

Draft Minutes Detroit Board of Police Commissioners

Date of Meeting: February 21, 2019 – 3:00 PM

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

BOPC Vice Chairman Darryl Brown called the BOPC Board Meeting to order at 3:00 PM (February 21, 2019)

Detroit Police Commission Membership / Attendance	Attend	Not-Attend
Willie E. Bell, Chairperson	Excused	
Darryl D. Brown, Vice Chairperson	Yes	
Lisa Carter	Yes	
Elizabeth Brooks	Yes	
Eva Garza Dewaelsche	Yes	
Shirley A. Burch	Excused	
Willie E. Burton	Yes	
William M. Davis	Yes	
Jim Holley	Yes	
Evette Griffie	Excused	
Vacant	N/A	
Quorum (Yes)	7	

The Board acting in accordance with its rules approved the Agenda for February 21, 2019.

The Board acting in accordance with its rules approved the following Board Minutes:
Thursday, February 14, 2019

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

Vice Chair Darryl Brown said “Good Afternoon! I am Police Commissioner Darryl Brown, I represent District #1. I serve as Vice Chair of the Board and in the absence of Chairman Bell, I 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.” The invocation for the meeting was provided by Chaplain Arthur Berry Sr.

Vice Chairman’s Report – Darryl Brown 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 the National Conference on September 22 thru 26, 2019 in Detroit. During the same time, Detroit will be celebrating our 45th year as a civilian oversight organization on July 22, 2019.

We 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 area served by Downtown Services.

February 21st is an important date in the history of Black struggle and resistance. Fifty-four years ago, el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz (Malcolm X) the head of the Organization of African American Unity was assassinated in the Audubon Ballroom in New York City. Malcolm X and others like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. participated in an important debate on how and why marginalized citizens, black and brown would engage the American economic and political systems to seek change for African Americans. At stake then, and at stake today is the survival of the community. Scholars still point to the wide gaps in housing ownership, income and wealth between Black and white citizens.

I want to report next week, February 28, 2019 we will have a presentation on the 2nd Quarter of DPD's budget and will have a closed session related to Police Officer Michael Collins and at the request of Commissioner Carter a closed hearing related to officers who impounded the car of a young women, leaving her to walk home in the coldest weather on record and got on SNAPCHAT voicing some despairing words about the black female.

Today on our agenda, we will have a presentation on the Chief of Police's Annual Report. The Detroit City Charter, Section 7-806 creates several opportunities for the Chief of Police to engage the Commission. I want to list some of these opportunities so that the audience will follow our work as Commissioners. In Section 7-806 sub section #1: it indicates that the Chief shall administer the Department consistent with the policies, rules and regulations established by the Board and shall organize the Department with the approval of the Board. In Section 7-806 sub section #6: it indicates that the Chief shall submit to the Board an Annual Report. I think of this Annual Report as the type of report that would be available to the general public highlighting the work of the Detroit Police Department. In Section 7-806 sub section #7: it indicates that the Chief submit to the Board an Annual Operations Improvement Plan. The most outstanding difference is that this requirement is for a plan, not a report. The Annual Improvement Plan is scheduled to be taken up by the Board at our March 28, 2019 Board meeting. In the recent past, the Annual Report and the Annual Operations Improvement Plan have been confused. One report is general and discusses the department. In the past this report has been used to highlight the leadership in the department, celebrate some important partnerships held with the department and some of the community endeavors associated with the department. The second report is quite different. Again, it is a plan. It is a systematic review of the department and the Chief's candid opinion of the effectiveness of the department. Early copies of this plan show a detailed breakdown of each Command, Division, Section and Unit and accesses their performance and projects where the Chief and his Executive staff want to improve on the organization, strategies and the mission of the subunits, all in an effort to communicate to the Board, the Mayor and the general public what we must do to improve the department. Improvements to the department must involve citizen protections and a program to fight crime. Improvements to the department must include officer safety. Improvements to the department must include an evaluation of crime fighting strategies to determine if they are working and what new opportunities to fight crime might be on the horizon. I have asked our staff to pull a copy of one of the older operational improvement plans and share it with the Chief in expectation of our March 28, 2019 meeting report.

In addition to the Annual Report presentation, 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. 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.

COP Police Report: Chief of Police James E. Craig reported that crime is continuing to trend downward as against last year, but that the numbers within the first quarter are small in comparison. Chief Craig indicated that the numbers are more firm as we approach the second quarter. He indicated that the start of this year is better than the previous year. Chief Craig reported on Crime Intelligence Unit data for the reporting period ending February 21, 2019. Chief Craig reported percentage change between 2018 and 2019, -39% decrease in Homicides, Sexual Assaults 12% increase, Robbery -8% decrease, Carjacking -67% decrease, Aggravated Assaults 8% increase, non-fatal shootings -17% decrease, Burglary -5% decrease, Larceny -22% decrease, Stolen Vehicle -3% decrease and Part 1 offenses -14 decrease. Chief Craig report on the 500th Greenlight location and the indicated involving PO Steele. He indicated some 50 witnesses have been interviewed including the 2 officers involved. Craig was expecting to complete the individual investigation and the environmental investigation of the 6th Police precinct within the week. He also indicated that about 5 or so additional interviews are to be conducted.

Presentations to the Board: (A) Chief of Police Annual Report, Lieutenant Sonia Russell, Sergeant Romell Alexander.

(A) Chief of Police Annual Report, Lieutenant Sonia Russell, and Sergeant Romel Alexander indicated that the 2018 Annual Report will be released in April 2019; the BOPC will receive a copy of the report in advance of its release. The report will include information related to the year's highlights and accomplishments

- Technology: Taser Deployment, License Plate Readers
- PGLD locations: 238 to 474 Doubled Participation
- Facilities: Police Athletic League, Office Chief Investigator
- DPD FIT Initiative: Baker to Vegas
- Personnel: Promotions / Appointments / Hiring
- Fleet: Breast Awareness Car, TSS tribute, Year 1 Deployment (new cars)
- Chief's Initiatives: National Night Out, Field Day, Chief's Cupid Dance, DPD Sisterhood/DPD Brotherhood, Domestic Violence Dove Release, Halloween in the D, Secret Santa, Wayne State University Leadership Academy

BOPC Standing Committee Reports: Mr. Hicks reported on the recent meeting of the Policy Committee.

Report from Secretary to the Board: None.

New Business: Commissioner Willie Burton requested information on the wages, staff evaluations, job descriptions, wage schedule (ranges) of BOPC staff. Acting Chairman Brown indicated that a meeting with Commissioner Burton, Secretary to the Board and the Personnel Director be convened to address the issues raised by Commissioner Burton. Brown also suggested that such information could be discussed at our next closed session.

Announcements: Next BOPC meeting – February 28, 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: Fredla M. Butler, Community Activist (February 14, 2018), Commissioners: In every occupation, there will be a person or persons who do not follow rules or step outside of the guidelines of that occupation. They may fall short of the expectations of the position morally or professionally. The concern should be what is done about violations. February 7, 2019 in your board meeting Chief James Craig gave his crime stats and spoke about a concern that took place in the Sixth Precinct. He stated what he has done and is continuing his investigation of the identified officer and others. Commissioner Willie Burton, in my opinion, began to badger Chief Craig. Chief Craig continued to explain that there is due process and he must adhere to those guidelines. Commissioner Burton took an unprofessional stance, ignored Chairman Willie Bell and continued to address his remarks toward Chief Craig on matters that were not part of Chief Craig's report. Commissioners where there is a disagreement with a speaker, there is a respectful way of responding. In my opinion, Commissioner Burton disrespected Chief Craig, Chairman Bell and the police department. I hope that all commissioners, co-workers, officials and guests be treated with respect. When we disrespect ourselves, we will disrespect others. Each of us is responsible for our behavior. **Tom Wilson, Jr. :** I'm here to address the racist (unclear) video Black Girl Magic Walking, by Off. Steele. I know there is protocol to follow in terms of Officer Steele having due process. But after he's had his due process I hope that he's never allowed to put on a DPD uniform again! "Detroit's Finest" don't need him patrolling the community as "Detroit Finest" are better than the kind of officer he is. I wonder had this been a young lady who born like him would he have videoed her & the title White Girl Magic Walking or would he have given her a pass and let her go about her business and not have to walk home alone in the dark sub below zero dangerous freezing weather. "Detroit's Finest" is better than him. It's obvious Off Steele doesn't ascribe to the logo on the screen DPD is a model of sustained policing excellence that places our neighborhoods/people first! By his actions. **Eric Blount** suggested that votes of the Board related to closed session have a roll call vote attached so that he could associate the vote with individual Board members. Mr. Blount also indicated he wanted to know why Board members vote in the manner that they do. **William Welborne** complemented the work of Sgt. Spruce at the 11th Police precinct for the efforts related to their triple nickel (First Responders Program, Veteran Parade, and Special Thanks You Valentine Luncheon). **Ms. Faith** expressed her support for the Department and the Board especially as it relates to youth programs, Greenlight and ceasefire programs. **Don Johnson** indicated that the City-wide Police-Community Relations Committee (PCRO) has completed its work with Police Precinct 7 & 8, community relations organizations and that the re-alignment of these two organizations will help to correct some of the past problems with the leadership in the precincts and restore order in the 7th & 8th PCRO. **Scotty Bowman** expressed his continued objection to the Board vote related to use of force investigation of Corporal Jones. Mr. Bowman also indicated he did not think that the Chief of Police was berated by Commission Burton.

Motion to Adjourn. Adjournment at 4:02 PM.