



## Board of Police Commissioners

For Immediate Release:

**Monday, July 15, 2019**

### **Chairperson Lisa Carter issued the following statement on disruptions at the July 11, 2019 Board of Police Commissioners community meeting:**

“At each weekly meeting, the Board of Police Commissioners votes to approve an agenda like nearly every public body. It is the standard agreement for the order of business and each member’s acknowledgement to follow the order of business as itemized on the agenda. It is important to note that each agenda also provides opportunities for any and every commissioner to speak, such as under reports, old business, new business, and announcements.

“During the Thursday, July 11th community meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, nine commissioners were present and voted to approve the agenda. When we reached the point on the agenda for an award presentation to a community leader, I called upon Police Commissioner Annie Holt to present the award.

“Police Commissioner Willie Burton interrupted and called for attention, and I responded thinking he had something to say about the community awardee. When it became clear he did not want to speak about the specific agenda item, I tried to return to the approved order of business for the community award but could not due to his constant interruptions and his refusal to adhere to repeated reminders that he was out of order.

“It is unfortunate that the order of business was so disrupted, particularly at the point on the agenda for the Board to honor an activist for her volunteer work in improving her community, which we only do at the monthly community meeting. Given all the places on the agenda where a Board member may speak each and every week, Police Commissioner Burton’s timing and behavior were dismissive and disrespectful to the community honoree, as well as violations of order and professionalism. I have sent a letter to him reminding him about the process and the rules governing the Board of Police Commissioners, and my duty as Chair to uphold these high standards.

“It is also important to clear misinformation that facial recognition was on the meeting agenda. It was not an item on the Thursday agenda. As I reminded Board members and the public in my Chairperson’s report at the start of the meeting, Chief Craig’s office pulled the draft directive to make changes in June and had yet to submit a new draft. I also noted that Police Commissioner Jim Holley had requested that the Board wait until his return from

recuperating from surgery before taking up any new draft. When a new draft is submitted to the Board, we will follow our standard practices to list it on the agenda under the Report from the Board Secretary as an in-coming communication; post it on-line for easy public access, and email it to some 3,500 people who have signed up for Board news. Also as part of standard practices, Board staff will review the revised policy, and later the revised policy will appear on the agenda for Board action.

“While there was nothing formal about facial recognition on the agenda, Board members can and do speak about a variety of items as they ask for information during the standing agenda item for the Chief of Police report. Other standing items on the agenda provide several acceptable times for statements or questions by Commissioners.

“The weekly agenda also routinely provides for public comments. The Board always welcomes public comments so that residents may speak about items or events related to the Police Department and public safety. We value public comments as part of a robust civilian oversight function.

“This process for an agenda, for the Board to vote to approve the agenda, and for public comments is a long-standing process that has effectively allowed the community to hear directly about police matters and to provide feedback in an orderly fashion.”

Created by the 1974 City Charter, the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners has supervisory authority and oversight over the Police Department. Under the 2012 Charter, the Board is comprised of 11 civilian members; Detroiters elect seven members by district and the mayor appoints and the city council confirms four at-large members. All board members serve as unpaid volunteers.



The current members are Willie E. Bell, Elizabeth Brooks, Darryl D. Brown, Shirley A. Burch, Willie E. Burton, Lisa Carter, William M. Davis, Eva Garza Dewaelsche, Evette Griffie, Jim Holley, and Annie Holt.

The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners meets weekly on Thursday at 3 p.m. at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third Street, except for the second Thursday of the month when it holds community meetings at 6:30 p.m. at various locations.

For the Board meeting schedule, video, minutes, and other information, visit the website at [detroitmi.gov/bopc](http://detroitmi.gov/bopc).