

8/15/2013

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STATE OF MICHIGAN

DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

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Taken at 1301 Third Street

Detroit, Michigan

Commencing at 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 15, 2013

Before Rhonda M. Foster, CSR 3612

COMMISSIONERS:

JEROME L. WARFIELD, Commissioner

GEORGE ANTHONY, Executive Secretary

DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

COMMAND STAFF:

INTERIM ASSISTANT CHIEF EWING

1 Detroit, Michigan
2 Thursday, August 15, 2013
3 About 3:05 p.m.

4 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Good afternoon,
5 ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the Board of
6 Police Commissioners meeting. My name is Jerome
7 Warfield, member of the Board of Police Commissioners.

8 Today both our Chair and Vice Chair are out
9 of town on business. And so we will meet as a
10 committee of the whole. We will not have any voting
11 items today. But we will hear from the Chief's Office,
12 and we will certainly hear from the citizens, as well.

13 At this time I want to ask Mr. George
14 Anthony, who is the Secretary to the Board of Police
15 Commissioners, to introduce our staff that's here.

16 GEORGE ANTHONY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17 For the record, George Anthony, Secretary to
18 the Board.

19 We have present Ms. Pamela Davis-Drake seated
20 in the front row. She is our Chief Investigator. We
21 also have representing the Personnel Bureau, we have
22 Inspector Lashinda Houser seated in the back.

23 Mr. Robert Brown is our Office Manager. And recording
24 our proceedings is Officer Dan Donakowski, assisted by
25 Police Officer Kent Cooper, and Ms. Rhonda Foster, who

1 is from Hanson Court Reporting Service. That completes
2 the introduction.

3 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Thank you.

4 And certainly we want to introduce to you
5 Assistant Chief Ewing, who is representing Chief Craig
6 today at our meeting.

7 Sir, good to have you at the table.

8 INTERIM ASSISTANT CHIEF EWING: Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: At this time, I am
10 going to ask that Pastor Penson, who is Chaplain for
11 the Detroit Police Department, to come and lead us in
12 our invocation.

13 PASTOR PENSON: Amen. May we all bow our
14 heads.

15 Oh, gracious, kind and wonderful heavenly
16 Father, we come before you first and foremost to say
17 thank you.

18 Now we ask your blessings upon this meeting,
19 God. We ask, God, that you bless this Board, bless the
20 echoes of this community, God, for we are here for the
21 purposes of uniting this city and allowing this city to
22 be a brighter place than what it is.

23 We bless your holy name, in Jesus' name.

24 Amen.

25 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Amen.

1 AUDIENCE: Amen.

2 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Thank you, sir.

3 Assistant Chief, anything from the Chief's
4 Office.

5 INTERIM ASSISTANT CHIEF EWING: We have
6 nothing today.

7 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: This is going to
8 be --

9 I am going to ask that we do the OCI report
10 next week, if that's okay, the chief investigation
11 report next week if that's okay.

12 MS. PAMELA DAVIS-DRAKE: It should be.

13 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: And the Secretary's
14 report, as well, next week. I am sorry. Thank you,
15 ma'am.

16 There is no old or new business.

17 At this time, I want to remind you that our
18 next meeting will be August 22nd at 3:00 p.m. here at
19 Police Headquarters.

20 And we want to open up the floor now for oral
21 communications. If you wish to address the Board of
22 Police Commissioners, please come to this podium right
23 here. Give us your name. And you might want to spell
24 it for our recorder so we make sure we get the record
25 right. And we ask that you abide by our two-minute

1 time limit so that we may be able to hear from as many
2 people as possible.

3 You may come at this time, those wishing to
4 address the Board of Police Commissioners.

5 (Deb Sumner handed paperwork to the Board and
6 Reporter.)

7 Thank you, ma'am.

8 Thank you, ma'am.

9 DEB SUMNER: For the record.

10 Hi, good afternoon. Thank you for having the
11 community citizens speak today before you.

12 I am Deb Sumner, D-e-b, S-u-m-n-e-r.

13 I am speaking on behalf of a great woman --
14 actually women that reside in my neighborhood. And
15 they are the moms of a young girl who grew up in our
16 neighborhood, down the street from me, and she is 15
17 now, going on 16, and she was a victim, you know, of
18 alleged rape. So I understand legally politically we
19 are supposed to obviously use "alleged" or -- so...

20 But I -- in Hubbard Farms Historic District,
21 which is within Southwest Detroit, which is within what
22 you might call Mexican Town, you know, we have an
23 amazing, amazing community. The key thing about it is
24 we do behave like a village, looking out for each other
25 and helping raise up the children.

1 I am a founding -- the founding mother of the
2 Clark Park Coalition which has been keeping the
3 recreation center, the youth recreation center within
4 Clark Park open since 1991. And that was when Mayor
5 Coleman Young, Junior was our mayor. So it wouldn't be
6 open if it wasn't for the people of the community
7 working with the City to keep it open or to open it and
8 then keep it open for this 22 years.

9 So you can imagine that we service hundreds,
10 hundreds of children. If you have ever driven by Clark
11 Park, you know that, wow, there's something different
12 about this park and how well it is taken care of, and
13 all of the hundreds of children doing various
14 activities within it.

15 And what -- what we have -- what our
16 community is very, very, very concerned about is, you
17 know, what occurred with the alleged rape incident with
18 the 15-year-old girl and how it was handled. So what
19 we ask today is that our Detroit Police Department
20 keep -- actually prioritize rape of a minor as of the
21 utmost priority of a sex crime in our city. It is, you
22 know, a vulnerable minor.

23 We know that the time -- the timeline of the
24 events that you have in your folder talks about seven
25 hours of waiting in the emergency room for an officer

1 to show up; five days for the forensic police taped
2 review; 19 days for the rape kit to be delivered to
3 Michigan State Crime. And we are still counting,
4 waiting for the arrest warrant.

5 So what we ask is for a more acceptable
6 timetable. We want one hour for the police to respond
7 to a crime scene after dispatched. We want a two-day
8 for forensic taped -- or up to a two-day forensic taped
9 interview. We want within three days maximum for a
10 rape kit to be delivered to the State of Michigan
11 Police. My understanding is many other police
12 departments take their DNA evidence once a day to their
13 forensic lab. Four days to complete an investigation,
14 including search warrants, secure evidence and issue an
15 arrest warrant.

16 We want a tag team. We do not understand why
17 there is not a day DPD officer on every case, and a
18 night DPD officer on the same case. So you need day
19 people to be operating and doing the day things on the
20 same case, as well as a night DPD officer doing the
21 night work. And when an officer goes on vacation, that
22 should not mean that the case goes on vacation.

23 So we have materials within here that we want
24 you to obviously review and take seriously. We also
25 have an International Police Association Policy. It is

1 a model policy of how an investigation of a sexual
2 assault should occur. The problem with this model, it
3 is not -- has no timelines, does not have timelines on
4 it. We have come up with a timeline. We want you to
5 work with us, and we want no other girl to
6 experience -- or any other rape of a woman, to
7 experience the absolute unacceptable timeframes of
8 which this occurred.

9 So thank you very much for your time. And I
10 appreciate it. We do on behalf of the community.
11 Thanks.

12 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Thank you,
13 Ms. Sumner. Could you stand there for a second,
14 please. Because we certainly want to respond to you in
15 kind.

16 You may or may not know that personally, I
17 have been in contact with the victim's mom shortly
18 after the unfortunate incident occurred. And we have
19 been working with her in an effort to make sure that
20 the family as best as possible would be taken care of.

21 DEB SUMNER: M-hum.

22 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: And I believe under
23 the circumstances, and I don't want to go into all the
24 circumstances right now, that the Detroit Police
25 Department has done its very best in trying to do that.

1 And you are right, there were some situations that I
2 personally made some phone calls to make sure that
3 things moved a little bit quicker when it came to my
4 attention that things were somewhat delayed.

5 DEB SUMNER: Somewhat delayed? Extremely
6 delayed.

7 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: I am sorry, ma'am. I
8 am talking.

9 DEB SUMNER: Okay. Extremely delayed.

10 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Again, please.

11 DEB SUMNER: M-hum.

12 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: So we have worked
13 with the mom very directly in an effort to make sure
14 that we take what has been a very traumatic
15 experience --

16 DEB SUMNER: Uh-huh.

17 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: -- and try to ease
18 the pain as much as we can.

19 Please understand that as relates to the
20 issuing of a warrant, there is certain conditions that
21 have to be met, some of which, of course, are out of
22 our control, that remains in the hands of the
23 prosecutor as relates to what they need to do, they
24 have to receive. And so some of the things we -- they
25 are just out of our control. They just are. But

1 please know that we do take this incident extremely
2 serious.

3 DEB SUMNER: M-hum.

4 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Not one day has
5 passed where the Chief has not known about it, where
6 the Chief has not been concerned about it. And so we
7 have definitely done that.

8 Obviously, and certainly I have been and my
9 family have been victims of crime, as well. You always
10 want things to be processed a little sooner. We
11 understand that. We can do better. And that's why we
12 are glad that you submitted the policy. We will review
13 that as the Board. And we will make recommendations to
14 the Chief and to the Department to see how we can fix
15 things. Things that need to be fixed, that's why we
16 are here, to make sure we do that. And so I just want
17 you to know that we have heard your concern.

18 And Chief, I don't know if you there is
19 anything you want to comment on or can comment on
20 because there is an ongoing investigation at this time.

21 INTERIM ASSISTANT CHIEF EWING: I would just
22 like to say you made a comment about taking the sexual
23 assaults of young girls seriously. I assure you --

24 DEB SUMNER: No, with the utmost priority.

25 INTERIM ASSISTANT CHIEF EWING: Well, I

1 assure you the Police Department takes any assault on a
2 female, be it sexual assault or any type of assault,
3 very seriously.

4 DEB SUMNER: M-hum.

5 INTERIM ASSISTANT CHIEF EWING: And that we
6 are working towards making sure that this particular
7 case comes to some type of conclusion. I can't discuss
8 the case.

9 DEB SUMNER: I don't want to know the
10 details.

11 INTERIM ASSISTANT CHIEF EWING: But I assure
12 you that it is being worked on every day.

13 DEB SUMNER: Do you believe that there was
14 extreme delays in the processing?

15 Do you think that five days for a forensic
16 interview to occur when it -- I mean, our understanding
17 was, go to the hospital, have the rape kit test, and
18 there will be an officer to meet you. They waited
19 seven hours. No officer showed.

20 Should it have taken 19 days for the evidence
21 of the DNA and the rape kit test to reach Michigan
22 State Forensic Lab? Nineteen days? What if it would
23 have gotten lost.

24 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Let me say this. I
25 am sorry. Let me say this.

1 Everything about this case is being reviewed
2 as relates to the timeline.

3 DEB SUMNER: Okay. Great. That's what I
4 want to hear.

5 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Yes, ma'am.

6 DEB SUMNER: And can you speak also and
7 review, at least, the concept of working as a tag team?
8 Daytime guys, daytime officers on the same case as the
9 nighttime, so they each can do the work, and that when
10 someone goes on vacation, the case doesn't go on
11 vacation?

12 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Absolutely.

13 DEB SUMNER: Great. Thank you so much.

14 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Thank you for coming.
15 We appreciate it.

16 DEB SUMNER: M-hum.

17 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Are there others who
18 wish to address the Board of Police Commissioners? You
19 may come at this time.

20 And again, if you could just state your name
21 for us. Give us your first and last name. And if you
22 can spell it for our recorder, that will be great.

23 AMY AMADOR: Hi. My name is Amy Amador.

24 A-m-y, A-m-a-d-o-r. I live half a block from where the
25 alleged rape incident occurred. And I know the family,

1 as well.

2 And so I am here to support the family's
3 interest and support the previous speaker and support
4 our community and the wider community to ask that the
5 policy that's been presented be taken seriously. That
6 the timeline that's been requested of the one, two,
7 three, four, be taken seriously. One hour to respond;
8 two hours for forensic taped interview; three days for
9 a rape kit to be delivered to the State Police Crime
10 Lab; and then four days to complete investigation,
11 including search warrants.

12 My brother-in-law was a prosecutor in
13 Chicago, and he had told me when he was a prosecutor
14 there in the late '90s, whenever they had a rape
15 incident, they would -- if they knew where the
16 individual was, the alleged rapist was, they would go
17 out, do the arrest, and then they would get the
18 evidence. And they could get it within the timeframe
19 that they needed to get it in in order to do the
20 arrest.

21 So I am thinking that if Chicago can do it, I
22 know we are under a lot of burdens financially, but I
23 am hoping that as things get changed with the Chief,
24 that we are able to achieve that and be a model city
25 and surpass Chicago.

1 I know the feeling also is seeking to engage
2 in the restorative justice process. And so I am not
3 sure you are familiar, how much you are working with
4 that, but I would ask that you cooperate with the
5 family as they go through that process and try to find
6 a resolution that way, as well.

7 Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Thank you. Thank you
9 for your comments. We appreciate that.

10 Sir, before you come, real quick, because I
11 want to be able to hear from all on this subject. If
12 that's okay with you.

13 JOSE ARMSTRONG, SR.: That's fine.

14 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: So if there are
15 others who want to speak on the subject, I am going to
16 give you the floor right now to come if you wish to
17 speak and you can come to the podium right now because
18 we certainly want to hear.

19 And I will give you another indication. I
20 also sit on the Board of Southwest Solutions, and I can
21 tell you that we are also looking as an organization of
22 Southwest Solutions as it relates to how we can do our
23 policies and procedures and try to prevent this from
24 happening in the future, as well. So we are looking at
25 this on more than one front, just so you know.

1 RAQUEL GARCIA ANDRESEN: So we are going to
2 give you all of our names.

3 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Appreciate that.

4 RAQUEL GARCIA ANDRESEN: Raquel Garcia
5 Andresen, R-a-q-u-e-l, G-a-r-c-i-a, A-n-d-r-e-s-e-n.

6 KAITY NICASTRI: I am Kaity Nicastri,
7 K-a-i-t-y, N-i-c-a-s-t-r-i.

8 JOAN SMITH: I am Joan Smith, J-o-a-n,
9 S-m-i-t-h.

10 RAQUEL GARCIA ANDRESEN: We are also
11 residents of Southwest Detroit, but we work all over
12 the city.

13 KAITY NICASTRI: And the state.

14 RAQUEL GARCIA ANDRESEN: And the other thing,
15 doing sort of the social justice work and being good
16 neighbors and good residents in the community. And we
17 are here to stand with the family and the young girl.
18 We are asking that we review the model policy that was
19 presented. That's a best practice. And that we come
20 really close to getting a lot of these doable things
21 done; that we can do this. You know. We can work on
22 this, and find out why there was such a delay so that
23 it doesn't happen again. Because it destroys a
24 community. There's been so much dialogue and tension
25 and sadness in our community, and I can't even

1 understand like why we are still waiting for an arrest.

2 And, you know, we worked to get the vote out.
3 We talked to people about voting and making this a
4 better city, and, you know, and then something like
5 this happens and we get thrown back to the beginning
6 when we can't -- we are depending on our laws, you
7 know, and that's -- we are adults, you know, we are
8 talking about a 16-year-old, almost a 16-year-old.

9 And once this is completed, I would hope that
10 the Commission would come to Southwest Detroit, and I
11 know you can't speak on the case right now, but I would
12 like to know what happened. I know we can't talk about
13 it now, and we have a lot of friends all over Detroit,
14 and I think that we are going to be talking to other
15 neighbors and other, you know, we have friends on the
16 Eastside and all over the place, to see -- to make sure
17 that they understand it is our duty tell people what
18 happened. With respect to the family, to let them know
19 that we are here. And that, you know, that they can
20 address you in a respectful manner. And that we are
21 also prepared to continue to ask for information and to
22 FOIA after the fact. We want to know what happened.
23 And, you know, not to create -- kick up dust, not to do
24 anything like that, but because we want to make sure
25 that this doesn't happen again. That we address the

1 policies that clearly are not working.

2 I don't know if you want to say anything.

3 KAITY NICASTRI: I don't know exactly how you
4 guys work with social work fields or social service
5 organizations in the neighborhood, but I work with
6 social work and social work organizations. And so I
7 was wondering what your policy is in regards to working
8 with places like Southwest Solutions to ensure that
9 people who are suspected of a crime or who are known to
10 have certain tendencies that might be a danger to the
11 community are being handled.

12 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Right. Is that your
13 only question?

14 KAITY NICASTRI: My only question.

15 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: We work, the
16 Department and the Board, work often with -- on
17 neighborhood organizations, and individuals, often,
18 when -- and this is the forum that it happens in, when
19 people will come and say, we have this particular issue
20 going on on our block or in our neighborhood, can you
21 give us some special attention? And we do that.

22 Let me say this, and you all know this, as
23 well, already. This is not a typical case. And
24 because it is not a typical case, there are very
25 special conditions and very special procedures that we

1 have to follow because of both of the individuals that
2 are involved in the case. And if we do not do that, or
3 if we do not do our due diligence, then we run the risk
4 of victimizing the one young lady, and possibly the
5 gentleman, as well. And you say you stand with the
6 girl. We have to stand with the girl and the guy.
7 Because unfortunately, he has been victimized. And we
8 do not have all of the information in. And so we
9 cannot rush to judgment.

10 We are actively working on the case. We are
11 reviewing all the stuff that's coming in. But rest
12 assured, there is not a day that goes by that that case
13 is not in our forefront. And we are working on it very
14 diligently.

15 So if there is ever an issue that's in the
16 neighborhood or on your block that you need special
17 attention to, that's why this meeting is here. Because
18 we represent the citizens, as well as the Department.
19 And so we welcome -- as a matter of fact, I asked the
20 mom to invite you all to come so that you can have this
21 forum and so that you can meet the brass of the
22 Department, and so that they can see and hear you
23 directly to know, you know, what can we do to make this
24 better? So this is the right forum to be at.

25 KAITY NICASTRI: So I guess do social service

1 organizations in every neighborhood, especially those
2 working with both mental illnesses or social illnesses,
3 are you guys sending out that this meeting happens
4 every week? Because I am sure that some people may not
5 be aware.

6 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: It is posted in every
7 library --

8 KAITY NICASTRI: Okay.

9 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: -- around the city of
10 Detroit, posted on the website, on Detroit City's
11 website, of course on our website as well it is posted.

12 We also meet in the communities every
13 second -- every second Thursday, we rotate throughout
14 the city of Detroit. Meet in the community. We have
15 met in Southwest Detroit several times at the Southwest
16 precinct there. We have even met I think it was the
17 Boys and Girls Club, YMC -- the Recreation Center. I
18 came to that meeting on crutches because I literally
19 had just had my knees reoperated on, and so remember
20 that vividly, and I was in pain. So we do try to get
21 out to the various communities and meet. And so we
22 don't just stay downtown, but we take it out to the
23 communities.

24 KAITY NICASTRI: Okay.

25 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: And you can see

1 Mr. Anderson, who is our office manager -- Mr. Brown,
2 sorry, who is our -- trying to marry you off, who is
3 our office manager, and he can update you on our
4 meeting schedules and where we are from week to week.
5 But on the second Thursday of every month, we are out
6 in the community.

7 KAITY NICASTRI: Okay.

8 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: And that's the
9 evening meeting. That's a 6:30 meeting. So hopefully
10 more people can make that.

11 Thank you.

12 JOAN SMITH: I think the main thing that I
13 would like to emphasize is the importance of
14 participating in the restorative justice process and
15 also sending documentation to the community explaining
16 the ways that you have adopted this model policy,
17 should that happen. I think that communicating with
18 the community as a method of ensuring accountability is
19 extremely important. So I would like to stress those
20 points that have been made.

21 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Thank you.

22 Appreciate it. Thank all three of you.

23 Are there others who wish to speak on this
24 issue? You can come at this time.

25 Yes, ma'am.

1 ANNE FLEMING: My name is Anne Fleming,
2 A-n-n-e, F-l-e-m-i-n-g.

3 And just to follow up and to reiterate some
4 of the points there, because I think we do all
5 appreciate what the Detroit Police Department is doing,
6 and we are grateful for that. And we understand that
7 the day that this alleged assault happened, that there
8 were 13 other assaults that day also, and there was a
9 backlog of 200 and some assault cases that the officer
10 was dealing with. So we know it is a big job. And we
11 appreciate what's being done.

12 I guess I would just add that the model
13 policy that's being spoken about was adopted by the
14 International Chiefs of Police Association in 2005. So
15 it has a lot of credibility. And I think a lot of
16 various astute persons went into the -- their thinking
17 went into the making of the policy there.

18 And then just to add that the alleged
19 perpetrator -- that the family certainly are very
20 concerned about the daughter who was assaulted, but
21 also very concerned about the perpetrator, realizing
22 that that person also is in need of support and help
23 and assistance. And within I would say, I can't
24 remember the number of days, but perhaps ten days or
25 so, that the perpetrator was picked up, taken in for a

1 psychiatric evaluation, as I understand it, and then
2 was being released to the police, and we were hoping
3 that he would remain in custody, but then learned a few
4 days later that he had been returned to the
5 neighborhood. And it was at that time that he himself
6 was victimized by an attack, which was very
7 unfortunate. And so him being in custody is not only
8 for the protection of the young woman and other young
9 women, and the neighborhood, but for himself, as well.

10 So I thank you. I think there are a lot of
11 victims. And we understand now that the alleged
12 perpetrator has moved from our neighborhood to another
13 neighborhood, and that concerns us too because what
14 care is he getting there? And do the persons in that
15 neighborhood understand what his needs are and his
16 being and that kind of care?

17 So thank you. And we do look forward when
18 this case is completed, to, you know, following up, and
19 if there is a change in our current policy here in
20 Detroit, what those changes are and such. So thank
21 you.

22 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Ms. Fleming, first of
23 all, I want to say thank you for coming to the meeting
24 and for sharing your thoughts, and I think you hit the
25 nail on the head, as well as the others. We definitely

1 need to look at our policies to make sure that they
2 protect as best as possible the citizens of the City,
3 and if there's some antiquated policies that need to be
4 updated and changed, we will certainly look at that and
5 we will look at it fairly quickly and make the
6 necessary changes. That is not a problem.

7 And I think you brought up the other point.
8 We said it here in the meeting just a few weeks ago,
9 that our concern was certainly for the young lady, but
10 we also said in this meeting, when no one was here from
11 the community, that our concern was also for the young
12 man, because we did not want him to get injured as a
13 result of this close knit community. And we said it
14 here, that is a very close knit community, that family
15 is well-loved throughout the community. And so we were
16 concerned about both ends. And that is the absolute
17 right approach that you said. We will follow-up. We
18 believe that there will be a debriefing after, you
19 know, everything is closed, and we will be able to make
20 I think a new path forward and be able to pick up some
21 good learning clues from this.

22 So I thank you for being engaged like you
23 are.

24 JOAN SMITH: Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Yes, ma'am.

1 Are there others who wish to talk on this
2 topic before I --

3 BERNICE SMITH: We have a State rep.

4 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Thank you, Mother
5 Smith.

6 Are there others who wish to talk?

7 We certainly recognize State Rep Rashida
8 Tlaib who is here. If you want to come, ma'am, you can
9 come at this time, as well.

10 RASHIDA TLAIB: Thank you so much,
11 Commissioner Warfield. I want to -- I know a lot of --

12 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: I'm sorry, for the
13 record, state your name.

14 RASHIDA TLAIB: State Representative Rashida
15 Tlaib.

16 I know that you have been as concerned as
17 many of us in regards to this, and we appreciate your
18 advocacy.

19 I think a lot of my residents, you know, I am
20 really proud of their approach to this because they
21 don't only see, you know, let's lock him up, let's
22 just, you know, forget his rights, forget the fact that
23 our system failed him. They truly understand, I think,
24 that this is a learning experience. We want the
25 tragedy that happened in Southwest Detroit to be a

1 learning one, and for us to be able to put these
2 policies together, because that victim, who is this
3 amazingly beautiful, kind and warm young woman in our
4 community, that we all have been part of raising her,
5 more the Hubbard Farms residents than even I, and so it
6 is so important that her tragedy is not -- at least
7 taking what happened to her and making something great
8 out of it by implementing these policies.

9 But I just have to tell you, honesty is so
10 important through this whole process. And I sometimes
11 feel like it is this "us and them" approach. And it
12 can't be like that anymore.

13 You know, I always appreciate when the
14 Michigan State Police tells me, I don't have the rape
15 kit, or it is not going to be expedited. That's not
16 case here. I am just trying to give you an example.
17 But when I look to all of my public safety officers,
18 that I love and adore and respect and know how hard it
19 is out there right now, and I will fight for you, don't
20 worry, but I feel, you know, this is a partnership, and
21 it has to be transparent and open. If mistakes were
22 made, let's say that. And let's, you know, acknowledge
23 it. And then move from there and make sure that it
24 doesn't happen again.

25 And I want to somehow through this experience

1 be able to have a much more better working relationship
2 with my local precinct and district, as well as, you
3 know, obviously with my Chief -- our new Chief. And so
4 I just want to put that out there. I know that, you
5 know, this -- the fact that my residents researched on
6 their own without even me or anybody the national model
7 of how to deal with sexual assault and are telling us,
8 this is what we need to do, that to me alone speaks
9 volumes of the willingness in the partnership that our
10 residents are here and trying to relay to you as
11 commissioners.

12 So I just want to thank you guys for that and
13 thank you for listening to them, and I hope -- and I
14 will remember, I am still young, I will remember this
15 moment, that if it happens again, I will remind all of
16 us, here we are again, and it is still not anything
17 being done.

18 So thank you very much.

19 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Thank you, ma'am.

20 Are there others who wish to speak on this
21 particular topic? Any others?

22 Okay. Thank you so very much for waiting.
23 You may come at this time.

24 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: And again, give us
25 your name for the record. Thank you.

1 JOSE ARMSTRONG, SR.: Jose, J-o-s-e,
2 Armstrong, Senior.

3 First I want to start off by saying God bless
4 Detroit and those that serve and protect it.

5 I have a situation. And my situation falls
6 short of the situation I am sitting here hearing. But
7 yet it is important too.

8 I was arrested last night for interference.
9 Okay. I was at an accident scene. And at the accident
10 scene, I was the first person before the accident even
11 started or happened.

12 I pulled up behind a car at 10:30 at night
13 that was sitting catty corner in a lane stationary at a
14 light. When I pulled behind it and the light turned
15 green, it didn't pull off. I waited a minute. But I
16 went around it. I didn't know if it was some young
17 guys or something in that car, so I didn't stop to see
18 what was going on, but I proceeded with caution to see
19 what was going on.

20 Well, after I went, the car started to pull
21 forward, but it did it in a zigzag motion. Very
22 slowly.

23 The truck that was coming behind it tried to
24 go around it, but it couldn't.

25 I noticed after that, the acceleration, high

1 speed, pedal to the floor, car veered to the park lane,
2 smashed head in to the back of a Cadillac, full speed.
3 Still hearing the motor racing.

4 At that time, I pulled over because I was
5 going to go back and help whoever the individual was,
6 because I thought they might have been having a medical
7 emergency, seeing that it was a mile from the hospital.

8 In doing so, I started to back up and park.
9 The car came in reverse, pulled into the middle of the
10 street, we are on Moross Road in Detroit, Eastside, off
11 94. Between Beaconsfield and 94 at this time.

12 It stopped in the middle of the street, for a
13 second or two. The truck tried to get around it again.
14 Once again, the pedal went all the way to the floor,
15 hitting the truck in the side, turning the truck around
16 in the street.

17 At this time I thought that was going to be
18 the end of the accident. I was going to jump out, help
19 the individuals, whoever was hurt, call the police, get
20 something done. It wasn't the end. The pedal never
21 came off the floor. After she got through pushing, I
22 learned later it was a woman, after she got through
23 pushing this vehicle, she went up on the median, and
24 did 60 to 70 miles an hour down the center median
25 through trees, crossing over on the west side of

1 Seven Mile on the wrong side of the street going across
2 the freeway, hitting three or four cars, then going up
3 on the median on the other side of 94, where a traffic
4 sign got lodged up under her tire, in her tire, and
5 brought her to a stop.

6 I know she was going 60, 70 miles an hour
7 because I am on the other side trying to go 40,
8 50 miles an hour to stop the traffic that would be
9 going this way.

10 Well, I went around the median, Michigan U,
11 stopped, put my flashers on, to go help the individual
12 in the car. By this time the neighbors come out, there
13 is four or five of us there and we opened the door. It
14 was cloudy in the car. The air bags deployed. The
15 lady is sitting in there incoherent. She don't know
16 what happened, how it happened, nothing.

17 I noticed she had a hospital bandage on her
18 leg. When she opened the door, the purse fell out. It
19 had some medication in it. A young man that was at the
20 scene picked it up, saw it was Tylenol 4s. We asked
21 her had she been drinking. She said no. We asked her
22 had she taken any medication. She said yeah, maybe a
23 couple hours ago, she took two Tylenol 4s.

24 At this time, it took 20 minutes before the
25 police got there. She was in and out of consciousness,

1 coherence. She don't understand what we are saying or
2 nothing really.

3 By this time the police pulled up, they
4 pulled down at the other accident scenes, make they
5 were all right, and they walked down to where we were
6 at. The officer walks up, I back up, give him room to
7 do what he is doing in his investigation because I have
8 been through this before.

9 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Take your time.

10 JOSE ARMSTRONG, SR.: He comes up. Asks her
11 for her license and registration, proof of insurance,
12 getting the VIN number off the car, paperwork
13 basically. Not if you are okay. Is everybody over
14 here all right? How many are in the car? Nothing.

15 At this point, I explain to him, she don't
16 know what you are saying. She is trying to use her
17 coin purse as a phone. He is not even looking at this.
18 So I steps up and tell him this. Sergeant walks up,
19 hits me on the shoulder like that. And tell me to go
20 home.

21 I tell him, first of all, you don't put your
22 hands on a grown man that ain't did nothing. Second of
23 all, you can't tell me to go home, and I am the only
24 one at this scene that seen it from start to finish. I
25 should be here to tell her family or whoever what's

1 going on. Not arguing, just telling him. I step
2 aside, though, get in my vehicle, move it out of the
3 street, because I didn't want that to be an issue.
4 Come back, stand 15 feet away from the scene because,
5 once again, I done been through this. Asked the lady
6 who came out of her house to help, to come here for a
7 minute so I can give her my information to give to the
8 family or to the lady in case they needed it.

9 He told me if I didn't go home he was going
10 to arrest me. And that's what he did.

11 This is the ticket that I got this morning
12 when they took me to court for me to be arraigned. And
13 also I missed work. Who knows if I am going to get
14 fired or not? I drive a garbage truck for City of
15 Royal Oak.

16 And I had just got through doing my community
17 support, because when I got off work, I just cleaned up
18 around a whole building on Kelly and Courville, the
19 grass out the street, the dirt off the curbs, off the
20 sidewalk, everything. When I get off work, I put six
21 more hours in my community where I am starting a
22 community organization. And right now, right now, I am
23 going to tell you what it is. It is called Detroit
24 Strong. Striving Together Reviving Our Neighborhoods
25 Growth. And we can't do it with people like that in

1 sergeant positions.

2 Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Mr. Armstrong, if you
4 can stay right there for a second.

5 First of all, your story is no less
6 compelling. So first of all, we thank you for coming.

7 This Board is here in part and parcel when
8 citizens like yourself feel that your civil liberties
9 have been invaded.

10 And so two things. I will let the Chief's
11 office speak to you in a minute.

12 But one of the things I want you to do, the
13 young lady sitting right here to your left is our Chief
14 Investigator. She will take your name, take a report,
15 and we will do an investigation.

16 But more importantly, I am going to ask our
17 Board Secretary to get your information immediately so
18 that if there is something that we need to do as
19 relates to your job, we want to do that immediately.
20 If we need to send a note or a letter to them, we want
21 to do that. So have her and Mr. Anthony can coordinate
22 this very quickly, because I don't want you to lose
23 your job over something like this.

24 Certainly, I apologize, up front, because --
25 and I think the Department will tell you that that's

1 not the way it should happen. And none of us was
2 there, obviously, there's always more sides to a story.
3 But I mean, your detail is very compelling. Without
4 question.

5 So we will do everything we can to
6 investigate this situation. But in the more immediate,
7 what we will do, we will make sure that we get with you
8 and your employer, that if there were mistakes made on
9 our part, we will try and settle that immediately and
10 quickly so that your job won't be in jeopardy.

11 JOSE ARMSTRONG, SR.: Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Chief, do you have
13 anything?

14 INTERIM ASSISTANT CHIEF EWING: Yeah, I
15 apologize you have that type of experience with any
16 police officer in the City of Detroit. I just ask that
17 you speak with Sergeant Snograss, be a part of that
18 conversation. He will take your information. We will
19 get back with you.

20 JOSE ARMSTRONG, SR.: Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: And Mr. Anderson, I
22 will give you my personal cell phone number. If there
23 is anything you need, you can give me a call directly
24 and we will try and help you.

25 JOSE ARMSTRONG, SR.: Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Okay.

2 JOSE ARMSTRONG, SR.: Appreciate it.

3 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Any others wishing to
4 address the Board of Police Commissioners?

5 RON SCOTT: Good afternoon.

6 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Good afternoon, sir.

7 RON SCOTT: Ron Scott, Detroit Coalition
8 Against Police Brutality.

9 I hope that the mayor sees fit to configure
10 the Board so that we can have a quorum at some point,
11 if the mayor is still running the City, and that's my
12 concern.

13 I am about up to here with the fact that we
14 have a dictatorial government in the city. I have
15 never seen this in my lifetime in the worst of times.
16 I am livid about the fact that in 1999, we called for
17 the election of a Board of Police Commissioners. I am
18 very concerned now with the fact that it has been
19 policy since Coleman Young was elected to have the
20 Board appoint the personnel director. I understand
21 that is not the case. That was done for a reason. For
22 those of you not old enough to remember back in those
23 days, that's the reason why there was no Deputy Chief
24 Ewing sitting up there. Because certain people were
25 not allowed to be appointed. And the good old boy

1 network played its way into the process. So we didn't
2 have a transparent, clean and objective process.

3 I am concerned about the Manhattan Institute,
4 in view of Judge Scheindlin's decision on stop and
5 frisk, that this is one of the consultants that's being
6 rendered here in the city. We don't intend to allow it
7 to happen even though it may be happening in some form.
8 I am concerned about it because the Board of Police
9 Commission is one of the last arbiters in terms of
10 citizen oversight. Led the way in this country. And I
11 really don't want to see it nullified by edict of a
12 nonelected entity for an elected body which has
13 tremendous opportunities and hopes.

14 So I would like to ask the Commission to have
15 a public hearing about the latitude, the powers, the
16 responsibilities, the duties, and the future of the
17 Board of Police Commission in the future in this city
18 as the quasi-government or the super government is
19 being imposed on the City of Detroit.

20 There are those of us who have to keep this
21 before the public because of all of these little things
22 that are happening are chipping away and tearing away,
23 and I think we should have the same righteous
24 indignation that the members of the DIA have. They
25 said you are not going to take our art, and we will sue

1 you. And I think just like that class of people has
2 their concerns, we have similar concerns.

3 I know Mr. Armstrong from the last time he
4 was here. You need to be here and have the full
5 authority to do that. And furthermore, to use subpoena
6 power if you have to. You have never used it, but the
7 Board needs to flex its muscles, because if you don't,
8 you are going to get knocked out of the water.

9 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Mr. Scott, first of
10 all, thank you. And, you know, certainly I agree with
11 you flat out. I mean, no argument there whatsoever. I
12 think your idea of having a public hearing on the
13 policy and procedures, the role, and even the power of
14 the Police Commission moving forward, I think is
15 timely, and we need to schedule that, and we certainly
16 will schedule it.

17 As you know, those of you who come to the
18 meetings regularly know that we sent letters I think
19 twice to the mayor and to the Emergency Manager
20 alerting them on the quorum status of this Board.

21 You know from past discussions, if I have had
22 a disagreement with the Department or with the mayor of
23 this city, it has never been over anything personal,
24 but it has always been on the Charter, and what this
25 Board's responsibility is as it is laid out in the

1 Charter. And I think that is important because it is
2 the citizens ultimately that determine the course of
3 what they want this particular Board to do, to say, and
4 what they want it to enact.

5 And it is not insignificant that the
6 personnel director of this Department was fired by the
7 person -- by persons that did not hire them. And
8 fired. Now, we understand the order was given, and
9 that's true, and we have seen the order. The order was
10 given by the Emergency Manager, giving the Chief of
11 Police that authority to do it. We understand that.
12 We get that. But we also understand the history. We
13 understand how quickly things can change.

14 And history has a funny way of repeating
15 itself if you allow it to go unchecked. And so I think
16 those are discussions that we need to have moving
17 forward, so that the citizens, not the four sitting at
18 the table, but the citizens don't lose their voice and
19 their power in a Department that could easily regress
20 back to the way that it was prior to there being a
21 Police Commission.

22 RON SCOTT: Right. And just in conclusion, I
23 thank you for the deference of time. I too want to
24 join in in thanking the residents of Southwest Detroit
25 for coming forward. Because some of you may remember

1 some years ago there was a meeting that was held at
2 Belle Isle to focus on the whole question of mental
3 health and how the Department was to deal with that.
4 There was never a major follow-up on that. And I think
5 that we need to revisit that too. And I think, you
6 know, spiritually, the hearts and the attitudes of
7 these residents are in the right place. But I think we
8 need to look at that again and look at how we can raise
9 mental health through a situation. So it is not -- it
10 is not about race, gender, whatever. It is about the
11 well-being of the people in the neighborhood. So I
12 want to thank them too. And if you don't exist, they
13 can't come here, nor can I. So I just put a pin in it,
14 and I think we should move as quickly as possible to
15 have that discussion.

16 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Thank you, sir.

17 Are there others who wish to address the
18 Board at this time?

19 TOM STIDHAM: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair,
20 Mr. Secretary, Deputy Chief Ewing. My name is Tom
21 Stidham, S-t-i-d-h-a-m.

22 And I am here today on behalf of a client of
23 mine who I am not going to name. He is a
24 police-authorized tower. He is also proud to serve
25 as -- his company as a tower of abandoned vehicles for

1 the police department.

2 And as this Board knows, for probably going
3 on what seems like now two years, this Board has fought
4 courageously against efforts to usurp its authority and
5 divert some of its supervisory authority over the
6 towing services matters elsewhere.

7 And recently, I believe it was last week or
8 towards the end of last week, my client received
9 something in the mail from the Municipal Parking
10 Department. And then he received a call from the
11 Municipal Parking Department advising or directing him,
12 instructing him, to appear at a date and time for his
13 interview. They required -- they sent -- then sent
14 this package to him, and under the heading of Municipal
15 Parking Department, requiring all the information which
16 the company has, but we were somewhat perplexed as to
17 why we would have to provide that to Municipal Parking.

18 Subsequent to that, he received a phone call
19 from Management Services, and the officer there
20 instructed him to provide basically everything that is
21 in this package, to the officer. So my client
22 faithfully did that, turned it over to the officer, was
23 told I believe it was the day or two after by the
24 officer that the officer then turned it over to
25 Municipal Parking.

1 So what appears to be happening, again, is
2 yet they are -- I am not sure the number, but another
3 concerted effort to take away the abandoned vehicle
4 towing and place it under the auspices of the Municipal
5 Parking Department. And I don't know, first of all, if
6 this is a prefatory matter, is this Board even aware of
7 this effort?

8 And secondly, I was hoping that, Deputy
9 Chief, someone from -- I don't think it is under your
10 jurisdiction anymore, but I don't know if another D.C.
11 is here to address the matter, give us some feedback
12 perhaps maybe at the next meeting, and some -- quite
13 frankly, my clients are looking for some instruction
14 from the Board. Do we have to follow this, if this
15 doesn't come from the Board and this doesn't come from
16 the Emergency Manager.

17 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Well, I will say
18 this, and I have said it before, but sometimes what we
19 say at this table is followed, and sometimes it is not.
20 When this issue came up a while ago, and someone was
21 trying to force you all to sign a letter, the Board
22 said, don't do it.

23 TOM STIDHAM: Correct.

24 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Although there there
25 were some towers who did it anyway. And it is hard to

1 keep it -- it is hard to keep the Board's authority as
2 relates to towing in check when we follow the Charter
3 and yet when towers choose which commands or which
4 dictates to follow or not to follow, coming from
5 outside the Board. So I will repeat what I said
6 before. Until the Charter is changed, or until the
7 Emergency Manager issues an order, the Charter is still
8 in effect. And one of the things that we probably need
9 is someone from the EM's office, if not the EM himself,
10 to make a declaration, either the Board is still in
11 effect and its powers and authority is still, you know,
12 maintained or it is not. And if it is not, then let's
13 stop the charade and let's all stop meeting here and
14 wasting our time. But it needs to be one way or
15 another.

16 So I will say if any of the towers get a
17 request from Municipal Parking which has nothing to do
18 with police-authorized towing according to the City
19 Charter, gets that request to come interview, tell them
20 no.

21 And if they are members within the Department
22 that's taking information from our towers and then
23 passing it along, we need to know about that. And we
24 will make that inquiry. But we cannot have this
25 behind-the-back usurping of information in an effort to

1 fix or change a system. If you want to change the
2 system, then just do it the right way. And that's been
3 this Board's policy from day one. If you want to take
4 over towing, just do it the right way. Change the
5 charter.

6 Our job is to hold up again. Any arguments
7 we have gotten over, it is because of the Charter and
8 the mandated responsibility that's been given to this
9 Board.

10 So my answer to you in that situation is if
11 that continues to happen, tell the towers no. We will
12 wait on a report from the Chief's office, and they will
13 tell us if they know anything about it. But Municipal
14 Parking as related to City Code and City Charter has
15 nothing to do with police-authorized towing, plain and
16 simple.

17 TOM STIDHAM: If I can just address the
18 Chair, through the Chair, one of the issues that the
19 towers find themselves in, I think this happened -- you
20 hit it right on the head, previously, this happened, is
21 they were told by what you just said one thing, then
22 you have these other forces that are telling them, you
23 have to sign this or else. And we are back right at
24 the exact same position where Municipal Parking
25 instructed my client, you have to be there or --

1 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Well, if no tower
2 shows up, if no tower signed those letters, who are we
3 going to get to tow? It is just plain and simple.

4 TOM STIDHAM: One of the other things I would
5 ask, Mr. Chair, if we could get some firm commitment,
6 because the Municipal Parking Department is insistent
7 on holding these interviews and documentation next
8 week. And if we can get some commitment from the
9 Department on when we can have some definitive answers
10 from somebody that knows this, or ask that somebody
11 with the knowledge, with the requisite knowledge, can
12 appear.

13 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Sure.

14 INTERIM ASSISTANT CHIEF EWING: You know, we
15 have met before on some similar issues. If you call --
16 contact my office tomorrow, we will set up a time, I
17 will make sure you get those answers, and through the
18 Chair, next week we will report back to you.

19 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Or if you can get
20 those -- as soon as you get those answers, just give
21 Robert a call or George a call and let us know.

22 TOM STIDHAM: Thank you, sir.

23 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: So towers, stop
24 following other people's advice. We have got a Charter
25 still in effect. If you do it, and they tell you to do

1 it, you know it is against the Charter, then it is your
2 own fault. Sorry.

3 Yes, ma'am.

4 BERNICE SMITH: We ready?

5 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Yes, ma'am.

6 BERNICE SMITH: Good afternoon. Bernice
7 Smith, political activist.

8 Chief, I was looking for the other Chief. He
9 told me on the radio he was going to be here. But
10 anyway, I will accept you today.

11 To the Chair, and to our -- first of all, I
12 want to bring back Southwest Detroit. See, I belonged
13 there before any of you young ladies were probably in
14 school. That was in '61 when I came from Chicago. I
15 know the crooks in Chicago, too, because I played in
16 politics.

17 What I want to let you know, you have my
18 deepest sympathy for what happened over there in
19 Southwest Detroit. But when I was walking the hallways
20 at Maybury, Earhart and Western, it wasn't
21 International, so you know how long it was in the '60s
22 and the '70s.

23 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Ma'am, would you
24 address me?

25 BERNICE SMITH: I will. I just wanted to

1 make her comfortable in knowing that I know what they
2 are going through, but it wasn't as hard as it is now.
3 And if there was any problems, the parents were able to
4 take care of it. We had it under control.

5 Now, this is an outside incident, so
6 therefore, we were not aware of all of the things that
7 were happening. But I want you to know, you waited too
8 long. When it happened on the 29th, I believe, you
9 should have went to the police station and found out
10 any information on it, went to the police station.

11 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Ma'am.

12 BERNICE SMITH: Went to the police station.

13 CHAIRMAN WARFIELD: No, no. Don't change the
14 podium, please, ma'am.

15 BERNICE SMITH: They could have went to the
16 police station.

17 See, I am a former police commissioner. He
18 is taking advantage of me. But anyway, I am going to
19 be back on that Board.

20 Anyway, what I want to let you know, when it
21 happened and you knew the perpetrator, I feel as though
22 that the men should have taken over then. I am not
23 supposed to tell you to do this.

24 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Ma'am.

25 BERNICE SMITH: I know. I know. I am out of

1 order. Anyway, I will take it back.

2 But I want you to know you have my sympathy
3 in regards to this young lady because I have three
4 daughters, and I was very protective of them. But the
5 fact is there's certain things that happen in your
6 neighborhood. As a matter of fact, I belong to the
7 300, we were over there when you had the drug dealing.
8 So you know I am familiar with it.

9 And my dear State Rep there, I love her to
10 death, and I have always told her, give us a
11 representative in your city council. She is sitting
12 there grinning. So you know I am familiar with the
13 situation over there, but not something that is as
14 horrible as this is. And I know how you are feeling.
15 And I do wish for you to take care. And the next time
16 it happens, don't wait so long. Come to us, and come
17 to the Police Commission so you can know what's going
18 on here in the City. Not when something directly
19 happens to you.

20 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Ma'am.

21 BERNICE SMITH: Come to us immediately and
22 let us know because we have got some good police. And
23 now you have the Chief. I am familiar with his
24 program. I talked with him. He was on our program
25 this morning. And I did give him some information in

1 regards to some things that are happening. In the
2 meantime, he is very, very compassionate. So you can
3 go to him and talk to him and let him know. As a
4 matter of fact, he gave out his telephone number, and I
5 was surprised at that.

6 But anyway, to the Chair, I am going to sit
7 down, because I know you don't want me to talk anymore,
8 but I did have to tell them --

9 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Yes, ma'am.

10 BERNICE SMITH: -- that I know how they feel
11 over there in Southwest Detroit, because we did have a
12 good area over there. I was involved with it. As a
13 matter of fact, I helped nominate the first black
14 principal at Earhart. So you know that's been way in
15 the '70s. So I am very familiar with it. My children
16 still go to the Western High School Reunion in Clark
17 Park. I used to push my kids in the swing there in
18 Clark Park. But anyway, again, I want them to be
19 vigilant about what happened in their neighborhood.
20 And don't let us know about it two or three weeks
21 later.

22 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Thank you, ma'am.

23 BERNICE SMITH: Take care of it immediately.
24 Thank you very much for your time. I will sit down
25 now.

1 COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Thank you.

2 Are there others who wish to address the
3 Board of Police Commission? Are there others who wish
4 to address the Board?

5 All right. Seeing none, we will close that
6 section of our meeting.

7 Let me say this, just so you -- because I
8 think it is important for the public to know, when the
9 Chair, whether it is myself or whether it is our
10 Chairperson Commissioner Taylor, when we ask you to
11 address the Chair, it is not to be disrespectful to
12 you. It is that we might not make anything personal.
13 Anything coming through the Chair or from the Chair,
14 then it rests with this seat. And that way we won't be
15 personal, one with another. And it asks for an orderly
16 and efficient meeting. So certainly we are not trying
17 to be rude. We are just trying to follow proper
18 protocol in an effort that we might not be offensive to
19 anyone in the meeting.

20 I certainly want to thank all of you for
21 coming. We meet every week with the exception of
22 Christmas week and Thanksgiving week and the New Year's
23 week, but we certainly invite you to all of our
24 meetings. If there is anything we can do to help you
25 personally, please let us know.

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At this time we will adjourn the meeting.

Anything you have, sir?

INTERIM ASSISTANT CHIEF EWING: No, sir.

COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Thank you. God bless
you.

(Proceedings concluded at 4:04 p.m.)

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