



Media Release

TO: Media Partners and ALL COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS

FROM: Atty. Linda D. Bernard, J.D., LL.M., Policy Committee Chairperson, BOPC

DATE: November 20, 2023

RE: BOPC Policy Committee FOCUS:
1. NEW Proposed Police Video Release Ordinance;
2. Amendments to Officer Involved Shooting Investigation Policy, and
3. Gunshot Detection System (Shotspotter) Policy

Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at 5 pm.; Detroit Public Safety Headquarters 3rd Floor, 1301 Third Street

Detroit, Michigan -- The Board of Police Commissioners will hold a committee meeting to draft the committee's recommendation for a City Ordinance that, if adopted by City Council, will mandate the release of video footage and related documentation from use of force incidents involving the Detroit Police Department.

When police interactions tragically end in the serious injury or death of a civilian and/or a DPD member, there is heightened public desire for transparency into what occurred. This transparency is paramount to the public's trust in the police department and the judicial system as a whole.

The BOPC Policy Committee intends to address the inconsistencies and delays in release of video currently by proposing a City Ordinance mandating the release of video footage and related documentation. Currently, video is released "within DPD's Discretion". This can be within a few hours to more than a year later within the Department's discretion, if ever. This internal "policy" was apparent with the delayed (and obscured) release of the Porter Burks video, despite repeated community protestations, more than one year later.

This will be addressed to align policy with Constitutional Policing, Transparency and Accountability standards. Mandatory video release protocols are common in other cities, including our sister city, Chicago!

The Policy Committee also plans to finalize its recommended changes to DPD's Officer Involved Shooting Investigations and Gunshot Detection System (Shotspotter) policies. Once finalized in committee, the policy recommendations will be presented to the full Board for feedback and support; and then revisited with DPD.

THE COMMUNITY AND ALL STAKEHOLDERS ARE INVITED. YOUR FEEDBACK IS CRITICAL TO OVERSIGHT!

The public is invited to attend the Policy Committee meeting in person or on Zoom. For agendas, Zoom ID, meeting calendars, or other information, visit detroitmi.gov/bopc or detroitmi.gov/events.

Atty. Linda D. Bernard, J.D., LL.M.
Policy Committee Chairperson - Board of Police Commissioners



Created under 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 four at-large members. The current members are Tamara Liberty Smith, District 1; Linda Bernard, District 2; Cedric Banks, District 3; Willie Bell, District 4; Willie Burton, District 5; Lisa Carter, District 6; Ricardo Moore, District 7, and at-large Jesus Hernandez, Rory Gamble, Jim Holley (Vice Chair), and QuanTez Pressley (Chair). The Board meets weekly on Thursday at 3 p.m. at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third Avenue, except for the second Thursday of the month when it holds community meetings at 6:30 p.m. at various locations. The Board also holds committee meetings. All meetings are on Zoom. For the Board meeting schedule, video, minutes and other information, visit the www.detroitmi.gov/bopc.