and its members & staff. The group discussed conducting quarterly Board development sessions. Ms. Pittinger reflected on past practice when, during the Board's regular public meeting, the Board Solicitor would provide a short presentation on specific topics that were relevant to the Board's work. The group was interested in this, and Solicitor Wright welcomed the idea.

Ms. Pittinger also mentioned that staff will schedule an in-person meeting location for the September or October Board meeting. She stated that she would consult with Ms. Sherri Bridget, the Community Liaison, to recommend potential locations.

The entire meeting may be viewed here: [Independent CPRB Board Meeting 7/23/24](#)

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.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was presented.

New Business:

No new business was introduced.

Old Business

The Board agreed to hold the September Board meeting in person. In the upcoming weeks, Ms. Pittinger will update the board with a location for the meeting.

Next Meeting:

Dr. Guercio announced the date and time of the next Board meeting: Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom, pending an alternative in-person meeting location. 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 6:47 p.m.

The entire meeting may be viewed here: [Independent CPRB Board Meeting 07/23/24](#)

Respectfully Submitted,



Stephanie M. Dorman
Assistant Executive Director

Attachment: Case Review 7/23/24

CPRB CASE REVIEW AGENDA 07/23/2024

CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	SUMMARY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE
PUBLIC HEARING (0)				
FULL INVESTIGATION (4)				
106-24 Hunt	16-1 (3.06) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-01 (3.07) Conduct towards the Public 16-01 (3.13) Neglect of Duty	The Cx alleged that the PBP was harassing her, and officers were following her in her vehicle throughout the city.	Authorized Full Investigation 4-0	Preliminary Inquiry (PI) supports the cause of investigating if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
105-24 Edwards	16-1.3.06 Conduct Unbecoming A Member or Employee 16-1.3.07 Conduct Toward the Public 16-1.3.13 Neglect of Duty	The Cx alleged that the SO failed to do his job and investigate two criminal matters in which he was a victim.	Authorized Full Investigation 4-0	Preliminary Inquiry (PI) supports the cause of investigating if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
059-24 Edwards	12- 06.5.5.1 Use Of Force 16 - 1.3.06 Conduct Unbecoming A Member Or Employee	The Cx alleged that the SO used excessive force and placed her in handcuffs after she failed to stop when given verbal commands.	Authorized Full Investigation 4-0	Preliminary Inquiry (PI) supports the cause of investigating if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
051-24 Ellwood	12-1.3 Statutory Authority 16-01.3.6 Conduct Unbecoming an Officer or Member 16-01.3.7.1 Conduct Toward the Public 54-01 Traffic Citations	The Cx alleges that the SO was unprofessional when he spoke to her and wrote her a citation in retaliation for her complaint with the Mt. Oliver Police Department.	Authorized Full Investigation 4-0	Preliminary Inquiry (PI) supports the cause of investigating if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
30-DAY EXTENSION OF FULL INVESTIGATION (3)				
067-24 Hunt	Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.6) Conduct Towards the Public 16-1 (3.7.1-3.7.4)	The Cx alleged that the SO was rude, discourteous, and intimidating towards her when she parked in a No Parking 10-minute loading zone outside of the City-County Building (CCB).	Authorized 30-day Investigation. 4-0	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
058-24 Ellwood	16-01.3.06 Conduct Unbecoming a Member or Employee 16-01.3.07 Conduct Toward the Public	The Cx alleges that the SOs harassed and attempted to intimidate him because of a prior civil case he filed against them.	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
031-24 Edwards	16-1 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.7) Conduct Towards the Public 53-01 (6.0) Court Appearances – General Regulations	The Cx alleged that SO#1 neglected his duties when he did not inform him of a criminal hearing date in which he was the victim.	Authorized 30-day Investigation. 4-0	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.
UNFOUNDED (4)				
087-24 ED Kirchner	16-1 (3.06) Conduct Unbecoming A Member Or Employee 44-01 Arrests Physical Summons Or Warrants	An Executive Director Inquiry has been opened into the alleged incident that occurred on May 29th, 2024, when the Victim was arrested outside of the City-County Building after a dispute inside Counsel Chambers with the Mayor because he is a 'target' due to his contentious relationship with the Mayor.	Authorized dismiss as unfounded 4-0	There is no evidence that the SO violated PBP policies and procedures during his interaction with the Cx.
056-24 Edwards	16-1 (3.7) Conduct Towards the Public	The Cx alleged that the SO was rude and unprofessional when he made her leave the building due to security complaints.	Authorized dismiss as unfounded 4-0	There is no evidence that the SO violated PBP policies and procedures during his interaction with the Cx.
035-24 Hunt	11-03 Unbiased Policing 16-1 (3.06) Conduct Unbecoming a Member 16-1 (3.07) Conduct toward the Public	The Cx alleged that he received a citation due to his attitude toward the SOs who responded to a vehicle accident.	Authorized dismiss as unfounded 4-0	There is no evidence that the SO violated PBP policies and procedures during his interaction with the Cx.
020-24 Ellwood	12-06.5.5.1 Use of Force 16-1.3.06 Conduct Unbecoming a Member or Employee 44-1.4.0 Physical Arrests 45-02.2.3 Investigative Stop/Detention	The Cx alleged that the SOs illegally stopped him, took him into custody without probable cause, and pointed their weapons at him.	Authorized dismiss as unfounded 4-0	There is no evidence that the SO violated PBP policies and procedures during his interaction with the Cx.
UNSUSTAINABLE (2)				
029-24 Hunt	16-01.3.6 Conduct Unbecoming an Officer or Member	The Cx alleged that he was surrounded by unknown SOs who pointed their weapons at him, shouted	Authorized Dismiss as Unsustainable	There is insufficient evidence to prove the allegations that the SOs violated PBP

	16-01.3.7.1 Conduct Toward the Public	profanities, and threatened to shoot him.	4-0	policies and procedures.
CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	SUMMARY	RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE
049-23 Ellwood	16-01.3.6 Conduct Unbecoming an Officer or Member 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 Dismiss as Unsustainable 4-0	There is insufficient evidence to prove the allegations that the SOs violated PBP policies and procedures.
OTHER (1)				
136-23 Ellwood	16-01.3.6 Conduct Unbecoming a Member or Employee 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	Dismissed as Lack of Cooperation 4-0	The Investigator has attempted to contact the Cx to clarify who the vehicle's driver and owner were. The Cx has been unresponsive to texts and phone calls and has not responded to a certified letter that has been mailed.
SUSPENDED (1)				
017-24 ED Edwards	16-01.3.6 Conduct Unbecoming an Officer or Member 16-01.3.7.1 Conduct Toward the Public	The Executive Director has opened an inquiry into an incident on the West End Bridge on 01/27/2024.	Authorized suspension until September 2024 4-0	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.

INFORMATIONAL ONLY		CONTINUED SUSPENSIONS (11) SUMMARIES PROVIDED UPON REQUEST OF MEMBERS	
CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	REASON FOR CONTINUED INVESTIGATION	POSSIBLE CLOSING DATE
014-24 ED Elwood	12-06 Use of Force 12-07 Discharge of Firearms and Less Lethal Weapons 12-08 Matrix of Control	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.	TBD
012-24 Edwards	16-01 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming A Member 16-01 (3.13) Neglect of Duty 40-19 (5.0) Reports	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.	TBD
193-23 Edwards	12-6 Use of Force 16-01 (3.6) Conduct Unbecoming a Member	More time is needed to determine if SOs violated PBP Policy and Procedures.	TBD
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
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
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	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

	69-03 (8.1.2) Body Worn Camera		
CPRB CASE NO. INVESTIGATOR	ALLEGATION(S)	REASON FOR CONTINUED INVESTIGATION	POSSIBLE CLOSING DATE
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
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
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
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