

Draft Minutes Detroit Board of Police Commissioners
Date of Meeting: Thursday, February 24, 2022 – 3:00 PM

Location: Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third St., Detroit, Michigan 48226

- I. **Chairperson Jim Holley called the BOPC Board Meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.**
- II. **Invocation.** Chaplain Angela Stallworth provided the invocation.
- III. **Mission Statement of the Board of Police Commissioners.**
- IV. **Introduction of Police Commissioners. A roll call was held, and a quorum was declared.**

Detroit Board of Police Commissioners' Membership / Attendance		
	Attend	Not-Attend
Rev. Jim Holley, PhD, Chairperson	Yes	
Bryan Ferguson, Vice Chairperson	Yes	
Linda D. Bernard, Esq.	Yes	
Cedric Banks	Yes	
Willie E. Bell	Yes	
Willie E. Burton	Yes	
Lisa Carter	Yes	
Ricardo Moore	Yes	
Jesus Hernandez	Yes	
Annie Holt	Yes	
Quorum (Yes)	10	

- V. **Chairperson Holley** called for any additions to the Agenda for Thursday, February 24, 2022. The motion was accepted and adopted.
- VI. **Chairperson Holley** called for any corrections to the Meeting Minutes for February 17, 2022. Commissioner Bell the correction of the voting result from “approved” to “failed” regarding the motion to censure a Board Member. The minutes were adopted with corrections.
- VII. **Introductions of Board administrative and investigative staff, Chief of Police, Elected Officials or Representatives.**
- VIII. **Chair’s Report.** Chairperson Holley reported on the following information:

(1) “First, I want to thank everyone for attending this afternoon’s Board Meeting. Now, in our fourth week of Black History Month, we continue to honor and pay special tribute this Month and every day not only to those whose work and sacrifices protect our freedom and civil rights. But we also honor and pay special tribute by honoring and respecting each other in our everyday dealings because we should not take freedom, fairness, and equality for granted.

Last week, I spoke about this Board being born from sacrifices relating to the Civil Uprising against Police Brutality and the need for justice that gave us the 1974 Charter and this city’s first black Mayor and its longest-serving Mayor, Coleman A. Young. However, during last week’s Board Meeting we hit a low-point when we allowed someone to make public comments that disparaged, demeaned, and slandered members of our Board staff.

These comments also attempted to sow distrust in our employees, and unjustly targeted two employees whom we all know are highly professional, and who have worked tirelessly every day on our behalf, often without vacation and with many interrupted holidays. These comments suggested inappropriate activity, placed falsehoods against our staff, and mislead this Board and the public, and I truly wish we had condemned the remarks at the time as inappropriate, intrusive, and offensive.

Our employees work for the City of Detroit; this meeting is part of their work environment. We can certainly talk about the work they do, but personal attacks will not be tolerated. The Board meets weekly to provide “Accountability through Civilian Oversight” of the Detroit Police Department. We took an oath to uphold the goal and mission of “Accountability through Civilian Oversight.” Our main goal in these meetings and as Board Members is to ensure that we sustain strong Independent Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement for the Detroit community. This is so that we make Detroit a safer, more peaceful, and prosperous city. Our goal is to work with the Department and the community to make sure that our Police Department provides quality, fair and legitimate policing and efficient public safety services to the residents and visitors of the City of Detroit. Our goal is not to utilize this forum as a medium to hurl attacks and overtones against Officials nor staff. Our goal is to make things better, not destroy.

We meet each week as required by the City Charter to provide “supervisory oversight and control of the Detroit Police Department,” not to be ridiculed, accused, or demeaned. If you have questions about our staff and the roles that we have assigned them, you may feel free to speak with myself or the Board leadership outside after the meeting in a professional, respectful manner. But we will not tolerate any misbehavior, personal attacks, or violation of the Board’s Meeting Bylaws which govern the meeting platform and the meeting decorum. As a reminder, it is against the Board Bylaws to use this platform to slander, threaten, intimidate, or defame any City Official or city employee. City employees, especially, have the right to enjoy the workplace free of harassment or ridiculing. While our heroes and sheroes fought for us to have all constitutional rights like freedom of speech, equal protection under the law, the intent was not to abuse that right. While there is freedom of speech, all speech is not protected under the law. Free speech does not mean we utilize this platform to damage, demean, or defame characters and reputations of officials and / or professionals. We want to move forward and must move forward if we are really sincere about oversight, civil rights, justice, transparency, accountability, legitimacy, and fairness of policing and public safety like we say that we are. This is Black History Month, and the best way to pay honor and tribute is to respect each other at all times.

Today, we have a presentation on the Judicial System Gun Case Backlog Reduction Project, which will be presented by Mr. Nikhil Patel, Senior Advisor to the Mayor, Strategic and Intergovernmental Projects.

We have been waiting on this presentation and look forward to learning more information about the work that is being done to reduce / eliminate the gun case backlog so that we can make our City safer and more peaceful. Mr. Patel will be presenting today in person and will be able to provide more information for public after the meeting.

- (2) **GUN / CASE BACKLOG PROJECT PRESENTATION:** The presentation on the “Gun/Case Backlog Project” will take place during today’s regular Board Meeting. Again, this forum will provide more information regarding new initiatives and efforts to reduce the gun case backlog within the judicial system and other public safety initiatives. We look forward to the Board and community getting this important information.
- (3) **OCI INVESTIGATOR INTERVIEWS:** Board Members, today we will begin conducting interviews for the vacant Investigator positions. We have two (2) interviews today. City HR will facilitate this process.
- (4) **DPD FY 22-23 BUDGET DETAILED REPORT:** Last week, we received the Department’s Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget Detailed Report. We look forward to Board Action next Thursday after the Commissioners and staff have had sufficient time to pose any inquiries to the Department.
- (5) **CHIEF’S REPORT:** We also look forward to receiving the Department’s report today on vital crime updates and critical incidents.
- (6) **REMINDER TO UTILIZE FORUM IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE BOARD BYLAWS:** Lastly, even with Judge Cox’s ruling last week affirming the need for professional conduct, I want to give a final reminder: please use this forum in a professional and respectful manner. We will not use this forum as a political platform nor to harm, disparage or demean any person. Board Members or anyone who violates the Board’s Bylaws or disrupts the meeting will be subject to action consistent with the Board Bylaws Article 11 Conduct of Meetings and the Open Meetings Act. Thank you for your professionalism and cooperation as we handle the important work of civilian oversight.

IX. Resolutions.

Commissioner Holt read the resolution honoring Commander Constance M. Slappey (Retirement).

**RESOLUTION HONORING
COMMANDER CONSTANCE M. SLAPPEY**

- WHEREAS** Constance M. Slappey was appointed to the Detroit Police Department on November 18, 1996. Upon graduating from the Detroit Metropolitan Police Academy, Officer Slappey began her career at the First Precinct; and
- WHEREAS** Officer Slappey's assignments with the Detroit Police Department included the First Precinct, Recruiting Unit, Executive Protection, and Evidence Technician Unit; and
- WHEREAS** Officer Slappey displayed tremendous knowledge and leadership skills as a Police Officer and earned promotion to the rank of Sergeant on May 4, 2001. As Sergeant, she was reassigned to the Evidence Technician Unit, Forensic Service Division, Science & Tech Bureau, Planning/Accreditation Section, Homicide Section, Fiscal Management Bureau, and Northeastern District; and
- WHEREAS** Sergeant Slappey was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant on November 22, 2013 and was assigned to the Detroit Detention Center and Ninth Precinct Investigative Operations Unit. On November 13, 2014, Lieutenant Slappey was appointed to the rank of Captain. Assignments for Captain Slappey included the Chief Duty Officer for Night Command, Professional Education and Training Bureau, and Homicide Section. Captain Slappey was appointed to the rank of Commander on April 16, 2018. Commander Slappey was assigned to the Eleventh Precinct, where she served until her retirement; and
- WHEREAS** Commander Slappey was the deserving recipient of the following awards: Perfect Attendance, Departmental Citation and Medal, Chief's Unit Award, Chief's Merit Award, Ford Fireworks Award, both Consent Judgment Awards, Major League Baseball All-Star Recognition Award, Rosa Parks Funeral Recognition Award, Super Bowl XL Recognition Award, and Aretha Franklin Funeral Recognition Award, as well as numerous letters of commendation from citizens and superiors; and
- WHEREAS** Commander Slappey has tirelessly served the Detroit Police Department, the citizens of Detroit and its neighboring communities for 25 years. She has served the Detroit Police Department and the citizens of the City of Detroit with loyalty, professionalism, integrity and dedication, and is widely respected throughout the law enforcement community as the consummate professional. The civilian oversight community also benefited greatly from Commander Slappey's expertise when she helped lead a seminar on community policing in culturally diverse communities for the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) when the Board hosted NACOLE's first-ever annual conference in Detroit in 2019.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking on behalf of the citizens of the great City of Detroit, recognizes and honors the lifelong contributions and commitment to excellence in public service of Commander Constance M. Slappey. Her display of courage and unwavering community spirit has improved the quality of life for the citizens of Detroit. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

We thank and congratulate you, Commander Constance M. Slappey.

Commissioner Holt moved adoption of a resolution, which was adopted as follows: "*Resolved*, That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking on behalf of the citizens of the great City of Detroit, recognizes and honors the lifelong contributions and commitment to excellence in public service of Commander Constance M. Slappey. Her display of courage and unwavering community spirit has improved the quality of life for the citizens of Detroit. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors."

X. Chief of Police Report: Chief of Police's Summary of CompStat Data and other Crime Information/DPD Information:

Assistant Chief David LeValley representing Chief James E. White reported on current CompStat Crime/Statistical Data for Violent Crime and Property; COVID19 impacts, and recent critical incidents impacting the DPD and the community. *See the attached Meeting Transcripts* and DPD Crime Reports for more information posted to the Board's webpage.

XI. Presentations to the Board – Judicial System Gun Case Backlog Initiative – Mr. Nikhil Patel, Office of the Mayor

- A. Judicial System Gun Case Backlog Initiative – Mr. Nikhil Patel, Office of the Mayor** provided a summary of the current gun case backlog within the judicial system in Detroit and Wayne County. During the presentation, Mr. Patel offered background information regarding the gun case backlog and offered recommendations and initiatives the City, County, and State are currently working to implement to reduce / eliminate the current backlog. *See the attached Meeting Transcripts* for more information.

XII. Report from Interim Board Secretary Melanie White/Communications Submitted to BOPC as incoming information:

1. Weekly DPD Facial Recognition Technology Report 2/14/22 – 2/20/22
2. Project Green Light Report 2/21/22
3. DPD ShotSpotter Report 2/14/22 – 2/20/22
4. Staff Reports

XIII. Unfinished Business:

Mr. John Tipton, II, Talent Acquisition Specialist, conducted candidate interviews for the OCI Police Commissioner Investigator vacant positions.

XIV. New Business.

XV. Announcements.

Mr. Robert Brown announced the following:

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 3, 2022, at 3:00 p.m., at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters.

Next Community Meeting: Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., at WCCC District - Downtown Campus, Hayden Room, 1001 West Fort St., Detroit, MI 48226

XVI. Oral Communications/Public Comments.

Ms. Bernice Smith, Lieutenant Mark Young, Ms. Fields, Mr. Eli Fessley, Minister Eric Blount, Mr. Antonio Cosme, Mr. Jefferson Ballew, Motor City Roo is Mr. Rhuben Crowley, Mr. Scotty Boman, Ms. Nicole Small, Resident, and Ms. Frances Whitters, offered public comments.

XVII. Adjournment.

Chairperson Holley adjourned the meeting at 5:46 p.m.