

# 2020 Year-End Highlights

Fulfilling Charter Mandates for Supervisory Control and Oversight of the Detroit Police Department





# COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS:

- Only two meetings cancelled due to pandemic
  - March 19<sup>th</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Virtual/remote meetings launched in April
- For the first time ever in the history of the Board, the Board prepared and maintained its operations during a public health crisis by instituting policies and procedures to address the constant changes for the safety of the Board, the staff, and the community. The Board instituted policies as required by state and local in alignment with the State of Michigan Open Meetings Act (OMA), the Board's Bylaws, and Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 12<sup>th</sup> Edition, which also includes recommended policies for remote technology meetings. The Board also implemented Zoom policies, rules of decorum, and remote meeting announcements for the Board and community's adherence.





# Policy Reviews and Approvals

- The Detroit City Charter Sections 7-802, 7-803, and 7-806 empowers the Board with supervisory oversight authority along with other responsibilities including policy-approval authority in consultation with the Chief of Police and approval of the Mayor. The Board in partnership with the Department conducts thorough research and analysis into best practices, constitutional and legal standards, and utilizes common-sense practical approaches to ensure fair, constitutional and safe police policies.
  - During 2020, **the Board approved at least 10 critically important Department policies**, some of which gained national attention for best practices and quick action by a supervisory oversight agency.
  - The Board also **reviewed and evaluated the Department Manual Directive which contains close to 200 policy directives spanning four (4) broad areas of Administrative and Support Operations, Patrol, Communication, and Personnel**. In developing key recommendations for best practices, the Board works closely with the DPD's Policy and Research Division, NACOLE, and other national police reform organizations that focus on civil liberties, constitutional standards, and 21<sup>st</sup> century fair policing. The Board specifically collaborated with the Campaign 8 Can't Wait Initiative and other professional organizations and community stakeholders to carry out these initiatives and looks forward to more partnership and collaboration on future policies.



# Policy Updates inspired by National Events

- Given the recent brutal killing of Mr. George Floyd by Minneapolis Police Officers, the Board sought to enhance the Department's Use of Force Policy by accomplishing (3) objectives:
  - 1. Require De-escalation Continuum as part of the Department's Use of Force Policy
  - 2. Require Intervention for Members present to intervene immediately when police utilize inappropriate, unwarranted force; and
  - 3. Extend reporting to mandate Members to report when threatening civilians with a weapon (i.e. otherwise drawing a weapon and acquiring a target).

The Board added **approximately 16 policy provisions** to the Department's Use of Force Policy.

More importantly, the Board now receives a **Quarterly Use of Force Update** that discusses all category uses of force and statistics for acquiring a target. The Board and the Department worked together to develop and implement sound, comprehensive, and fair policy.

The Board is also prepared **to provide recommendations on the Department's Search Warrant Execution Policy** that was recently transmitted to the Board.



# Examples of BOPC Proactive measures

- **Facial Recognition Technology Policy Approval and Implementation**
  - Approved in September 2019
    - Two cases with arrests based on facial recognition in 2019 were made BEFORE the BOPC approved a policy.
    - Media reported on the arrests in 2020.
    - The two arrests **did not meet the criteria** in the BOPC-approved policy or DPD investigative standards.
- Added new requirement for additional FRT data metrics (i.e. policy violations and other key metrics); post FRT Reports to the Board's website for public inspection.
- New requirement for specific weekly updates on Operation Clean Sweep to root out corrupt or bad police officers.
- New requirement for weekly updates from the Department on Protest-related Investigations and Complaints. In conjunction with the Board's Office of the Chief Investigator, the Professional Standards Bureau provided weekly updates and has begun providing written updates for the Board's records and information.
- The Board discussed the ShotSpotter Technology before City Council contract approval and continues to discuss before 2021 implementation.
- As a new practice, the Board now receives written updates from the Department's Professional Standards Bureau of Constitutional Policing. The Board required and received weekly updates from the Department on Protest-related Investigations and Complaints.



# BOPC Citizen Complaints & Discipline

- BOPC's Office of the Chief Investigator (OCI): January 1-December 14, 2020
- Received **1091** Complaints
  - 54 related to anti-brutality protests starting May 28, 2020
- **944** Complaints investigated and closed (includes complaints received in 2019 and closed this year using 90-day investigation standards)
- **371** Complaints open
- As a new practice, the Board now receives written updates from the Department's Professional Standards Bureau of Constitutional Policing on Discipline resulting from OCI Investigations. The Board required and received weekly updates from the Department on Protest-related Investigations and Complaints and also received monthly updates from the OCI on key data measures. The Board collaborated with the DPD and taught civilian oversight principles and oversight curriculums as part of the DPD's Police Academy and Promotional Classes for police cadets and members who received promotions.



# BOPC General and Administrative Summary

- Held trainings for Board members, including orientations for new members
- Made recommendations to City Charter Revision Commission
- Posted of director of police personnel position
- Approved historical resolutions on best practices and constitutional policing
- Participation in Wayne State University's Levin and Keith Centers on the oversight panel discussion
- Hosted panel discussion with WSU Professor Peter Hammer and Attorney David Robinson on police and oversight reform
- Attended community forum on surveillance technology ordinance
- Held meetings with the DPOA, LSA, UAW Officials and labor relations unit
- Attended annual NACOLE Conference and reported key information
- Worked on NACOLE Board and Committee(s) (i.e. Membership, etc.).
- Serves as a mentor to other oversight agencies based on historical knowledge and experience.



# Community Relations and Outreach

- Reached 140,000 Detroit households in two newsletters
- Increased news alert subscriptions to 5,600
- Extended outreach to stakeholders under 40 years via Michigan Chronicle
- Conducted first BOPC Feedback for public input



# Office

- Since May, received and processed 181 calls to 313-596-1830 and processed other requests from external agencies
- More than 430 items submitted, logged, and processed for BOPC administration and weekly meetings
- Approved BOPC Administration Staff Standard Operating Procedures
- Approved Revised OCI Standard Operating Procedures





# GOALS FOR 2021

- Increase Board Training on Oversight, Law Enforcement, and Research and Data
- Expand Communication between the Board, the Department, and the Community to address crime, police reform initiatives, and other key partnerships
- Provide Effective Supervisory Oversight of the Detroit Police Department

# QUESTIONS?

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ANNIE HOPE  
Commissioner

WILLIAM DAVIS  
Commissioner

ELIZABETH BROOKS  
Commissioner

EVA DENWALSCHKE  
Commissioner

LEIA CARTER  
Commissioner

WILLIE BELL  
Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

