

**Draft Minutes Detroit Board of Police Commissioners**

**Date of Meeting: October 20, 2016 – 3:00 PM**

Location: Detroit Public Safety Headquarters 1301 Third Ave., Detroit Michigan

**Chairman Willie Bell called the BOPC meeting to order at 3:00 PM (October 20, 2016)**

Detroit Police Commission Membership / Attendance		
	Attend	Not-Attend
Willie E. Bell, Chair	Yes	
Ricardo R. Moore, Vice Chair	Yes	
Elizabeth Brooks	Yes	
Willie E. Burton	Excused	
Lisa Carter	Yes	
Reginald Crawford	Yes	
Eva Dewaelsche	Yes	
Conrad Mallett	Excused	
Derrick Sanders	Yes	
Richard Shelby	Yes	
Bishop Edgar Vann	Yes	
Quorum (Yes)	9	

**The Board acted in accordance with its rules approved the Agenda for October 20, 2016.**

**The Board acted in accordance with its rules approved the following Board Minutes:  
Thursday, October 13, 2016**

*with the correction from Commissioner Dewaelsche who expressed her concern that the minutes be corrected to reflect her desire to develop a policy to make adjustments in pay and benefits for fallen police officers.*

**BOPC Officers Reports(s):** After welcome and opening remarks **Chairman Bell** asked Bishop Vann to do the invocation. Chairman Bell asked the Commissioners in attendance to introduce themselves and indicate the areas of the city they represented. Bell also added that for Commissioners appointed by the Mayor, he suggested that they indicate themselves to be Commissioners At-Large in as much as they represent the entire city as oppose to a district. Staff and others in attendance were also introduced including the AC James White, representing Chief of Police, James Craig.

**Chairman Bell** also read into the record the following statement reflecting the Board's concern about recent news reports about alleged police corruption.

**Police Towing Statement – 6 officers suspended**

Tuesday night, many of us saw a local news broadcast indicating that 6 Detroit Police Officers were suspended for bribes in connection with the illegal towing of cars. We were also told in this broadcast, that this was part of an ongoing FBI investigation.

Our immediate task was to verify the suspension information, as we did Wednesday. As an oversight Board, we have requested information as to the reasons supporting the suspensions. This information can be readily obtain from the Chief of Police. As an oversight Board, we do not have access to the investigative materials from the FBI. Insofar as an internal Department investigation is reported to be underway by the Department's Internal Affairs section, we are as eager as others to receive the results of their investigation.

The Chief is reported to have said "... more officers could be suspended." We are asking for as many of the details on this matter as soon as they can be made available pursuant to any internal investigations by the Department. Because of our concerns and the media's attention on this report, we are asking that reasonable information be shared periodically and not wait until the conclusion of the investigation.

Periodic sharing of reasonable information will help us address issue of public accountability and transparency, while protecting the individual rights of members of the Department. Officers accused have access to a full range of protections and defenses as you can see from the immediate involvement and reactions from one of our police unions.

In the recent past, the Commission has begun a review of several gaps in the Police Towing Rules and we have constructed an ad hoc committee of the Board to discuss several of these gaps with the Mayor and Chief. While we do not have the specific information surrounding the allegations against the 6 officers, we hope to continue to examine our rules and to the extent that the alleged violations help us create stronger and better rules, we will do so.

Finally, as we have received several calls from the media on this matter. We have reposted a copy of the towing rules, applications process and current list of authorized tow companies at the city's website, Board of Police Commissioners page.

**Chairman Bell** invited other Commissioners to comment on the same reports (*see comments in the text of Chief of Police Report*).

**Chief of Police Report:** AC James White commented on the recent news reports about 6 officers who had been suspended by the Chief of Police. He indicated the suspensions are related to an on-going FBI investigation and that he does not have the details about the FBI investigation. He also indicated that there is a bifurcated investigation, one conducted by the FBI and a second investigation conducted by Detroit Police Department's Internal Affairs. He suggested as information become available and that information is such that he can disclose it to the Commission, it would be done in a subsequent briefing. Several Commissioners asked questions in connection with the above suspensions. **Moore** asked if the Department planned to wait on the results of the FBI's investigation before it would conclude its own investigation. **White** indicate no. **Crawford** indicated that we should check our towing rules and determine if we can suspend the towing companies involved in the recent towing incidents. **White and Bell** responded that we do not have any specific information that include violations by any of the companies, the report focused on 6 individual police officers. **Vann** indicated that problems related to police towing is and has been a long standing concern, He also asked if there was a method for citizens who believe that they have been victims of a towing scam to report it. **White** responded that citizens could file a complaint with Internal Affairs, the Office of The Chief Investigator (BOPC) or call 596-2447 (Internal Affairs). **DC Renee Hall** also provided some additional information on police towing. Hall shared information that suggests that police towing in and around popular locations like Chene Park are not disproportionately enforced as against other venues and special events in downtown or around the city. Hall also indicated that the Department in cooperation with downtown commercial businesses are and will continue to discuss uniformity and standardization in parking lot enforcement. **Officer Kenyatta Myers** also responded to questions as to the number of towing companies in various precincts in indicated that in precinct #12 and #10 has three companies and precinct #5 and #9 has seven companies. **Board Secretary Hicks** also added information to the discussion indicating that the Chair of the Commission had recently appointed an ad hoc committee on Towing. The charge of this ad hoc committee is to review gaps in our current towing rules and engage the Mayor and Chief in an effort to improve on our rules. He indicated that this effort was poised to be discussed with the ad hoc committee and soon after the Chief and Mayor.

**AC White** also highlighted DPD's monthly Compstat 2016 data reporting crimes through October 16, 2016. White also introduced DC David LeValley who in turned reported on and introduced the heads of the DPD Detective Bureau. **LeValley's** report covered the work of the Homicide Section (four subsections were reported on, Homicide, Fatal Squad, Headquarters Surveillance and Missing Persons), Special Victims Unit (four subsections were reported on Domestic Violence, Sex Crimes, Child Abuse and Arson), Major Violations (five subsections were reported on, Major Violations, Prisoner Processing, Vice, Liquor and Forfeiture). Several joint task forces coming under the title of Task Force Administration were also reported on including Violent Gang Task Force (FBI), Firearms Investigation (ATF), Joint Terrorism (FBI), Detroit Fugitive Apprehension Team (US Marshals), General Assignment Unit which investigate dumping, electric theft, scrapping and graffiti as well as the Fugitive Recovery Unit that serves warrants for violent crimes, Cyber Crimes Team and Commercial Auto Theft which focus on vehicle theft rings, carjacking, chop shops and insurance fraud. LeValley continued to outline additional sections including the Crime Scene Services and Property, Investigative Operations, Control Desk and Response Team. LeValley also indicated part of the responsibility for the Investigative Operations is to perform internal audits on the Department.

**BOPC Standing and Ad hoc Committee Reports:** No Reports.

**Board Secretary Report:** No Report.

**New Business:** None.

**Old Business:** None.

**Oral Communications:** **Fredia Butler**, commented on the leadership in the 2<sup>nd</sup> precinct. Ms. Butler indicated she was concerned about the replacement of the old leadership in the precinct, but was encouraged by the leadership being offered by the new Command staff at the precinct. **Bernice Smith** indicated her disappointment with the current reports associated with police towing. **Dr. Divers** representing City Councilmember George Cussingberry noted the comprehensive reports associated with BOPC meetings and how they reflect the wide range of activities that the Department is involved. **Bobby Davis Bey**, a member of the Moorish community suggested his interest to discuss issues and concerns related to minority communities and the police.

**Announcements:**

**Adjournment. 4:35 PM**

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 27, 2016 @ 3:00 PM, Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third Street, Detroit, MI 48226