

Draft Minutes Detroit Board of Police Commissioners

Date of Meeting: June 29, 2017 – 3:00 PM

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

Chairman Willie Bell called the BOPC meeting to order at 3:00 PM (June 29, 2017)

Detroit Police Commission Membership / Attendance	Attend	Not-Attend
Willie E. Bell, Chair	Yes	
Vacant, Vice Chair	N/A	
Elizabeth Brooks	Yes	
Willie E. Burton	Yes	
Lisa Carter (3:31PM)	Yes	
Reginald Crawford	Excused	
Eva Dewaelsche	Yes	
Conrad Mallett	Yes	
Derrick Sanders	Yes	
Richard Shelby	Excused	
Bishop Edgar Vann	Excused	
Quorum (Yes)	7	

The Board acted in accordance with its rules approved the Agenda for June 29, 2017.

The Board acted in accordance with its rules approved the following Board Minutes:
Thursday, June 22, 2017

BOPC Officers Report(s): After welcome and opening remarks **Chairman Bell** asked Donald Johnson, 12th Precinct Community Relations Committee to provide the invocation. **Chairman Bell** 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. Bell also welcomed Chief of Police James E. Craig to the meeting and invited him to introduce his staff.

Chairman Bell’s Report: **Chairman Bell’s** report included the following statement(s). “This meeting will mark my last full meeting as Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners. Under the City Charter, we elect officers each year to ensure that all segments of the Board have an opportunity to guide our work as an oversight Board. Ms. Blossom, our media coordinator is preparing a comprehensive annual report wherein we will detail some of the accomplishments of the Board. The report will be released soon.

However, I would like to point out that in recent years we have built on our impressive history of hearing and resolving citizen complaints. We have worked to establish and refine policies in the Department in connection with many critical areas of police operations including electronic control weapons and use of force protocols.

The Board of Police Commissioners is better organized, better run and more effective today than our humble beginning dating back to 1974. I want to thank all of the Board members and the staff for doing a good job in connection with clarifying and building a stronger oversight function for the Detroit Police Department.

Please note that I have released a statement around the recent events involving BOPC members and traffic stops. I want to engage the Department to produce the data promised by AC Arnold Williams of the public interaction with officers and traffic stops.

AC Williams indicated in our last meeting the Department routinely pulls random traffic stop data. Analyzing this data will go a long way toward determining if the recent incidents involving BOPC members are an anomaly or a practice.

In any case, the Board understands the recent discussion on traffic stops to be a training opportunity for the Department. If it is necessary to stop a citizen, we expect there to be good reason, professional demeanor and a reasonable explanation for the stop.”

Resolution(s): Commissioner Dewaelsche read into the record a resolution for Detective Ashford.

RESOLUTION HONORING DETECTIVE WILLIAM ASHFORD

WHEREAS Mr. William Ashford began his career with the Detroit Police Department on November 20, 1995, and upon graduating from the Detroit Metropolitan Police Academy, he was assigned to the Eighth Precinct; and

WHEREAS Police Officer Ashford was assigned to the Internal Control Section, Vice Section, Organized Crime Unit, Eastern District, Twelfth Precinct, and Special Victims Unit; and

WHEREAS On June 12, 2015, Officer Ashford was promoted to the rank of Detective and was assigned to the Sex Crimes Unit, where he remained until his retirement; and

WHEREAS Detective Ashford was the deserving recipient of five (5) Citation Awards, the Major League Baseball All-Star Recognition Award, the Rosa Parks Funeral Recognition Award, and the Super Bowl XL Recognition Award, several accolades from within the Department and other agencies and citizens for his professionalism and expertise; and

WHEREAS Detective Ashford diligently served the Department and the citizens of Detroit with loyalty, dedication, and integrity for 22 years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking on behalf of the Detroit Police Department and the citizens of the City of Detroit recognize the lifelong commitment to public safety of Detective William Ashford. His pride and dedication have been invaluable assets to the Department and merit our highest regard.

We thank and congratulate you, Detective William Ashford.
DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Motion: Motion to honor William Ashford (**Dewaelsche**)

Second: (**Mallett**),

Vote: Yes = 7 No = 0 Abst = 1 (Vacant = 1) **Action: Approved**

Chief of Police Report, James E. Craig: Chief Craig indicated the following, “I appreciate the leadership from Chairman Bell.” Additionally, Chief Craig reported on a successful staging of the Ford Fireworks which attracted hundreds of thousands of people to downtown Detroit. The Chief cited one exception involving a shooting incident close to the CAYMC. Chief Craig also gave a preliminary report on the traffic stop incident involving Commissioner Vann wherein he indicated no video coverage was available from the car nor the officer, but that a distant video is available from the cameras of one of the downtown businesses. Internal Affairs is conducting an investigation of the incident. The Chief also indicated many of the issues centered on the process of the officer communicating with the citizen about the nature of the stop and any circumstances that might merit increased attention by the officer. Insofar, as Commissioner Vann’s original inquiry was specifically on policy, Chief Craig indicated he was going to reinstate an old policy which he referred to as “Dust-Off”. The Dust Off policy would encourage and require the officer to provide enhanced or more detailed explanations of the reasons for the stop and additional procedural information about the nature of the stop.

Presentation to the Board: (A) OCI Report, rescheduled. (B) Detroit Detention Center.

(B) Detroit Detention Center. Captain Debbie Abdur Rashed and Lieutenant Albert Yasso addressed the Board. **Captain Abdur Rashed** indicated the Detroit Detention Center was located in two buildings at 17601 Mound road, Detroit, MI. Captain Abdur Rashed gave a history of the center and indicated that prisoners are housed at the Center by Detroit Police, Detroit Public

Schools, Wayne State University, Michigan State Police and other local and federal agencies. Captain Abdur Rashed gave an accounting of the structure of the facility, personnel assigned to the facility and the number of detainees beginning in 2013 thru 2017 (YTD). Additionally, the Captain shared DCC highlights including the implementation of a DPD Jail Management System, cost saving related to medical care, a 50% reduction in hospital transports, the elimination of precinct overcrowding, immediate arraignments and a 24 hour a day bonding/release program. Captain Abdur Rashed also indicated the facility has currently 11 ICE detainees. **Commissioner Dewaelsche** inquired about cost reimbursements shared by other agencies who use the facilities. **The BOPC** requested a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Detroit and the Department of Corrections in association with the Detroit Detention Center.

BOPC Standing and Ad hoc Committee Reports: Commissioner Brooks summarized several recruitment engagements of the committee along with their outreach into the community and the coordination with the Department.

Report from the Board Secretary: Mr. Hicks reported on four communications into the Board directing attention to the Board agenda and noting the assignment of DC Todd Bettison as liaison between the DPD and BOPC. Hicks also noted a memorandum from Lt. Michael Parish to AC White on police authorized towing.

Old Business. None.

New business. None.

Announcements:

Next Meeting, Thursday, July 6, 2017 @ 3:00 PM, Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third St. 3rd Floor, Detroit, MI, 48226.

Next Community Meeting, Thursday, July 13, 2017, the Boys and Girls Club of Southeastern Michigan, 4242 Collingwood, Detroit MI. 48204.

Oral Communications from the Audience:

Peter Rhoades, acknowledged the follow-up from his previous question on reimbursement to DPD for downtown sports and entertainment events. **Don Johnson** registered his concerns about the traffic stop involving Vann and the distribution of towing assignments in the city. Mr. Johnson asked how a company can be added to the PAT. **Tracey Nichols** complained about a fraud she reported to DPD (3rd Precinct) back in October 2016 and have not received a response from the Department. Complaint was referred to AC Arnold Williams. **Bobby Hawkins** (former Wayne County Sheriff and co-founder of the Guardian of Michigan Black Police Officers Association) indicated he had recently met with a member of OCl staff and has been assured his concerns will be handled. **Beatrice Thomas**, complained about damaged to her car as a result of a police pursuit wherein her car was used to box in a fleeing driver. She indicated she has sought a report via the 6th Precinct and the report is inaccurate and not useful. She states she is getting the run around and wants her car fixed. **Eric Blount**, requested an update on DPD Tasers and body worn cameras. **William Davis** addressed concerns about mentally challenged people protocols. **Michelle George** indicated he has attempted to recruit citizens to join the Department, but was also registered her concerned about the anxiety expressed by Commissioner Vann and how that reflects on the situation around the country for many in the black community. **Ms. Faith**, applauded the work of the Department and their ability to keep her safe living on the streets. She also wanted to discuss a private matter with the Department.

Commissioner Dewaelsche also added her thanks to the Chair for his service. **Brooks** thanked the Department. **Sanders** thanked the officers on the ride arounds. **Chairman Bell** thanked the Board, staff and department for a cooperative set of interactions, he ended that we need to take a closer look at traffic stops and procedures associated with traffic stops, mental illness and community violence include the use of gun during the commission of a crime.

Motion to Adjourn, no objections.

Adjourn. 4:49 PM