

Draft Minutes Detroit Board of Police Commissioners

Date of Meeting: April 18, 2019 – 3:00 PM

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

BOPC Chair Willie Bell called the BOPC Board Meeting to order at 3:03 PM (April 18, 2019)

Detroit Police Commission Membership / Attendance	Attend	Not-Attend
Willie E. Bell, Chairperson	Yes	
Darryl D. Brown, Vice Chairperson	Excused	
Lisa Carter	Excused	
Elizabeth Brooks	Yes	
Eva Garza Dewaelsche	Yes	
Shirley A. Burch	Excused	
Willie E. Burton (3:22 PM)	Yes	
William M. Davis	Yes	
Jim Holley	Yes	
Evette Griffie	Yes	
Annie Mae Holt	Yes	
Quorum (Yes)	08	

The Board acting in accordance with its rules approved the Agenda for April 18, 2019.

**The Board acting in accordance with its rules approved the following Board Minutes:
Thursday, April 11, 2019**

Chairman Willie E. Bell welcomed attendees to the meeting and ask for introductions of Commissioners, BOPC and DPD staff and other elected and civic representatives. Chairman Bell said “Good Afternoon! I am Police Commissioner Willie Bell, I represent District #4. I serve as the 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. Commissioners Darryl Brown, Lisa Carter and Shirley Burch has asked to be excused from today’s meeting.”

INVOCATION: We have invited Chaplain Granava Petterson to provide the invocation.

Chairperson’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 and information. 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 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.

Today (Thursday) is the beginning of the Easter Holiday Celebration, Friday is Good Friday and the Board of Police Commissioners offices will be closed. Today, we have a presentation from Detroit Police Reserve Unit. Reserve Chief of Police Linda Gruss will be making the presentation. In the Detroit City Charter, Section 7-818 entitled Police Reserves, the Chief of Police appoints persons to serve as police reserves and sets training standards for reserve officers. My hope is that the presentation will outline the minimum standards for reserve officers as well as outline the command structure of the unit. Under the Chief's Report, I am requesting an update on our crime statistics and any critical issues facing the Department.

At the end of the meeting we will have public comments 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: Deputy Chief of Police Todd Bettison representing COP James E. Craig. Deputy Chief (DC) Todd Bettison reported that crime is continuing to trend downward as against last year. DC Bettison reported utilizing DPD Department CompStat (2019) data for the reporting period ending April 14, 2019. DC Bettison reported percentage change between 2018 and 2019, -31% decrease in Homicides, Sexual Assaults 11% increase, Robbery -11% decrease, Carjacking -47% decrease, Aggravated Assaults 2% decrease, non-fatal shootings -13% decrease, Burglary -5% decrease, Larceny -13% decrease, Stolen Vehicle -9% decrease and Part 1 offenses -8% decrease. DC Bettison reported that decreases in crime are attributable to several programs in operation by the Department including the Greenlight program and ceasefire. DC Bettison provided the Board with an update on injured officers.

Presentation to the Board: (A) Detroit Police Reserve Training and Structure – Reserve Chief of Police Linda Gruss

(A) Detroit Police Reserve Training and Structure – Reserve Chief of Police Linda Gruss and Assistant Reserve Chief Stephen Lewis outlined the structure and command responsibilities of the Detroit Reserve Unit. Reserve AC Lewis outlined the 2019 Action Plan and its major initiatives including increase recruitment, formal continuing education program, and performance review process for Detroit Police Reserves, website development, equipment and uniform enhancements and the overall of the Detroit Police Reserve Policy and Procedure Manual. AC Lewis indicated that Detroit Police Reserves contribute over 3000 volunteer hours to the Department in 2018, 1,100 special attention visits to Greenlight locations and coverage at 40 neighborhood events.

BOPC Standing Committee Reports: None.

Report from Secretary to the Board: Mr. Hicks presented 4 Items as incoming items into the BOPC on agenda as follows,

1. Request for use of BOPC Subpoena IA Case #19-028
2. Request for use of BOPC Subpoena IA Case #19-034
3. Article on Mental health (submitted by Dr. Woods at the BOPC Police Encounters & Mental Health Panel Discussion – April 11, 2019)
4. Notification of 46th Interfaith Memorial Service, to be held Friday May 3, 2019

Old Business: Commissioner Willie Burton moved for all of the BOPC committee meetings be open to the public. Chairman Bell ruled that this issue has been repeatedly put on the floor by Commissioner Burton. After some discussion, the Chair requested a five minute recess.

Upon the return to regular order, **Commissioner Burton** again placed the motions that all BOPC meeting be open to the public. The motion died for lack of support.

Commissioner Evette Griffie moved to postpone Commissioner Burton's motions indefinitely so that it is not brought up in future meetings. Griffie's motions was seconded by Commissioner Elizabeth Brooks.

VOTE: Yes = 6 No = 1 (Davis) Not Voting = 1 (Burton) MOTION APPROVED.

Announcements: Next BOPC meeting April 25, 2019 @ 3:00 PM at the Detroit Public Safety Headquarters Building 1301 Third Street, Detroit MI 48226. The community meeting for May will be May 9, 2019 at 6:30 PM in the 8th Precinct at Macedonia Baptist Church at 14221 Southfield Freeway, Detroit 48223

Oral Communications – Public Comment. **Ms. Faith** indicated that the words used by Chairman Bell were outstanding and appropriate. **Ms. D. Etta Wilcoxson** opined that the issue of open meeting is part of the equal rights protection of free speech and procedural rights of the public. Ms. Michelle George complained about gun shots in her neighborhood and the police response to

the same. Ms. George also indicated that the recent workshop on “Sisterhood” and increase pay for officers are objectives worthy of attention.

Motion to Adjourn **Commission Evette Griffie**. Second by **Commissioner Brooks**. **Chairman Bell** adjourned the meeting at 4:37 PM.