



Chairperson Vice-Chair



## DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

### Minutes of the Board of Police Commissioners Meeting Thursday, January 7, 2010

The meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners was held on Thursday, January 7, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. at Police Headquarters, 1300 Beaubien in Detroit, Michigan.

#### ATTENDANCE

##### Board Members Present

Ronald L. Griffin  
Mohamed Okdie  
Jerome Warfield  
Toney Stewart (**ABS**)  
Adela Rivera

Sgt. Rodney Cox  
Sgt. Debra Jones  
Sgt. Melinee Long-Thomason  
Sgt. Steve Hart  
Sgt. Rodney Cox  
P.O. Sophia Nelms

##### Department Personnel Present

AC Ralph Godbee  
3<sup>rd</sup> DC Melvin Turner  
Cmdr. Todd Bettison  
Cmdr. Jeffrey Romeo  
Cmdr. James White  
Cmdr. Steven Carlin  
Cmdr. Brian Stair  
Cmdr. Robert Ennis  
Lt. Donald Hudson  
Sgt. Robert Jackson  
Sgt. Bernard Beck-O-Steen  
Sgt. Michael Dailey  
Sgt. Daran Carey  
Sgt. Dennis Perkins

**Board Staff Present**

Dr. Richard Visingardi, Secretary to the Board  
Celia Banks-Washington, Attorney/Supervising Inv.  
Arnold Sheard, Chief Investigator  
Dalph Watson, Director of Police Personnel  
Leslie J. Griffin, Community Affairs Coordinator  
P.O. Kent Cooper

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Ron Scott  
Phyllis Hernandez  
Kevin Kirkland

David Suttner  
Edward Moore

Marc Deldin  
Dana Lund

**RECORDERS**

PO Robert Gibson  
Robert Brown

Lisa Little

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

**Chairperson Griffin** called the meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners to order at 3:03 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- **Thursday, January 7, 2010**

**MOTION:** **Comm. Rivera** made the motion to approve the Agenda.

**SECOND:** **Comm. Warfield** seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **Thursday, December 17, 2009**

**MOTION:** **Comm. Rivera** made the motion to approve the Minutes.

**SECOND:** **Comm. Warfield** seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

- **Thursday, December 22, 2009**

**MOTION:** **Comm. Rivera** made the motion to approve the Minutes.

**SECOND:** **Comm. Warfield** seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

- **Thursday, December 29, 2009**

**MOTION:** **Comm. Rivera** made the motion to approve the Minutes.

**SECOND:** **Comm. Warfield** seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

**4. BOPC OFFICER'S REPORT**

**1. CHAIRPERSON**

**2. SECRETARY REPORT**

**[SEE ATTACHMENTS](#)**

5. **PRESENTATION/REPORT-CHIEF OF POLICE**

January 7, 2010  
 Volume 6, Issue 1

# Detroit Police Department

## Report to the Board of Police Commissioners



**“Building a Safer Detroit Through Community Partnerships”**

*The Detroit Police Department is committed to uphold its mission to provide a safe environment for our residents and businesses. This effort is not possible without the joint commitment of the community and the Police Department. We appreciate and value the role our citizens have played in helping us to take the guns and drugs off the streets of the city of Detroit.*

**SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**

**Domestic Violence**

On January 1, 2010, officers of the Eighth Precinct responded to the hospital on a “Felony Assault” report, which subsequently led to the arrest of a subject. As a result of the investigation conducted by members of Domestic Violence, the subject was charged with “Explosives - Manufacture/ Possession of Molotov Cocktail/ Explosive or Incendiary Device Causing Physical Injury, Assault with Intent to do Great Bodily Harm Less than Murder, Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, Domestic Violence, and Habitual 2nd.”

**Special Points of Interest:**

• **Next meeting:**

Thursday, January 14, 2010  
 @ 6:30 P.M.

**University of Detroit-Student Bldg.  
 4001 W. McNichols Road  
 Detroit, Michigan 48221**

**Inside this issue:**

Narcotics/Gang Enforcement	1
Domestic Violence	1
Eastern District	2
Tenth Precinct	2
Central District	2
Northeastern District	2
Southwestern District	2

## Engaging the Community

Citizens wishing to make a police report may do so at the District/Precinct stations in the city of Detroit. Citizens may also utilize the following District Mini/Sub-Stations to make reports.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Hours of Operation</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
1300 Beaubien	24 Hours	596-5100
20500 Conant	* 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.	892-5456
7737 Kercheval	* 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.	628-2121
19810 Grand River	* 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	870-0649
13530 Lesure	8 a.m. to 11 p.m.	596-5300
2575 S. Schaefer	* 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.	297-9423
20 Atwater	24 Hours	237-2850
13206 E. Jefferson	* 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.	821-5851
22101 Moross (St. John Hospital)	* 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.	343-7506
14700 Mack	* 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.	852-4046

\* Mini-Stations – Monday – Friday

**Eastern District**

On December 29, 2009, while on patrol in the area of Fairport and East Seven Mile, officers of the Narcotics Crew, working in the Eastern District, investigated three subjects for traffic violations. As a result of their investigation, a subject was arrested and charged with "Carrying a Concealed Weapon on Person." The weapon was confiscated.



**Tenth Precinct**

On January 1, 2010, officers of the Tenth Precinct responded to the 11000 block of LaSalle on "Shots Fired." Subsequent to their investigation, a subject was arrested and charged with "Carrying a Concealed Weapon, Felony Firearm, and Felon in Possession." A weapon was confiscated.



**Northeastern District**

On December 30, 2009, while on patrol in the 7000 block of Gratiot, officers of the Northeastern District heard an audible alarm at a business. As a result of their investigation, a subject was arrested and charged with "Breaking & Entering of an Occupied Building with Intent, and Habitual 4th." The stolen property was recovered.



**Southwestern District**

On December 31, 2009, officers of the Southwestern District were in the 8000 block of Schaefer when they observed a subject assault and take property from an individual. Due to the officers' quick response, the subject was arrested and subsequently charged with "Robbery Not Armed."

## **PRESENTATION/EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT**

### **1. RECOMMENDATION FOR EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT OF 3<sup>RD</sup> DEPUTY CHIEF MELVIN TURNER TO THE RANK OF DEPUTY CHIEF**

**MOTION:** Comm. Rivera made the motion to approve the Appointment.

**SECOND:** Comm. Warfield seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

**SEE ATTACHMENT**

## **6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There was no standing committee report.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. GRANT: REQUEST TO ACCEPT AN AWARD FROM THE STATE OF MICHIGAN'S AUTOMOBILE THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY (ATPA) TO PARTICIPATE IN THE "EAST SIDE ACTION TEAM" GRANT TASKFORCE**

**MOTION:** Comm. Rivera made the motion to approve the Grant.

**SECOND:** Comm. Warfield seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

**SEE ATTACHMENT**

## **8. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

## **9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, January 14, 2010@ 6:30  
12<sup>th</sup> Precinct  
Univ. of Detroit Mercy  
4001 W. McNichols  
Detroit, MI 48221

**10. ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE**

**SEE ATTACHMENT**

**ATTACHMENTS**

Board of Police Commissioners Meeting  
Thursday, January 7, 2010  
3:00 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Good afternoon. Calling the Board of Police Commissioners meeting to order. I am Commissioner Ronald Griffin, the Chair of this Board. With me I have Vice-Chair of the Board, Commissioner Mohamed Okdie, Commissioner Adela Rivera, Commissioner Jerome Warfield, and Commissioner Tony Stewart is absent. I don't see anybody sitting in the chair to represent the Chief, but we will move on. We also have Dr. Rich Vinsingardi, who is interim secretary to the Board, Celia Banks-Washington will be in shortly, Arnold Sheard is not here, Dalph Watson Director of Personnel is here, Police Officer Kent Cooper is on the premises, and we have Mr. Robert Brown acting as one of our recorders.

There's a motion for approval of today's agenda.

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: So move.

COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Second.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: All those in favor please acknowledge by the usual sign of aye.

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: All those opposed say nay.

(No nays were present or recorded.)

**(The agenda for Thursday, January 7, 2010 is approved.)**

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Approval of the minutes, Thursday, December 17th.

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: So move.

COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Second.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: All those in favor please acknowledge by the usual sign of aye.

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: All those opposed say nay.

(No nays were present or recorded.)

**(The minutes for Thursday, December 17, 2009 are approved.)**

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Motion for approval of the minutes on Thursday, December 22nd.

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: So move.

COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Second.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: All those in favor please acknowledge by the usual sign of aye.

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: All those opposed say nay.

(No nays were present or recorded.)



**(The minutes for Thursday, December 22, 2009  
are approved.)**

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Approval of Thursday,  
December 29th.

COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: So move.

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: Second.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: All those in favor please  
acknowledge by the usual sign of aye.

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: All those opposed say nay.

(No nays were present or recorded.)

**(The minutes for Thursday, December 29, 2009  
are approved.)**

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Our secretary's report.

COMMISSIONER OKDIE: Mr. Chair?

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Yes?

COMMISSIONER OKDIE: Point of order.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER OKDIE: If you don't mind.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER OKDIE: Approved minutes on meetings  
on the 29th and 27th.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: 22nd.

COMMISSIONER OKDIE: Were those meetings.

COMMISSIONERS RIVERA & WARFIELD: Yes.

COMMISSIONER OKDIE: They were?

COMMISSIONERS RIVERA & WARFIELD: Yes.

COMMISSIONER OKDIE: Was there a quorum?

COMMISSIONERS RIVERA & WARFIELD: No.

COMMISSIONER OKDIE: How can they be meetings?

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: They were not meetings--

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: They were meetings of the  
whole.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: You did not have a quorum so  
they cannot be approved as meetings.

COMMISSIONER OKDIE: If they're not meetings, then  
there's no minutes.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Right. That's a fact of  
Robert's rules of order.

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: So in the future, if there's  
not a quorum they can not be put on as approved of minutes. Let  
the record please reflect that. Thank you, Commissioner Okdie.

Making his arrival is Assistant Chief Ralph Godbee  
representing Chief Evans. Chief Godbee, I understand that  
there's a recommendation of appointment?

ASSISTANT CHIEF GODBEE: Yes, sir.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Please bring that forth and submit that to us.

ASSISTANT CHIEF GODBEE: Yes. We have Third Deputy Chief Melvin Turner and we are asking the Board to concur with the Chief's recommendation to elevate him to the rank of Deputy Chief.

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: Is he here?

ASSISTANT CHIEF GODBEE: Yes. D.C. Turner, if you would come forward. I believe in your packets there's a letter from the Chief referencing the Third Deputy Chief's extensive level of experience, and parenthetically, if I could note, in his short tenure as Deputy Chief over police community services he has been tremendous in his ability to organize and help us to move that agenda within that construct. He has not limited himself just to matters relative to police community service, but he has been instrumental in a lot of things relative to the Consent Decree and compliance, and I should point out that just in his short tenure as the officer in charge of the Office of Civil Rights, pending your approval, our office will be very happy to report that under his leadership he has taken us to 98 percent compliance relative to firearms qualifications and as a direct result of his leadership and in constructing an audit and his inspection team he has taken the steps to make sure that his department came into compliance and we're very happy to report

that we're making some very significant progress towards issuance of PR 24, Intermediate Force Device Weapons, which is a component of the Consent Decree. His resume is extensive and it's included in your packets.

COMMISSIONER OKDIE: So move.

COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Second.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: All those in favor please acknowledge by the usual sign of aye.

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: All those opposed say nay.

(No nays were present or recorded.)

**(The recommendation for appointment of Third Deputy Chief Melvin Turner to Deputy Chief is approved).**

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: So ordered. Thank you very much. Congratulations.

COMMISSIONERS: Congratulations.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Any standing committee reports from any of our standing subcommittees?

(No reports were raised from any of the subcommittees.)

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Under new business, there's a grant request. Commissioner Rivera, would you handle that for us?

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: Sure. Request to accept an award from the State of Michigan Automobile Theft Prevention Authority to participate in the Eastside Task Force. The State of Michigan's Automobile Theft Prevention Authority has awarded a grant to the Detroit Police Department in the amount of \$195,110 with a 50 percent cash match, \$97,755, participation in the Eastside Task Force.

The mission of the Eastside Task Force is to reduce automobile theft in the City of Detroit and in its surrounding suburbs. A number of suburban police departments are also a part of this collaboration. It is anticipated that the increased collaboration between these agencies in this project will be a great success. The funding will pay for 50 percent of the salary, wages, and vehicle rental costs for one sergeant and one police officer who will be assigned to the task force. Per Second Deputy Chief, Tina Tolliver of Budget Operations, the required \$97,755 cash match is available. The grant number is G-1-10 and the appropriation number is 13126. The project period is October 1st, 2009 to September 30th, 2010. Chief Hillier of the Grosse Point Police Department is the overall project coordinator for the Eastside Task Force. Lieutenant Marlon Wilson of the DPD Investigative Operations will serve as the Project Director for DPD. Request the Board's permission to

accept this funding and seek approval of the Honorable Detroit City Council.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: What is your pleasure board?

COMMISSIONER OKDIE: So move.

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: Second.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: All those in favor please acknowledge by the usual sign of aye.

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: All those opposed say nay.

(No nays were present or recorded.)

**(The State of Michigan Automobile Theft  
Prevention Authority's Eastside Task Force  
grant is approved.)**

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: I don't know, help me with this Commissioner Okdie, whether this is new business or not, but there would have been a place on the agenda where we were going to deal with suspensions without pay in a closed door session and that's not going to take place today so would this be the time for us to address that we're not dealing with it and why?

COMMISSIONER OKDIE: I don't think--actually we can just make that announcement, but the secretary should make it and we need the secretary's report.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Yes, let's do both things as well as the correct information of why we're not doing those suspensions without pay. Let me just say for the record, so you'll know why we're addressing it like that, because there have been previous concerns with suspensions without pay and what are the correct parliamentary procedures and what we are supposed to do. We're addressing it today so for the record you'll understand why we're not going to do it today and the secretary will cover that as well in the secretary's report.

INTERIM DIRECTOR VISINGARDI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Let me deal with personnel matters first. Actually, there were two matters, one that we could consider and I'll ask the Chair and the Commission to consider. One matter we were ready to consider today, and the Law Department was ready to go, but John Goldpaugh, the attorney for the officer, I believe, called in with a conflict and we weren't able to do that one and that was Officer Tull, but we will be able to do that one in two weeks.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: For the record, John Goldpaugh is the attorney for DPOA and represents the officers.

INTERIM DIRECTOR VISINGARDI: Thank you. I knew he was an attorney but I didn't know exactly where he was at. But the other thing is that we do have two other cases along

with Tull, it would be Cook and Wilson, Officer Cook and Wilson that we can deal with in two weeks, and we'll be ready for them.

Now, Commission, could, if you want to give me some direction, we have an uncontested suspension without pay with Officer Lawanda Whitehead. You can pursue that or postpone that for two weeks if you want, but it's uncontested.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: I think we'll do them all at one time so when Attorney Goldpaugh is ready we'll get with the City Attorney's Department and then we'll go forward.

(Supervising Attorney, Celia

Banks-Washington asks the Chair to come forward to make a comment on the record.)

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Yes?

SUPERVISING ATTORNEY WASHINGTON: Celia Washington. For the record, just for clarification, it was Mr. Goldpaugh's suggestion that we go ahead with Officer Whitehead's suspension without pay today since he is not contesting it. If not contravened, the suspension without pay will be effective today.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Okay. Let's deal with that then. I had a misunderstanding.

SUPERVISING ATTORNEY WASHINGTON: He did authorize us to go ahead and said that he is not contesting Whitehead so at this point--



CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: So what is the proper procedure since he is not contesting it? Is the city still going to present the case or what are we going to do?

SUPERVISING ATTORNEY WASHINGTON: Well, the secretary will read the facts into the record and if Mr. Ha wants to step forward he can, but without it being contested just reading it into the record is fine because it's effective.

COMMISSIONER OKDIE: Well, I do think that if there's any of the Commissioners who want to contravene, which I don't think there will be, but we have to--the Commission needs to have the opportunity contravene or not to contravene.

SUPERVISING ATTORNEY WASHINGTON: You are correct, sir. The proper protocol would be for the secretary to read the facts and then state that, unless contravened by the Board, the suspension without pay will stand.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: In the midst of all that, will the City come forth? Is there any need for them to come forth.

SUPERVISING ATTORNEY WASHINGTON: No.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Then let's deal with that now.

INTERIM DIRECTOR VISINGARDI: Thank you, Ms. Washington. This is a matter, its subject is the suspension without pay of Police Officer Lawanda Whitehead, badge 1162,

assigned to the 6th precinct. On June 21st, 2006, the Internal Affairs Intelligence unit, contacted via telephone by AAA of the Michigan Claims Investigation unit and a special agent from the United States Postal Inspection Service regarding an ongoing criminal investigation related to insurance frauds being committed by a group that included Police Officer Lawanda Whitehead, badge 1162, assigned to the 6th Precinct, and possibly members of the Detroit Abandoned Vehicle Unit.

On June 22nd, 2006, Internal Affairs met with and briefed with a representative from AAA and the special agent to review evidence and records related to their investigation of Officer Whitehead. The investigation focused around several vehicles purchased from auctions in a disassembled state or with crash damage. The vehicles were then fully insured and a short time later were reported stolen or the victim of a hit and run. The damage resulted in a total-loss payoff.

On June 23rd, 2006, Internal Affairs discovered numerous TR-52s used in the investigation were fraudulent, in addition, it was discovered that several records from the auctions held by the police tow yard were missing or misplaced. Former Chief of Police Ella M. Bully- Cummings directed that Internal Affairs remove and secure all records and documents related to this investigation from the Abandon Vehicle Unit.

It should be noted that between June 2006 and December of 2009, members of the Internal Affairs Intelligence Unit assisted the United States Postal Inspection Service with a wide-range investigation involving several subjects who remain unindicted.

On December 16th, 2009, Internal Affairs was notified by the special agent of the United States Postal Inspection Service that sealed indictment was obtained against several defendants including Officer Whitehead.

On December 21st, 2009, at approximately 10:15 a.m. at the Office of Internal Affairs, Officer Whitehead was suspended from the Detroit Police Department by Sergeant Joseph Tiseo, badge S-257 of Internal Affairs. She was then placed in custody by the agent of the United States Postal Inspection Service. On the same day, at approximately 2:45 p.m. at the United States District Court of the Eastern District of Michigan, Officer Whitehead was formally charged on federal indictment number 09-30502 before the Honorable Magistrate Donald C. Sheer. She was charged with count one, conspiracy to commit mail fraud; and count two, mail fraud. Officer Whitehead stood mute and was issued a \$10,000 un-secured bond. An examination date of January 12th, 2010 was scheduled.

Based upon the above facts and circumstances, it's recommended that Officer Whitehead be charged with, but not

limited, to the following violations of the department rules and regulation: Charged: with conduct unbecoming an officer contrary to the law enforcement code of ethics this being in violation of the 2003 Detroit Police Department Manual, series 100, directives 102.3-7.9, Conduct Unprofessional Command 1. Due to the seriousness of this conduct, I am requesting your concurrence with the suspension of Lawanda Whitehead without pay, effective January 7th, 2010. Sincerely, Warren C. Evans, Chief of Police. Unless contravened by the Board, the suspension without pay stands.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: There are no contraventions.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: There are no contraventions. Continue with the secretary's report.

INTERIM DIRECTOR VISINGARDI: I'm going to do a brief report. It's basically on my activities here as the interim secretary as we get you geared back into giving some reports of actions that we've taken and efforts in that. One of the things that right now I'm doing is working with staff to start really looking at our practice protocols, our procedures, the way people are assigned responsibilities and their accountability. That's starting out really well. I'm actually working one day a week at the Palm building to work directly with the Office of the Chief Investigator and their staff. What

we're really trying to do is get very focused in a accountable, efficient, and transparent way to make sure this Commission is fully informed of the things that this Commission needs to have as a Commission, and to make sure there's as much clarity as possible about people's job, that we are accountable, that we take command and ownership, and that we operate the way we really want, that we should do it with excellence. I have found the staff to be very excited about working as everyone is joining in on this process, and I'm feeling pretty comfortable about where we're heading to and what we can accomplish. So I wanted--as I do my reports, we will get back to report to the Board about the data reports, although I want to have some discussion with the Commissioners about the content of those, what you want to know and when you want to know it basically and I'm working with staff relative to that in operations and I'll also keep you updated and specific things that we've developed and implemented as we'll continue on.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Does that complete your report?

INTERIM DIRECTOR VISINGARDI: Yes, sir.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Any questions of the interim secretary's report?

(No questions were raised by any of the Commissioners.)

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: If not, old business.

COMMISSIONER OKDIE: Mr. Chair?

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Yes?

COMMISSIONER OKDIE: I want to remind the Assistant Chief that I asked for an organizational chart about a month ago.

ASSISTANT CHIEF GODBEE: I'm sorry. I'm going to turn it over to Deputy Chief Wilson-Turner.

DEPUTY CHIEF WILSON-TURNER: Good afternoon, Board. Deputy Chief Gail Wilson-Turner. Mr. Okdie, I did put the organizational charts on AC Godbee's desk this morning so he has not had a chance to review them yet, but they are there.

COMMISSIONER OKDIE: Okay. Is there also included in those organizational charts any alternative command structures?

DEPUTY CHIEF WILSON-TURNER: No, what do you mean?

COMMISSIONER OKDIE: Any alternative command structures?

DEPUTY CHIEF WILSON-TURNER: No, sir.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Everything that's on those organizational charts dealing with command structures is as the police department is operating today? There are no special units or--

DEPUTY CHIEF WILSON-TURNER: They're all there, sir.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Okay. Very good. And we should have that, when?

ASSISTANT CHIEF GODBEE: I'll make sure I get that to the secretary immediately. I wasn't in the office today to receive them personally, but I'll make sure that you get that.

DEPUTY CHIEF WILSON-TURNER: I gave AC Godbee a copy and the Chief a copy so that they can review them before I actually submitted them.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Is it possible that we'll have it before the next meeting?

DEPUTY CHIEF WILSON-TURNER: Oh, absolutely.

ASSISTANT CHIEF GODBEE: Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Okay. Let the record reflect that.

COMMISSIONER OKDIE: AC Godbee, are there any alternative command structures?

ASSISTANT CHIEF GODBEE: Not that--I'm--

COMMISSIONER OKDIE: Has the Chief created any alternative command structures?

ASSISTANT CHIEF GODBEE: Not that I'm aware of, no.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Let the record also reflect that Robert Gibson is also one of our recorders today and not Terrence Bell. Glad to have you on board again, sir.

ROBERT GIBSON: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Announcements. The next meeting will be Thursday, January 14th, at 6:30 p.m., 12th precinct, University of Detroit Mercy, 4001 West McNichols.

Oral communications. Everyone that has some questions or comments, please line up and we'll certainly hear what you have to say. Everybody that's going to speak line up.

(Audience member steps up to podium, but waits to speak.)

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Go ahead and speak.

LAWANDA RUFFIN: Good afternoon. Happy new year to everybody. I'm happy to be back here once again, but I will not be here every Thursday.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Your name?

LAWANDA RUFFIN: LAWANDA RUFFIN. I'm with Councilman Spivey's office, but Patricia Ford will be attending the meetings on Thursdays, and I will be dropping by periodically. I love the meetings, and I love the way that they are chaired, but Patricia will be attending these meetings.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Okay.

(Speaking to Patricia Ford.)



CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Now, you're now on councilman Spivey's staff?

PATRICIA FORD: That's correct.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Congratulations to you on that, and who will be coming to these meetings now?

LAWANDA RUFFIN: Patricia Ford.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: And she's going to step forward and give her name for the record.

LAWANDA RUFFIN: Yes, and I'm always available for anything that you need.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Absolutely. You will not get off that easy.

PATRICIA FORD: Good afternoon. My name is Patricia Ford. I'm the community liaison for Councilman Andre Spivey and I'm here to represent or replace Lawanda at this meeting.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Okay. You want to tell us a little bit about your background real quick?

PATRICIA FORD: My background. Well, I'm coming from corporate America and from a nonprofit.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Where specifically?

PATRICIA FORD: Ford Motor Company and Next Detroit Neighborhood Initiatives.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Okay. Very good, very good.  
Thank you so much.

EDWARD MOORE: Good afternoon to the Board,  
Assistant Chief and Detroit's finest. My name is Edward Moore.  
I'm the liaison of the Honorable Kwame Kenyatta, our Detroit  
City Councilman. Message from his office is Happy New Year to  
the Board, Assistant Chief and your staff and to Detroit finest.  
Councilman Kenyatta states that anytime that his office can have  
any effect on the problems that we're having in our City to come  
to his door. His door is open; therefore, that is what I've said  
for the last three years and I'm saying it this year. His door  
is open. Use what you got. He's a team player so he's not out  
front and he will follow the team.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Thank you Mr. Moore and  
Happy New Year to you. Good to see you. Mrs. Hernandez.

PHYLLIS HERNANDEZ: Hello Council. Phyllis  
Hernandez, Casino Towing. Very short. I'm very excited about the  
new year, our new Mayor David Bing, our new Police Chief Warren  
Evans, the new City Council President, as well as the new  
members and new members of the Board of Police Commissioners. I  
feel very confident that this year will finally bring an end to  
the corrupt towing process of the past and will open up new  
opportunities for Detroit-based towing companies, such as  
myself. I have weathered the storm since the expiration of the

towing contracts in 2005 and waiting for the new City Council Administration to finally rise. I finally feel after my two years of coming to these meetings and hearing about all the hard work Commissioner Adela Rivera and Celia Washington have been putting into the investigation of the towing process, that things are about to change. I believe now that all the hard-working-Detroit-City owned companies that were shut out of the current towing process will finally have a chance to work within a fair and non-corrupt towing process and turn it into the extremely profitable process and service for the Detroit Police Department that it is. I've spent a huge chunk of my life, 12 years to be exact, since the opening of my towing company, studying the towing process. I know everything that's happened how it's happened and who helped to make it happen. It has caused me a lot of grief and anger to see such in-your-face corruption allowed to take place by the former administration of my beloved City and has caused my City of Detroit towing company great hardship. I'm very pleased now to see that the new administration has vowed that this is going to change. I'm now hearing that Martin's towing, a non Detroit business is now towing for the police department. I refuse to believe that this is true because my Detroit business submitted an application with all the required documents over a year ago and I was told that I had to wait for the contracts, and that no new towers

were going to be added. I refuse to believe that this new administration would continue with the former administration's practices and I told them that this was just gossip and that Martin's towing would never be allowed to work for the City because they are not a city-based company and that the new administration is going to be different and make this a fair towing process for all Detroit-based companies that want to work honestly for the City. I look forward to working for the Detroit Police Department soon when my Detroit towing company is added to the list and to see the Detroit City's towing process finally be what it should be, an honest, profitable, customer oriented process where no one can speak of this process without the respect for the hard working police department that the City deserves. Thank you to you all.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Thank you.

DANA LUND: Hello, my name is Dana Lund. I have two things that I just want to ask. I've been trying for the longest time to try and get on the Reserve Police Department to try and help my neighborhood, but its always been this and that and so many things that they keep saying that I have a misdemeanor of \$100 in parking tickets and then they say that I have a partial loss of sight in one side. I just want to know what the rules are and why is it that I'm turned down. It's not that I need a

weapon or anything because I already have my CCW, but is there another community part so that I can help my neighborhood or the neighborhood itself on the eastside? The second thing is where do I go for parking tickets? My daughter has some tickets and she doesn't know where to go to take care of them.

ASSISTANT CHIEF GODBEE: Sir, that would be the Municipal Parking Department for your second question.

DANA LUND: Where is that at, 36th?

ASSISTANT CHIEF GODBEE: Sergeant Carrie, if you can talk to Sergeant Darren Carrie, he can help assist you in finding the location, but the Municipal Parking Department is where you go to take care of that.

As to your first question, I have Deputy Chief Melvin Turner, the Reserve section falls under him and he can explain to you the criteria and the necessary requirements to qualify to be a reserve.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Would you get-- Sergeant Carrie, Brother Turner, would you get with him right now? Mr. Lund, they'll take care of you right now.

DANA LUND: I appreciate it.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: You're more than welcome, sir.

DAVID SUTTER: Good afternoon, I'm David Sutter, long-time resident of the Woodbridge area of Detroit and

professor of law at Davenport University, and I sit as Chair of the Woodbridge Safety Committee. And we're the organization, the community just south of Wayne State University, North of Corktown.

In late November a young police officer came to me and asked that I keep his name quiet, but said that he had a real concern and asked if I would help address it. It seems as if he was involved in a call where there was an out-of-control individual in the middle of the street. Two officers we're trying to assist by controlling him, and he was out of control and on drugs. And his car had another three police officers, and it took five police officers to control this person and finally get him in cuffs. Of the five officers, three received medical care, luckily nothing serious, but three had to have medical attention, and the arrested party also had to have medical attention, and he said, "Dave, what can I do?" He said, "All I have, in that situation where the party's already engaged, I can't use spray I have a baton. If somebody had photographed this or had a video camera, think of the embarrassment this would have." He said, "Why can't we have tasers like most city police departments.

Well, I called my neighbor Ken Cockrell, and I said, "Ken, what's the deal here? Why does the City Council say that the Detroit police cannot have tasers?" "Oh, no, no.

That's an executive decision under control of the DPC." That's not a City Council issue, that's executive under yours and the police department's Police Chief.

So I contacted--did a little bit of research and found out there's one state in the Union, New Jersey that did not allow tasers because of fear of lawsuits and problems. As of November 23rd of '09 their Attorney General has approved the use of electronic-control devices by law enforcement officers under restrictive conditions; it's brand new. So I've done a little bit of research on it, but basically what I would like to do--this is not my field, tasers per say and electronic devices, but as a resident of Detroit, and the Chair of the Safety Committee of one of our thriving communities, we have a wonderful community in Woodbridge, I'd like to encourage the DPC to revisit this question of taser use in an open and transparent matter with appropriate communications to the public with press releases, I think. I think this is something that people need to study and it needs to get open presses. Thank you very much. Are there any questions for me?

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Commissioners, have any questions, comments?

ASSISTANT CHIEF GODBEE: If I may sir, thank you for your thoughtful presentation on that. That is an intermediate force device. Right now we're in the midst with--we

have not fully complied with our two federal Consent Decrees by having the PR 24 and everyone trained on it and that issue. That is something we have to research and there's a body of knowledge out there relative to it through the International Association of Chiefs of Police, they have white papers relative to it. The executives would have to do research on them and there's tons of white paper that talk about it, but it will take a ton of research on our part and also we have to look at policy, policy development, implementation, where would it go on our use of force continuum. All of those things have to be embedded before we can bring it to the Board - all of the those things would have to be explored before we can make that type of recommendation to the Board, as well as, as you suggest, it's a community perception issue also, especially in the City of Detroit with the history of the tasers going back to the cattle prods and how its been related to a racial divide also. That would be a huge community component that we would have to engage upon before a decision was made.

DAVID SUTTER: I believe it does need to be focused and researched. Perhaps a separate committee under your supervision. I was in the reserve during that period, and that whole mess and disgust. At the same time, we need to be concerned about workers comp and our police officers being



injured. We need to be concerned about public perception of groups of police officers beating down on individuals.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Mr. Sutter, I'm going to cut you off.

DAVID SUTTER: And that's all that I needed to say.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Well, no. Just stay right there. First of all, I think PR 24--that's the baton?

ASSISTANT CHIEF GODBEE: That's the collapsible baton.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Let me just say this. Notwithstanding the sincerity of your presentation and I'm sure what it looks like when police are doing what they're trained to do. I can categorically tell you that the public hearing would almost be a debate between the neighborhood that you represent and other neighborhoods. That clearly is not the majority opinion of neighborhoods and citizens of the City of Detroit with respect to tasers.

I can also tell you this with respect to the training that I know police officers get and notwithstanding the fact that the individual might have been difficult to bring down, there are certain elements of training, defensive tactics, to be specific, that teaches the police officers what to do in situations like that.

I'm only one vote and I do represent the community, but I can absolutely tell you, sir notwithstanding a public hearing, I am categorically against any way that we're going to add that kind of weapon without--I don't know what would make me say let's use tasers. That's my opinion and as long as I sit on this Board that's going to be the direction that I'm pushing, notwithstanding.

My son happens to be a trainer in the police department and I understand what you're saying. I know what that looks like and I know what that means, but there's such a down side to tasers. The same statistics and data that I'm sure you will research, if you haven't already researched, people are dying with the use of tasers. So we have to be extremely careful. While it may not look good for five officers to subdue one citizen, I can absolutely promise you this room would not hold the individuals if a taser was used and a citizen dies. So I just wanted to say that for the record. Thank you so much, sir. Appreciate you coming. Next.

RON SCOTT: Ron Scott, Coalition Against Police Brutality. Glad to see all of you. I hope you're all having a happy new year. I know that we're going to have a very busy new year given the fact that there are some protocols and others that have been stated by the Chief that we categorically disagree with. Sweeps, targeting, no matter what he calls them I

call them profiling, and I think they were challenged in New York and other places and I think we'll have to fair it out.

To that end, to the gentleman that spoke before me, I agree with you Reverend Griffin. Neuromuscular disruptive device is what a taser is. There's been a lot of research that we've done and we opposed it categorically, and we've done a tremendous amount of research. We're currently working on a case in Warren where even some DPD officers were involved in a situation where a 15 year old was killed. So it's not only the question of the weapon, but it's the culture in terms of the weapon and how it's used.

So I think we have to be concerned this year not only about military and paramilitary tactics, but about the behavior that individuals are engaging in and the changing of the culture. To that end, I hope we will do more scrutiny this year with the Consent Decree and the monitors, because I haven't seen him. I haven't heard from him. I don't know what he's doing, and I'd certainly be interested in making that more, since we're using the word, transparent, in making that more transparent too.

Within that context, I'm just about through, and I'd like to say that there are many officers in this department, and I'm going to say this very specifically without mentioning names, who have contacted us and we had an uptake in complaints,

who have notified our office, and officers who are concerned about the civil rights of citizens of this city. And there are a number of officers in this department. We also--some think that we always criticize police. We're not antipolice. We're anti-police brutality. As many officers who have let us know about instances where this has happened, they have to keep silent in some cases because the culture does not support them when they stand up a lot of times.

To that end, I'm through with my two minutes. If I can yield the floor, there is a young man with me who has filed a complaint. He's an employee of the City of Detroit, 20 years old and one of the people who's going to inherit what we have in the City, and I was appalled when I heard what happened to him and I encouraged him to come and speak with you, and he's taking time off of work to come and do that.

KEVIN KIRKLAND: Hi, how y'all doing? My name is Kevin Kirkland.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Kirkland?

KEVIN KIRKLAND: Yes, sir. I had an incident, maybe last week Monday night, at 12:05, where I was assaulted by two officers after I had got off work. Now their excuse for assaulting me was that there were three murders and one injured in the area. Now the area was Seven Mile and Novara and my area is Cadieux and Harper. I had my lip busted, my money took, they

took my coat and threw it three blocks from my house and I found it two days later in the snow, and my rights were violated and I was just trying to understand what's going on with the city because--

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Let me say this. Without you calling their names, do you have their names and badge numbers?

KEVIN KIRKLAND: I have a plate number.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Okay. The office of the Chief Investigator, Arnold Sheard, that gentleman right there. I want you to go out and give him all the information and he will investigate the complaint. Okay?

KEVIN KIRKLAND: Yes, sir.

ASSISTANT CHIEF GODBEE: Commissioner Griffin, also for the record, Commander Brian Stair will also talk to him, Internal Affairs.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: Let's do this. I want to start something different this year because sometimes we don't close the loop and I'm saying special attention meaning, and I want you to do your normal investigative process, but I want it placed in the record that I want the final report, understanding privacy and the law, but I want to know the situation in this case. If you go with that gentleman and Commander Stair, you can

give them the information and they're going to investigate your complaint, sir.

KEVIN KIRKLAND: Thank you, sir.

CHAIRPERSON GRIFFIN: You're more than welcome.  
Thank you for coming in. There will be no other speakers.  
Meeting adjourned. Thank you.

(Meeting is adjourned at 3:45 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,

**RICHARD VISINGARDI, PhD.**  
Interim Secretary to Board  
Board of Police Commissioners

**RV/rb**