

Draft Minutes Detroit Board of Police Commissioners

Date of Meeting: February 14, 2019 - 6:30 PM

Location: Ford Resource and Engagement Center, 15491 Maddelein St. Detroit, MI 48216

BOPC Chairman Willie Bell called the BOPC Board Meeting to order at 6:30 PM (February 14, 2019)

Detroit Police Commission Membership / Attendance	Attend	Not-Attend
Willie E. Bell, Chairperson	Yes	
Darryl D. Brown, Vice Chairperson	Yes	
Lisa Carter	Yes	
Elizabeth Brooks	Yes	
Eva Garza Dewaelsche	Excused	
Shirley A. Burch	Yes	
Willie E. Burton	Yes	
William M. Davis	Yes	
Jim Holley	Yes	
Evette Griffie	Yes	
Vacant	N/A	
Quorum (Yes)	9	

The Board acting in accordance with its rules approved the Agenda for February 14, 2019.

The Board acting in accordance with its rules approved the following Board Minutes:

Thursday, February 7, 2019 with a correction related to member Brown's arrival time at the last meeting.

Board of Police Commissioner Chairman Willie Bell: Chairman Bell welcomed attendees to the meeting and asked for introductions of Commissioners, BOPC and DPD staff and other elected and civic representatives.

Chairman Willie Bell: Chairman Bell said "Good Evening. Happy Valentine's Day. I am Police Commissioner Willie Bell, I represent District #4. I serve as Chair of the Board and will be conducting our meeting today. On behalf of the Board, for those in attendance, thank you for joining us. For people viewing this meeting on your government cable channel, thank you for viewing our meeting. Tonight's meeting is the second community meeting of the Board for the 2019 calendar year. We will have ten additional community meetings this calendar year. We hope to visit every district within the city. I want to thank the Ford Resource and Engagement Center (FREC) for the use of their facility for tonight's meeting. The Ford Resource and Engagement Center (FREC) is a client-directed community center where people can learn new skills, obtain needed services, develop new talents and celebrate community. The FREC is made possible with grants from the Ford Motor Company Fund. The FREC brings together nonprofit partners to serve the surrounding community. We will have the FREC Director to discuss their operations later in the meeting."

Chaplain Deputy Chief Avis Taylor, Detroit Chaplain Corp provided the invocation.

Bell continued, "I want to invite Justin Kimpson, Senior Director of the Ford Resources and Engagement Center to welcome the audience to this facility and provide us with a brief outline of some of the services that are available to the community here at the Ford Resources and Engagement Center (FREC)."

Chairman's Report - Willie Bell said "On behalf of the Board, I want to express our concern and support for fallen and injured officers. Our concerns for officer safety and citizen protection is ranked as two of the most important priorities of the Board. Our Board receives a weekly report from the Department listing injured officers. I would ask the Chief of Police during his remarks to provide us with any additional information related to injured and fallen officers.

The Board of Police Commissioners meets every week except for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday periods. We meet at Police Headquarters 3 weeks in the month on Thursdays at 3:00 PM. We also meet in the community every 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM. Under the Detroit City Charter, Article 7, Chapter 8, the Board of Police Commissioners is empowered to provide civilian oversight and supervisory control of the Police Department. Our citizens are justified in asking "How does civilian oversight of law enforcement help you as a citizen within our community?" Our answer is, we

protect the civil rights of citizens. Oversight organizations like the BOPC are at the forefront of investigating, reviewing and auditing individual cases of citizen complaints and patterns of operations by police agencies to eliminate misconduct, discriminatory police practices and unnecessary use of force by police. Our work is based on developing and supporting effective policing. Mutual trust and respect between the police and the community is critical toward increasing the quality of life for residents and visitors to Detroit. The Board of Police Commissioners exists to provide civilian oversight for the work of the Detroit Police Department. As a Board, we receive and investigate non-criminal citizens' complaints, monitor the operations of the Department and work with the Mayor and the Chief of Police to make or modify police policy.

I want to point to several important items for your consideration. The Board is continuing to work with NACOLE (National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement) to host in Detroit the National Conference in September 22 thru 26, 2019. During the same time, Detroit will be celebrating our 45th year as a civilian oversight organization on July 22, 2019. I will repeat this message several times as we approach the September conference. We are inviting law-enforcement and other civic minded individuals and organizations to join us at the conference. The planning process is well underway, and again we invite your participation. I remind Board members that in the month of March, 2019 our plans are to conduct two community meetings. The first will be on March 7th at Western International High School at 1:30 PM. Also, we will have our regular community meeting on March 14th in the 9th police precinct.

I want to acknowledge this is the first community meeting in the month of February, Black History Month. Over the course of Black History Month, I will try to highlight some of the critical developments in Detroit and its relationship to Black History. Last week, I shared with you information about some of the Black pioneers in local policing. This week, I want to correct a widely held misconception of history that slavery only occurred in the south. In Governor Gretchen Whitmer's State of the State Address in Lansing, she told stories of the many contributions of immigrants who help build the State of Michigan. She talked about the migration of people from the European continent who came to build a better life for their families. The Governor emphasized the need for cooperation from all of the people of Michigan across racial, economic, sexual orientation, age, and geographic barriers.

Unfortunately, the Governor made the same error in her address, as does other liberal leading non-black public figures; The Governor indicated that Blacks first introduction to Michigan was during our northern migration to find jobs in the automobile industry. This misconception, is at the foundation of the profound confusion that Dr. Carter G. Woodson sought to correct in creating Black History Month. Dr. Woodson and others work is an effort to show when and how Africans came into the Americas and the many contributions made by Africans in the Americas. We first came as a result of the triangular slave trade and the heavy demand for labor. Our forced labor built many parts of the world including the Americas. Michigan is not an exception that stands apart from the world-wide practice of slavery. African Slavery still remains as the only system of exploitation lasting for hundreds of years without adequate recognition or compensation. Most historians studying the forced migration and the voluntary migration of Blacks have documented some 5 to 6 million people that migrated from the south because of the oppressive conditions of the south. Isabel Wilkerson in "*The Warmth of Other Suns*" paints a broad picture of the movement to the north by African Americans. Professor Tiya Miles, a historian with the University of Michigan, in her book, "*The Dawn of Detroit: A Chronicle of Slavery and Freedom in the City of the Straits*", documents slave practices by the French as far back as the Northwest Territory which was composed of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. To misrepresent history in the Americas as far back as slavery is to trivialize our contributions and suggests that modern racist practices like dressing in a KKK hood or wearing "blackface" is a minor inconvenience for Black people. The truth, which only comes to light in Black History Month is that Blacks were and are vital to the operation of the country. I note the 15th Amendment to the United States Constitution, the right to vote. The 15th Amendment was passed in 1869 and ratified in 1870, following a bloody war initiated by secessionists in the south. Also in 1964, the 24th Amendment abolished Poll Taxes, a practice that is very similar to the disenfranchisement of Black and Native born people today. Today in 1817 or thereabout, Freedom Fighter and Abolitionist Frederick Douglass was born. While these are only a few of the contributions that Africans have made to our society, I encourage each of us to take stock of Black History Month and spread the word about our contributions.

I want to call to the public's attention that the Board of Police Commissioner's webpage, BOPC.gov, continues to evolve toward a more user friendly site. The most recent changes are the restoration of two buttons related to [How to file a Citizen Complaint](#) and how to access [watching Police Commission meetings](#). These changes should make it easier for the public to access the Board's work.

Today on our agenda, we will take up an outstanding community service award nominated by the 9th Police Precinct, recognizing Ms. Kathleen Marie Dux. We also have two presentations to the Board. The first will be from DPD's Personnel Director, Dr. Marcella Anderson. The personnel report was distributed this past Tuesday to each Commissioner as part of the

Tuesday package. The second presentation will come from the 9th Precinct, Commander Eric Decker. My hope is that Commander Decker will discuss with the Board some of the hot spots and measures underway in the 9th precinct to fight against crime.

We will also have our regular report from the Chief of Police. The Chief will review some of our current crime statistics and update us on any additional police personnel with injuries in the line of duty. I also ask the Chief to update us on any critical issues facing the Department. Specifically, I ask the Chief to report on the recent incident involving a retired Detective who somehow keep homicide records in his home. We are interested in if this breach of confidentiality has compromised any past investigations or might impact any past cases prosecuted on behalf of the Department.

Toward the end of the meeting we will have oral communications from the audience. Please make sure you print your name on a speaker's card. Cards are located in the back on the table or can be obtained by seeing Mr. Robert Brown. He will need your card before the beginning of public comments. We will hold each speaker to the allotted 2 minutes.

Resolutions: RESOLUTION HONORING MS. KATHLEEN MARIE DUX

Commissioner Elizabeth Brooks read into the record a resolution acknowledging the service of Ms. Kathleen Marie Dux.

RESOLUTION HONORING MS. KATHLEEN MARIE DUX

WHEREAS Ms. Kathleen Marie Dux is a Registered Nurse, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from the University of Texas. Kathleen and her husband Bob have been married for 35 years and have three adult sons; and

WHEREAS Ms. Dux has volunteered countless hours working with the Ninth Precinct Neighborhood Police Officers and is a very active parishioner at Assumption Grotto Catholic Church in the Ninth Precinct where she and her family attend; and

WHEREAS Ms. Dux has centered her life around her faith, her family and the community. She volunteered at *Above and Beyond*, the largest gala of the year honoring First Responders. Ms. Dux has always had respect and admiration for Police Officers and the Military; and

WHEREAS Ms. Dux believes, we all need to work together throughout our lives, to help each other and to respect everyone we meet. She believes it is important to stay close as a family, to embrace each other and to acknowledge our differences while recognizing our common interests in order to build a stronger community. She believes that - with hard work and dedication - much good can be accomplished but that the greatest successes can be built over a simple smile and a friendly conversation; and

WHEREAS Ms. Dux considers it an honor to work with the Ninth Precinct, assisting in numerous community events held to bridging the gap between the community and officers. She participated in the Police Week luncheon and talent show by students honoring the Ninth Precinct and Metropolitan Division of the Detroit Police Department, Senior Luncheon, National Night Out, Turkey Giveaway, and Good Fellow gift box distribution, and Trunk or Treat. Ms. Dux and her family provided their own vehicles filled with chocolate candy for over 3,000 children in the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners speaking for the citizens of the city of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department acknowledges the dedicated, diligent, committed support of Ms. Kathleen Dux. Her service and devotion to improving the quality of life for the citizens in Ninth Precinct and throughout the city of Detroit, merits our highest regards. **DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

MOTION: Commissioner Lisa R. Carter moved the resolution to honor the service of Ms. Kathleen Marie Dux (action taken before the adjournment). **Second, Commissioner Holley**

VOTE: Yes = 9 No = 0 Absent = 1 MOTION APPROVED

COP Police Report: Deputy Chief of Police Todd Bettison reported that crime is continuing to trend downward as against last year, but that the numbers fall within the first quarter and are small in comparison. He indicated that the start of this year is better than the previous year. DC Bettison reported on CompStat data for the reporting period ending February 10, 2019. DC Bettison reported percentage change between 2018 and 2019, -23% decrease in Homicides, Sexual Assaults 3% increase, Robbery -4% decrease, Carjacking 63% decrease, Aggravated Assaults 10% increase, non-fatal shootings 5% increase, Burglary -5% decrease, Larceny -19% decrease, Stolen Vehicle -3% decrease and Part 1 offenses -6 decrease. DC Bettison asked Internal Affairs Director Chris Graveline to report on a retired DPD Detective who had DPD Homicide evidence discovered at his home. Mr. Graveline reported the house was being vacated by court bailiffs who noticed an evidence tag in

the debris. Upon inspection portions of at least 16 cases were identified, removed and returned to police headquarters for inspection. Director Graveline indicated that the cases ranged from 1997 to 2008. The investigation is continuing and findings will be presented to the Wayne County Prosecutor. Graveline also indicated that the investigation of PO Steel is on target and scheduled to wrap up Friday. He indicated some 50 witnesses have been interviewed including the 2 officers involved. He also indicated that about 5 or so additional interviews are to be conducted. Commissioner William Davis asked if the Department had procedures in place to prevent this type of discovery from happening in the future. DC Bettison responded Chief Craig has a check list in place for all retiring officers that require they return items to the Department.

MOTION: Commissioner Lisa R. Carter moved that the Detroit Board of Police Commission schedule a hearing to review the conduct of Officer Steel in connection with the SNAPCHAT incident discussed at last week's BOPC Meeting. Second, Commissioner William Davis

VOTE: Yes = 9 No = 0 Absent = 1 MOTION APPROVED

Presentations to the Board: (A) Monthly Human Resources Report by DPD HR Director, Dr. Marcella Anderson, PhD. (B) 9th Police Precinct Report by Commander Eric Decker

(A) Human Resources Monthly Report, Dr. Marcella Anderson, Director of Police Personnel, provided statistical data for January 2019 (February 2019 Report). Dr. Anderson indicated that of the total positions (2,639 Sworn) in the Department, DPD has 185 vacant Police officers. Of the 683 (Civilian) positions in the Department, 74 are vacant. Ms. Anderson discussed recruitment and MCOLES processing indicating the Department has 2187 applications from 7/1/2018 to 1/31/2019 the Department hired 52 individuals. Anderson reported 231 are awaiting MCOLES certification, 294 are in process. Anderson also provide residency data, attrition data and leaves of absence and restricted duty data. Dr. Anderson indicated that her report covered officers suspended and not at work.

(B) 9th Police Precinct Report by Commander Eric Decker

(B) 9th Police Precinct Report by Commander Eric Decker reported on CompStat data in the 9th Precinct focusing on the last 28 day period. Decker indicated that "2019 crime stats are starting off much higher than last year with an overall increase in crime of 16%. Decker indicated that these stats are based on 1 month data and the 16% increase accounts for an increase of just 47 cases, and only 18 of those being violent crime. Decker reported percentage change between 2018 and 2019, - 90% decrease in Homicides, Sexual Assaults 20% increase, Robbery -4% increase, Burglary 27% increase, Larceny -1% decrease, Stolen Vehicle -26 increase and Part 1 offenses -13% increase. Commander Decker and Sgt. Thirkill reported on Ceasefire program and shared with the Board a PowerPoint presentation on "The Brotherhood located in the 9th police precinct.

BOPC Standing Committee Reports: Recruitment. Commissioner Elizabeth Brooks indicated the last academy had 28 individuals and that February 21 a job fair is schedule for the Northwest Activities Center and March 6, 2019 is scheduled at SerMetro.

Report from Secretary to the Board: Mr. Hicks reported on 5 items including the use of BOPC subpoena for an investigation underway by Internal Affairs.

New Business: None.

Announcements: Next BOPC meeting – February 21, 2019, 3:00 PM 6:30 PM at Detroit Public Safety headquarters, 1301 Third Street, Detroit MI 48226. Next community meeting March 7, 1:30 PM Western International High School, 1500 Scotten Street, Detroit 48209.

Oral Communications: Ms. Monika Biddle, representative from the Church of Scientology. Invited the Board to attend at the church. Ms. Faith appreciated the work of the department and its focus on young people. Mr. Scotty Bowman expressed his concern about the vote by the Board in connection with Corporal Jones and the large number of officers that appeared before the Board indicating they would do the same as Corporal Jones. Ms. Sandra Handy, President of the 9th Precinct Community Relations organization who acknowledged the hard work of the precinct's NPOs and indicated they had been punished as a result of doing good work in connection complaint about a citizen interrupting traffic and creating noise in the precinct. Ms. Joan Risgin, indicated her thank to the police department and acknowledge the work of the department.

Commissioner Bell accepted a motion to adjourn at 8:11 PM.