

Draft Minutes Detroit Board of Police Commissioners

Date of Meeting: May 23, 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 3:00 PM (May 23, 2019)

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

The Board acting in accordance with its rules approved the Agenda for May 23, 2019.

**The Board acting in accordance with its rules approved the following Board Minutes:
Thursday, May 16, 2019**

Chairman Willie 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 and Willie Burton asked to be excused from today’s Board meeting.” Chairman Bell said, I want to acknowledge the recent passing of former Detroit City Council member Kwame Kenyatta. I ask that we memorialize **Kwame Kenyatta** with a moment of silence. Today, we have invited Chaplain Candace Morgan to provide the invocation. Chaplain Morgan provided 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. Again, I remind the Board, we are 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.

I want to announce that the Board of Police Commissioners Office will be closed on Monday, May 27, 2019 for Memorial Day. I want to point to a few important developments associated with today, according to historian and researcher Ken Coleman in the history of Detroit, Today – William Ferguson was born in 1893. Ferguson, became the first African American elected to the Michigan House of Representatives. Ferguson’s portrait hangs in the Michigan Capitol Building. Additionally, according to Ken Coleman, on this day in 1864: The First Michigan Colored Infantry, a volunteer group of black men who served on the Union side during the Civil War in 1863, officially underwent a name change: 102nd Regiment United States Colored Troops.

Today, we have one presentation. The presentation is about the Downtown Conservancy Partnership. Commander Franklin Hayes will be making the presentation. Under the DPD Chief’s Report, I am requesting an update on our crime statistics and any critical issues facing the Police Department. I would like an update on the shooting of some of our police personnel in the recent week. On behalf of the Board, I hope that their situations have stabilized and their injuries are healing.

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. I ask that everyone turn off your cell phones and other electronic devices. This request does not include the devices held by DPD personnel as many of you are on emergency standby. I ask DPD personnel to put their phone on vibrate so that ringing phones will not interrupt our meeting.”

Commissioner Annie Holt also acknowledged the death of former Detroit City Councilmember Kwame Kenyatta and indicated that as a member of the Detroit Board of Education Kwame Kenyatta pushed for the adoption of textbook that best reflect the contributions made by Black and other minorities. **Commissioner Eva Dewaelsche** and others commented on the recent acknowledgement of Chief Craig and his command staff at a program organized by Commissioner Jim Holley at Historic Little Rock Baptist Church.

COP Police Report: Chief of Police James Craig reported that crime is continuing to trend downward as against last year. Chief Craig reported crime and Statistical data utilizing DPD Department report dated May 23, 2019. The Chief reported year-to date data by category including, -10% decrease in Homicides, Sexual Assaults 13% increase, Aggravated Assaults -3% decrease, non-fatal shootings -5% decrease, Robbery -10% decrease, Carjacking -38% decrease, Burglary -6% decrease, Larceny -9% decrease, Stolen Vehicle -5% decrease and Part 1 offenses -7% decrease. Chief Craig indicated that the past week was the second most violent week of the year. Chief Craig reported on a gang related incident wherein the Department made an arrest as well as other activity involving incidents associated with ATV and traffic violations resulting in the impoundments of a number of ATV’s. Chief Craig also acknowledged a Harvard White Paper in connection with facial recognition technology and indicated that by itself a hit in a facial recognition database was not sufficient to make an arrest that an underline crime would have to have been committed before an arrest.

Presentation to the Board: (A) Downtown Conservancy Partnership with DPD, Commander Franklin Hayes

(A) Downtown Conservancy Partnership with DPD, Commander Franklin Hayes reported on the organizational membership and the mission of the Downtown Detroit Partnership. Commander Franklin indicated the partnership operated in four areas; Planning (special events planning), Safety and security, Parks and Placemaking (the operations, maintenance and programing of Downtown Parks including Beacon Park, Campus Martius Park, Cadillac Square, Capitol Park and Grand Circus Park) and Business Improvement Zone.

BOPC Standing Committee Reports: Commissioner Elizabeth Brooks reported on the work of BOPC local committee efforts to support the 25th NACOLE National Conference and BOPC 45th Dinner. Commissioner Brooks said, NACOLE stands for the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement. Commissioner Brooks added the 25th Annual NACOLE Conference will be in Detroit in September this year. The conference is Sunday-Thursday, Sept. 22-26, 2019 at the RenCen Marriott. This is the first time the conference will be in Detroit – and the first time in Michigan. This is a BIG and NEW opportunity: 500 new visitors AND \$550,000 in new tourism. It is a time for us to help Detroit shine! Brooks continued, as a city, Detroit is also celebrating 45 years since the community and police began working together through civilian oversight of the Police Department in 1974.

Commissioner Brooks also added the following points: Please save the date TUESDAY, Sept. 24, 2019 at 5 p.m. for a special Detroit dinner celebration for our 45th Anniversary of the 1974 Charter for civilian oversight and the Board of Police Commissioners. We will have a program, with a song or two. There will be a speaker (some requests have gone out. We are working for confirmation.) We will have a commemorative program that features all the people who have served on this Board. We

want it to be a great keepsake. And we will have some awards that acknowledge the role of the labor unions, the clergy and the community activists in getting this Board started in 1974 and helping sustain the work we do.

Commissioner Brooks also said, "We thank everyone who is serving as honorary hosts **the Mayor, Senator Carl Levin, Council President Brenda Jones and other leaders**– and we thank every civic partner who is contributing to support the costs for making the NACOLE Conference and the 45th Celebration successful for our city. We are very grateful to partners who immediately said "Yes, strong police-community relations are very important! Just to name a few: Wayne County Community College District, Greektown Casino-Hotel, the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, AAA of Michigan, Comerica Bank, Rock Security, Michigan Carpenters Union and (Commissioner Dewaelsche's) SER Metro. We are working hard because we want our 45th Celebration to be great AND we want NACOLE to come back! It took 24 years to get them here, and we want them back soon because they bring great attention and great tourism to our city."

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

1. Communication from Teresa Blossom Re; Public Response to Gov delivery Outreach for comments on Surveillance, Drones and Facial recognition Technology.
2. Several e-mail responses from citizens regarding New Proposed Directive on Facial recognition, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (aka) Drones) and Use of traffic Light-Mounted Cameras and Facial recognition.
3. Communication from Chief re: proposed promotion of Captain Kari Sloan.
4. Communications from former Police Commissioner Sanford Cohen, M.D. re: BOPC 45th Anniversary Dinner.

Old Business: Commissioner Jim Holley asked if staff had followed through with his recommendation to invite Team Mental Health to our Board. Chair Bell replied that the above organization was part of a four member panel discussion devoted to police engagement and mental health. The community forum took place April 11, 2019. **Commissioner Bell** also reviewed a set of concerns about individual Board conduct that was discussed in the last meeting during a closed session. Commissioner Bell indicated that with the Board's support the body has the power to remove any member from the meetings whose conduct was threatening or disruptive.

Announcements: The next regular BOPC meeting is scheduled for May 30, 2019 @ 3:00 PM at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third Street, Detroit, MI 48226. The following month Community Meeting is scheduled for 6:30 PM June 13, 2019 at St. John Lutheran Church (2nd Precinct) located at 4950 Oakman Boulevard, Detroit, MI 48204.

Oral Communications – Public Comment. **Ms. Faith** indicated she appreciated the orderly work of the Board and the Police Department. **Ms. Bernice Smith** expressed her concerns about the conduct of the Board over the last month. Ms. Smith also applauded the work of Stg. Hewitt as he responded to several complaints that she had made at the last Board meeting. **Ms. D. Etta Wilcoxon** expressed her concern that local government under the "home rule" provision of the State Constitution can focus on recruitment and hiring of people that lived in the city. Ms. Wilcoxon also supported the designation of space for the use of ATV's. **Michelle George** commented and thanked DC Bettison for attending the last meeting of the Detroit Charter Revision Commission. **Karen Gordon** complained about officer Earnest Mason who refused to take an accurate report on an incident wherein Ms. Gordon was involved. Ms. Gordon was referred to a member of the Command staff. **Scotty Bowman** indicated that much had been made about the death of women and he wanted to urge citizens to join the radio patrol and use 1-800-SPEAKUP. Bowman also admonished Chairman Bell for his handling of the last meeting.

Motion to Adjourn. **Chairman Bell** adjourned the meeting at 4:46 PM.