

**Draft Minutes Detroit Board of Police Commissioners**

**Date of Meeting: August 31, 2017 – 3:00 PM**

Location: Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third Street, Detroit, MI 48226

**Chairperson Lisa Carter called the BOPC meeting to order at 3:00 PM (August 31, 2017)**

Detroit Police Commission Membership / Attendance	Attend	Not-Attend
Lisa Carter, Chairperson	Yes	
Eva Dewaelsche, Vice Chairperson	Yes	
Willie Bell	Excused	
Elizabeth Brooks	Yes	
Willie E. Burton	Yes	
Reginald Crawford	Yes	
Conrad Mallett	Excused	
Derrick Sanders	Yes	
Richard Shelby	Yes	
Bishop Edgar Vann	Excused	
Vacant	N/A	
Quorum (Yes)	7	

**The Board acted in accordance with its rules** approved the Agenda for August 31, 2017.

**The Board acted in accordance with its rules** approved the following Board Minutes:  
**Thursday, August 24, 2017**

**BOPC Officers Report(s):** After welcome and opening remarks **Chairperson Lisa Carter** asked Gregory Hicks to provide the invocation. **Chairperson Carter** asked the Commissioners in attendance to introduce themselves and add any comments to the record. Other elected officials, representatives and VIPs were also asked to identify themselves or their organizational affiliations. BOPC staff in attendance were also introduced. Carter also welcomed Chief of Police James E. Craig to the meeting and invited him to introduce his staff.

**Chair Report: Carter** restated the Boards concerns about officer safety and acknowledged the need to remain supportive to friends and family of injured and fallen DPD personnel. Carter also indicated the Board had recently received a communications from the Mayor in connection with the death of Damon Grimes. Carter requested that **Ms. Teresa Blossom**, read the statement in to the record. This is statement from **Mayor Mike Duggan** that will be released to the public at 2:15PM.

“Our hearts go out to the family and friends of Damon Grimes. I fully support Chief Craig's decision to have the Detroit Police Department conduct an independent investigation into the events leading up to his death. DPD will be presenting its findings to Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy.

Police chases often have the potential for tragedy and the difference in the policies of the Detroit Police Department and the Michigan State Police highlight that concern. The Detroit Police Department policy is not to engage in high speed chases for traffic offenses or misdemeanors. In the case of felonies, the decision to continue a high speed chase is made by a supervisor.

I (the Mayor) met with Governor Snyder and urged the State Police to adopt the City of Detroit's policy when patrolling in our city. I also spoke with State Representative Sheldon Neely (D) of Flint and expressed my full support for his proposed legislation to require Michigan State Police abide by local pursuit policies when patrolling within the boundaries of a city.

I (the Mayor) am encouraged that MSP leadership is taking steps towards changing its policy. Chief Craig and the Detroit Police Department will continue to work with them to ensure that safe policing procedures are followed in the city of Detroit.

**COP Police Report: Chief James E. Craig** acknowledged the Board's concern and support for fallen and injured officers and their families. Craig reported on the downward trend in crime and discussed several factors associated with the downward trend including CEASEFIRE and the Department Greenlight program. **COP Craig** reported on CompStat data for the reporting period ending August 27, 2017. Craig reported Homicides percentage change between 2015 and 2016 of -8% decrease, Sexual Assaults -11% decrease, Robbery -13% decrease, Carjacking -10% decrease, Aggravated Assaults, -5% decrease, Non-fatal shooting, -8% decrease for an overall total of -7% decrease, and overall property offenses -7%. COP Craig also reported on an initiative started by regular police officers to address the needs of "first responders" in Houston Texas. The Chief described an effort to collect, load and transport a semi-tractor full of donated goods and supplies to help "first responders". The collection drive would start immediately and end on Thursday, September 7, 2017. Chief Craig also indicated the traffic stop investigation involving Commissioner Vann has been completed and that a copy of the investigation would be forthcoming. In connection with the Damon Grimes case the Chief indicated he has been in contact with the Michigan State Police COL. Kriste Kibbey Etue and read into the record a correspondence from MSP Col. Etue. **Commissioner Crawford** indicated he was concerned that the ATV traffic was a highlighted concern of the MSP and that two officers had made aggressive remarks about how to deal with the ATV traffic in Detroit. Crawford also suggested that the Department seek a solution to the ATV traffic issues by identifying city owned land to create or stage an ATV park much like the recent Eastside-Westside Car show. **Commissioner Carter** concurred. Carter also inquired about the schedule of the Citizen's Police Academy and reminded the Department to share with the Board upcoming events sponsored by the Department.

### **Presentation to the Board: (A) Office of the Chief Investigator (B) Community Policing**

**(A) Office of the Chief Investigator, Interim Chief Lawrence Akbar.** Akbar reported, for the period of January to July (2017) 672 Citizens Complaints have been files. This figure is compared to 658 complaint in 2016, an increase in 14 cases or 2% of the complaints. Akbar also reported, for the period of January to July (2017) 620 Citizens Complaints have been closed. This figure is compared to 615 complaints closed in 2016, an increase in 5 cases or 2% of the complaints. Akbar added for the period of January to July (2017) 226 Citizens Complaints are open and current under investigation. This figure is compared to 216 complaints in 2016, an increase in 10 cases or 5% of the complaints. Arbar summarized his report highlighting six (6) critical areas; (1) Rate of Unknown Officers in Citizen Complaints: During the course of the investigation, the OCI generally identifies 80% of the alleged offending members. (2) Case Distribution, OCI is currently evaluating the case distribution process to determine how best to assign the cases based on investigative experience; training; and technology capabilities. (3) Quality of the Investigation: There are currently (3) teams that investigate citizen complaints and to some extent they operate differently. I am currently evaluating the quality of the investigations and developing ways to create a uniform standard for all investigative teams to complete high quality investigations and reports. (4) Disciplinary Results: I am also in the process of incorporating the Disciplinary Results from the completed CCR investigations (once I receive the information from the Department) in the OCI Quarterly Report for the Citizen Complaint Subcommittee and the Full Board's information. (5) Overall: I'm conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the entire OCI operation for analysis and improvement purposes. (6) Once we return from the NACOLE Conference, I plan to meet with the Citizen Complaint Subcommittee to provide updates and discuss best practices for the OCI and the Citizen Complaint Process.

**B) Community Policing, Lieutenant Lashanna Potts.** Lt. Potts reported on the work of the Chief's Neighborhood Liaison. Potts described the following units under the command of the Neighborhood Liaison, Chaplain Corp, Law Enforcement Explorers, Traffic Safety, Jr. Police Cadet Corp, Central Photo, Detroit Police Reserves, Police Athletic League, Media relations and Special Events. Potts also described the following programs under the command of neighborhood policing, L.G.B. T.Q. Liaison, Citizens Police Academy, Youth Police Academy, CITI Camp, Neighborhood Police Officers (NPO), Veterans Liaison, Citizens Radio Patrol and Peace Peddlers. Potts also reviewed past events for 2017 and upcoming events for 2017

**BOPC Standing and Ad hoc Committee Reports: None.**

**Report from the Board Secretary: Mr. Hicks** reported on seven (7) communications received by the Board including undated emergency tow list for Police Authorized Towing, Draft letters requested by the Board on Militarization and Notification, and 4<sup>th</sup> Round Promotional Recommendations from the COP.

**Old Business: None.**

**New Business: None.**

**Announcements:**

Next regular Meeting, Thursday, September 7, 2017 at Public Safety Headquarters at 3:00 PM.  
**September 14, 2017 Meeting is cancelled.**

**Next Community Meeting:** Thursday, September 21, 2017, at the Operating Engineers Local 324, 1550 Howard St., Detroit, MI. 48216

**Oral Communications from the Audience / Public Comments:**

**Mr. Peter Rhoades, Esq.**, suggested a \$2.00 sur-charge on sports and entertainment events to off-set the public safety costs. He suggested that the Board construct a letter to the City Council and Mayor on the same. **Mr. William Davis** indicated his displeasure with billionaires receiving free assistance and encouraged citizens to attend a rally to protest the killing by MSP of Damon Grimes. **Ms. Fredia M. Butler** read the following statement into the record, "On April 6, 2017 I spoke before you about new hires from outside of the city who will be working in the police department. I stated that I have witnessed the best and worst of policing. I also stated my fear regarding Attorney General Jeff Sessions disregarding the policies of President Barack Obama and implementing past policies of imprisoning black and Hispanic men. On August 12, 2017 I saw pictures of a tank manned by officers outside of Detroit engaged in a raid at Ms. Mary Water's home. This activity was based on supposedly a white female from Bloomfield Hills over dosing on drugs. The disrespect of sending a tank and a swat team placed on the roof of Ms. Water's house without notifying Chief Craig is unacceptable. Or did the mayor know and didn't tell the chief? Last Thursday I heard some explanation about a Judge's order, but I and others do not believe that Chief Craig can go into any suburban area with tanks and a swat team, stand on someone's roof without notifying the authorities in that municipality. After the disrespect of our city, I wished Chief Craig had made a statement to the public regarding this matter. We are seeing and taking note of this and the takeover of our schools, water, parks and other entities. The deviousness of President Donald Trump has already addressed officers about how they should treat people who is under arrest. Now he has stated that the police departments may now have and use military style weapons. President Obama had seen the use of military style force during the disturbance in Ferguson, and decided that they did not belong with the police department. Lastly, on August 29, 2017 a few minutes past 12:00 noon, I was leaving my doctor's office waiting to enter Fourteen Mile Road, when a white male yelled, "It's all about you expletive, expletive." Since leaving the South, this was my first time experiencing such behavior. I contributed this to the climate that President Trump has created. Even during the crisis in Texas, I heard a white official say that there will be no division here when a reporter questioned a black mayor about why he didn't order an evacuation earlier". **State Senator Coleman A. Young Jr.**, registered his objection to the use of tanks in ordinary warrant service in the community. Young suggested that the Grimes death by MSP be investigated by the Federal Government. **Ms. Faith**, indicated her appreciation for information about the department and the work of the Department. **Nathanial Lee Jr, and Mrs. Harper-Lee**, both complained about a series of incidents in the neighborhood. Mr. Lee indicated he has talked with the Department. Ms. Lee indicated she has talked with Commander Bliss and Commander Sims and well as OCI.

Motion to adjourn. Accepted by Carter.

**Adjournment. 4:52 PM**