

Approved Minutes Detroit Board of Police Commissioners
Date of Meeting: Thursday, July 11, 2024 – 6:30 PM
Location: Citadel of Praise, 20280 Lyndon Street, Detroit, Michigan 48223

- I. **Chairperson Pressley called the BOPC Board Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.**
- II. **Invocation.** Pastor Spencer T. Ellis provided the invocation and welcomed the Board and community.
- III. **Introduction of Police Commissioners. A roll call was held, and a quorum was declared.**

Detroit Board of Police Commissioners' Membership / Attendance		
	In Attendance	Not-In Attendance
QuanTez Pressley, Chairperson	Yes	
Darryl Woods	Yes	
Tamara Liberty Smith, Vice Chairperson	Yes	
Linda D. Bernard, Esq.	Yes	
Cedric Banks	Yes	
Willie E. Bell		Excused
Willie E. Burton		Excused
Lisa Carter		Excused
Ricardo Moore	Yes	
Jesus Hernandez	Yes	
Quorum (Yes)	7	

- IV. **Chairperson Pressley** requested the approval of the Agenda for Thursday, July 11, 2024. The motion was accepted and adopted.
- V. **Chairperson Pressley** requested the approval of the Meeting Minutes for June 27, 2024. The minutes were adopted as presented.
- VI. **Introductions of Board administrative and investigative staff, the Chief of Police, Elected Officials or Representatives and Community Leaders.**
- VII. **Installation of Officers: Honorable Judge Sean B. Perkins, 36th District Court, State of Michigan.**

The Honorable Judge Sean B. Perkins, 36th District Court, State of Michigan administered the Oath of Office to Chairperson Darryl Woods, and Vice Chairperson Tamara Liberty Smith. Chairperson Darryl Woods thanked the past Chair QuanTez Pressley for his great leadership, under his leadership, we have been able to get fully staffed at OCI that was vitally important to be able to deal with the backlog that this community and the citizens of Detroit are very concerned about. We took an oath to serve the citizens of the city of Detroit. We did not take an oath to serve any leader. We did not take an oath to do anything for personal gain, and I assure you that I am not here because I have aspirations to go anywhere else. I am here because I am willing to sacrifice my time, my efforts, my resources and my talent to be able to do everything that we possibly can, to be able to get rid of the backlog. To be able to bring dignity and respect and integrity to this office. And so, You have my promise and my dedication, that I will do everything possible to work with all of my fellow commissioners in a civil, respectful and honorable way to be able to do everything we can to reduce the backlog. That is the number one priority for us as a Commission. You also have my promise that I would never, ever turn my back on the people of the city of Detroit. I would do everything within my spirit and in my mind, with all the fiber of my being to be able to serve in a loving and compassionate way. I know that many of my fellow commissioners share that spirit. We ask you to be a little patient with us. Please know that we will report back to this community, and we will continue to stay open and transparent. I think that you would be very happy with some of the initiatives that we have in mind to be able to show the citizens of the city of Detroit that we mean business. I want to thank all of the commissioners, the ones who voted for me, the ones who did not vote for me and for all the ones who didn't vote. And I will say this, it's time for us to show up for the citizens of the city of Detroit. We need to be present at every meeting. The citizens of the city of Detroit deserve for us to have a quorum at every meeting they deserve for us to work hard and work very diligently, to be able to serve this community.

My pastor is here, the Honorable Bishop Charles Haywood, Ellis III, he's a very honorable leader in this community, and First Lady Ellis. Also the Honorable Pastor Spencer T. Ellis, who is here, a dear friend of mine. This is the 50th Anniversary in which we celebrate the Board of Police Commission. One of those commissioners inspired me for decades, and it is the reason why I am sitting in this seat. It is their father, who touched my heart and touched my mind, and ministered to me. When I was in a weak place, in a downtrodden place, and was able to advocate and pray for me, and love on me and his sons had did the same thing since their father been gone since 1996. It is his inspiration who sat in this seat as a Board of Police Commissioner that I am inspired by. I am inspired by the Honorable Coleman Alexander Young, who wrote the book *Hard Stuff*. Read his book, his autobiography from cover to cover. I read it three times, and you will get some real inspiration. My good friend the Honorable Deputy Mayor Todd Bettison who serves this community, I thank him for being here. And I have so many friends and brothers and sisters that's in this room today. The Director of the Conviction Integrity Unit, the one who fight against injustices in reverse wrongful convictions the Honorable Valerie Newman. There are so many here, my grandson is here. My daughter is right there, my father, my brothers, are in the room and my cousins, so you all can't mess with me today. So all of my family and friends, would you please stand as I recognize you because I cannot call everyone by name. Finally, I will say to my friend, Judge Perkins you are a dear friend, a person who means business in the courtroom. You do it with integrity and love and compassion, and so I thank you for being here to swear in my fellow colleague, as well as myself, so much love and respect to you, and God bless you.

VIII. BOPC Officers' Report.

Chairperson Darryl Woods requested a moment of silence for those who have been victimized, for the 21 people who were shot on the east side of Detroit. I think we should take a moment of silence for those families and for that community.

IX. Resolutions and Certificates of Appreciation.

A. **Commissioner Moore** read the Resolution Honoring Ms. Betty Varner.

**RESOLUTION HONORING
BETTY VARNER**

WHEREAS, Betty Varner is a lifelong Detroit resident, and has lived in her neighborhood for over 50 years. Observing many changes in the neighborhood some good and some bad, she decided to become a part of the solution in her community. Ms. Varner joined the block club and was elected President in 2015; and

WHEREAS, As President of the DeSoto Ellsworth Block Association (D.E.B.A.) a nonprofit organization established by senior citizens residing in the community. The goal is to improve the overall quality of living in the neighborhood by beautifying and maintaining the vacant lots, vacant homes and alleys of the community. D.E.B.A. has purchased five vacant lots on the corner of Ellsworth and Monica for the sole purpose of building a Playscape, Pocket Park, and Flower Garden; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Varner has been successful in bringing several programs to the neighborhood, the Free Minor Home Repair Program and a program to have vacant houses boarded up. The Lawn Academy, snow removal, and other resources for residents. Ms. Varner is presently working with the City of Detroit to revitalize the Fenkell Corridor from Livemois to Wyoming. She worked closely with her late Vice President Gwendolyn Lanier to create a community park to give the children in the neighborhood a safe place to play, a place for seniors and residents to congregate that provides tranquility, a place to interact with others, and a place for community events; and

WHEREAS, In 2023, Ms. Varner advocated to the Detroit City Council to allocate monies from the budget to have seniors and people with disabilities houses made handicap accessible. The Council allocated \$2 million dollars from the budget for the new program named Seniors Accessibility Home Repair Fund. She spoke every day that the Council had a meeting advocating for monies to be budgeted for the program.

WHEREAS, Ms. Varner serves as an at-large member of the Tenth Precinct Community Relations Organization Executive Board. She attended and completed the training for the Detroit Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association.

THEREFORE BE IT
RESOLVED,

That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking on behalf of the residents of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department, acknowledge the dedicated support of Ms. Betty Varner. Her commitment and devotion to supporting the community of the Tenth Precinct and the citizens throughout the city of Detroit, merits our highest regards.

We thank and congratulate you Ms. Betty Varner.

Commissioner Hernandez moved, “that the Board of Police Commissioners adopt this resolution into our archives.” The motion was adopted.

- B. **Certificates:** Commander Vernal Newson, Sergeant Lee Brown, Sergeant Brandon Pierce, Police Officer James Corsi, Police Officer Jovan Jones, Police Officer Charles Staples
- C. **Certificates:** Pastor Spencer T. Ellis, Pastor Everett N. Jennings, Dr. Pastor Lester B. Jordan, Pastor Gregory Foster, Reverend Larry Simmons, Chaplain Anthony Johnson, Chaplain Stanley Mobley, Bishop Kenneth Tate
- D. **Certificates:** Alex Allen III, Alex Allen IV, Duane Ballard, T.C. Bennett, Kevin Bryant, Tommie Clemons, Brian Curson, Arthur Edge, Armond Fisher, Brian Flagg, Charlie Grant, Joseph Haskins, Ollie Johnson, Allan Kjellbert, William Lazensby, Joe Matney, Frankie McKnuckle, Walter Moore, Kevin Nolan, George Perdue, William Rankin, Gary Ringer, Brett Robinson, Ronald Roland, Tom Scott, Tommie Sewell, Larry Slappy, Aaron Slaughter, Steve Smith, Jerry Springs, Paul Stark, Steven Strickland, Eric Strickland, Ishmail Terry, Carlos Topp

X. Chief of Police and 6th Precinct Report.

Deputy Chief Jacqueline Pritchett reported on current CompStat Crime/Statistical Data for Violent Crime and Property and recent critical incidents impacting the DPD and the community.

Commander Vernal Newson 6th Precinct provided an overview of precinct boundaries, crime stats, and initiatives to reduce crime in the Sixth Precinct.

XI. Oral Communication / Public Comments: Mr. Amulen Rozmus, Ms. Angelica Williams, Mr. Alexis Escoto, Mr. Robert Daniel, Former Commissioner Reginald Crawford, Mr. Jahdante Smith, Minister Eric Blount, Mr. James Ford, Mr. Marvin Cotton, Ms. Victoria Camille, Former Commissioner William Davis, Ms. Deborah Price, Mr. Jackie Hunt, Ms. Bernice Smith, and Election Integrity Roo provided public comments.

XII. Presentation to the Board – 6th Precinct Police Community Relations Council Ms. Mary McGhee.

Ms. Mary McGhee President of the 6th Precinct Police Community Relations Council provided information on their meetings held on the last Wednesday of the month at 7PM. Their first in person meeting since the pandemic will be July 31, 2024 at the 6th Precinct, 11450 Warwick St., Detroit, MI 48228.

XIII. Report from Acting Board Secretary Robert Brown / Communications Submitted to BOPC as incoming information:

- A. Approved Specification Report – Skydio Unmanned Aerial System
- B. BOPC Inquiries Responses
- C. OCI Weekly Inventory Report 06222024 – 06282024
- D. OCI Weekly Inventory Report 06292024 – 07052024

XIV. Announcements.

Acting Board Secretary Robert Brown announced the following:

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third St., Detroit, MI 48226.

Next Community Meeting: Thursday, August 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m., hosted by the 5th Precinct to be held at WCCCD Eastern Campus, 5901 Conner St., Detroit, MI 48213.

Monthly Committee Meeting Schedule for June 2024
Policy Committee Meeting Tuesday, July 23, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m.
All Committee Meetings take place in the Detroit Public Safety Headquarters

XV. New Business.

- A. Policy Committee Report Commissioner Bernard provided key updates from the committee meeting held July 9, 2024.

XVI. Adjournment.

Chairperson Woods adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.