

Approved Minutes Detroit Board of Police Commissioners
Date of Meeting: Thursday, November 14, 2024 – 6:30 PM
Location: Adams Butzel Recreation Center, 10500 Lyndon St., Detroit, Michigan 48238

1. **Chairperson Woods called the BOPC Board Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.**
2. **Invocation.** Deputy Chaplain DeShante Ervin provided the invocation.
3. **Report from Board Secretary Lydia Garnier**
 - A. Incoming Communications
 1. OCI Weekly Inventory Report 11022024-11082024

4. **Announcements.**

Board Secretary Lydia Garnier announced the following:

- A. Next Board Meeting: Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 3 p.m., at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third St., Detroit, MI 48226.

 Next Community Meeting: Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., at WCCCD Curtis L. Ivey Campus, 1001 West Fort St., Detroit, MI 48226.
- B. Next Committee Meetings

Citizen Complaint Committee	Friday, November 19, 2024 @ 3:30 p.m.
Budget Committee	Friday, November 19, 2024 @ 4:30 p.m.

5. **Introduction of Police Commissioners. A roll call was held, and a quorum was declared at 6:46 p.m.**

Detroit Board of Police Commissioners' Membership / Attendance	In Attendance	Not-In Attendance
Darryl Woods, Chairperson	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		Excused
QuanTez Pressley	Yes	
Eva Garza Dewaelsche	Yes	
Quorum (Yes)	7	

6. **Chairperson Woods** requested the approval of the Agenda for Thursday, November 14, 2024. **Commissioner Moore** motioned, “to amend the agenda and add a Certificate of Appreciation and six resolutions, the School at Marygrove, Principal Lisa Williams, Mumford High School, Mr. Damon Pitt, Renaissance High School, and Verynda Stroughter.” The motion was accepted and adopted.
7. **Chairperson Woods** requested the approval of the Public Meeting Minutes for November 7, 2024. The minutes were adopted as presented. Chairperson Woods requested the approval of the Closed Session Meeting Minutes for November 7, 2024. The minutes were adopted as presented.
8. **Introductions of Board administrative and investigative staff, the Chief of Police, Elected Officials or Representatives and Community Leaders.**
9. **BOPC Officers’ Report.**

Chairperson Woods thanked Mr. Andre Harris and staff from the Adams Butzel Recreation Center, commending their great work with the youth, and in the community, facilitating a safe place for the citizenry of every age. On behalf of the Board, Chairperson Woods expressed condolence to Ms. Angela Cox for the passing her loved one. Community Relations Council President, Ms. Fredia Butler of the 2nd Precinct provided words of welcome.

10. Certificates of Appreciation and Resolutions.

Vice Chairperson Smith provided Certificates of Appreciation to NPO Jennifer Tyler, NPO Colette Burks-Weathers, NPO Todd Eads, Sergeant Edward Jackson, NPO Lorenzo Hampton, NPO Errol Franklin, Commander Anthony O'Rourke, Demolition Department, Recreation Center Adams Butzel, Andre Harris and Staff, Captain Robert Mitchell and Mr. Anthony Dorsey.

Commissioner Bernard read the resolution honoring Renaissance High School.

RESOLUTION HONORING
RENAISSANCE HIGH SCHOOL

WHEREAS Renaissance High School is one of Detroit's premier high schools. Renaissance High School is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and offers a rigorous college preparatory curriculum within a collegiate-like setting. With a population of slightly over 1,200 students, a cross-section of socio-economic backgrounds are represented, and it is comprised of 66 percent females and 34 percent males; and

WHEREAS Renaissance High School is one of five examination high schools in the Detroit Public Schools Community District. Eighth grade students from within and outside the district, private, charter and parochial schools are eligible to apply. Selection is based on a completed application, which includes recommendations, a student written essay, and passing the High School Placement Test. Students are expected to maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average to remain at Renaissance High School; and

WHEREAS Academically, Renaissance High School students perform above the state and national averages! Their average SAT Composite Score is 1012, which exceeds the state and national averages! The Advanced Placement Report to the Nation cited Renaissance High School as having the most African American students in the world to successfully pass the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition exam. Renaissance was recognized as a State and National Blue-Ribbon School of Excellence, and in the last several years, U.S. News and World Report has awarded Renaissance a Silver Medal in the annual list of America's Best High Schools; and

WHEREAS Renaissance High School excels not only academically but also athletically, boasting an award-winning program. The school's athletic achievements are numerous and impressive. To mention a few, The Girls Track and Field team has secured ten State Championships, while the Boys Basketball team clinched State Championships in 2003 and 2006, along with a division title in 2014.

WHEREAS Renaissance High School has a renowned and world-traveled vocal and instrumental music department. Students have performed in London, Spain, Africa, Toronto, and Carnegie Hall in New York. We also offer a nationally recognized dance program that emphasizes training in various modern and ballet techniques. The Visual Arts department has received numerous recognitions on the local and state level including being featured at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Additionally, our Studio Art program provides students with the opportunity to expand their talents in drawing, painting, photography and graphics.

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 by Renaissance High School. There display of excellence and unwavering community spirit has improved the quality of life for the citizens of Detroit. We wish you the best in your future endeavors.

We thank and congratulate you, Renaissance High School.

Presented by: Atty, Linda D. Bernard J.D., LL.M
Elected Commissioner, District 2

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

Commissioner Bernard read the resolution honoring Verynda Stroughter.

RESOLUTION HONORING
VERYNDA STROUGHTER

- WHEREAS The Principal of Renaissance High School, Verynda Stroughter has been an educator since 1997. She holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree from the University of Michigan in Actuarial Science and Secondary Mathematics Education, respectively. She also has a Specialist degree from Eastern Michigan University in Educational Administration; and
- WHEREAS Her professional career began as a mathematics teacher. She taught mathematics for 15 years at Macomb Community College and Detroit Public Schools. Mrs. Stroughter took her first administrative job at Cass Technical High School as an assistant principal followed by her being an assistant principal at Seaholm High School in Birmingham. Finally, she landed her dream job as principal of Renaissance High School in 2018; and
- WHEREAS Mrs. Stroughter’s husband, Lawrence, is also a high school principal at Hamtramck High School. Together, they have three young adult sons: Miles, Dylan, and Lincoln. Miles is a graduate of Renaissance High School and currently a junior at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. Dylan and Lincoln are students at Renaissance High School; and
- WHEREAS In her spare time, Mrs. Stroughter enjoys spending time with her family and friends, entertaining, traveling and watching sports, especially college football; and
- WHEREAS Verynda is involved in her community as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. where she has dedicated more than thirty years of active membership, serving on various committees and leadership roles. She is also a member of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. Detroit Chapter where she has been involved since 2012 with the local chapter, most recently as a two-term president, and has served on several regional committees.
- WHEREAS Mrs. Stroughter has dedicated her life to serving children in the Metro Detroit area. She serves as a mentor to many as she is dedicated to the success, matriculation, and aptitude of all with whom she encounters. Verynda is committed to all students and their academic and social-emotional success. She is 100% committed to the growth and maturity of students in becoming the best young adults that they can be.

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 Verynda Stroughter. Her display of courage and unwavering community spirit has improved the quality of life for the citizens of Detroit. We wish you the best in your future endeavors.

We thank and congratulate you, Verynda Stroughter.

Presented by: Atty, Linda D. Bernard J.D., LL.M
Elected Commissioner, District 2

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

Commissioner Bernard read the resolution honoring The School at Marygrove.

RESOLUTION HONORING
THE SCHOOL AT MARYGROVE

- WHEREAS The School at Marygrove develops critical thinkers and community-minded citizens who have the skills and knowledge to be makers and leaders in the 21st century. The social justice and engineering focus enables

students to identify and solve complex problems, actively participating in the creation of a more just and equitable future. Every graduate will be prepared to pursue their passions and succeed in any personal and professional endeavors; and

WHEREAS The School at Marygrove will eventually serve grades K-12 and has been adding grades each year since it opened in 2019. The School at Marygrove is one school, housed in two buildings on the beautiful Marygrove campus; and

WHEREAS The School at Marygrove is part of the Marygrove Learning Community, a Detroit P-20 Partnership that includes DPSCD, Starfish Family Services, Kresge Foundation, Marygrove Conservancy, and University of Michigan School of Education; and

WHEREAS What Makes Marygrove Unique: K-12 focus on engineering principles and practice, Social justice-oriented curriculum, Extensive and extended support from college admissions through college graduation, Elementary and high school FIRST Robotics.

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 The School of Marygrove. Their display of courage and unwavering community spirit has improved the quality of life for the citizens of Detroit. We wish you the best in your future endeavors.

We thank and congratulate you, The School of Marygrove.

Presented by: Atty, Linda D. Bernard J.D., LL.M
Elected Commissioner, District 2

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

Commissioner Bernard read the resolution honoring Principal Lisa Williams.

RESOLUTION HONORING
PRINCIPAL LISA WILLIAMS

WHEREAS Lisa Williams the Principal of The School of Marygrove, a P20 partners help, unique to public education in Detroit, has had a distinguished and multifaceted career in education, spanning over 26 years. Her journey began with a deep passion for teaching, motivating, and leading, and has continued to evolve as she gains invaluable experience in various educational roles; and

WHEREAS Her career began as an English Language Arts (ELA) teacher at Martin Luther King Jr. Sr. High School in Detroit Public Schools, where she honed her teaching skills before moving to the Oak Park School District. There, she held several key roles, including ELA teacher, Department Chair, and Dean of Students. These positions allowed her to develop a strong foundation in leadership, which she later carried into her roles as Assistant Principal and Principal in both the Ferndale Public Schools and Van Dyke Public School Districts; and

WHEREAS In addition to her work in schools, Principal Williams also served as a School Improvement Consultant with Wayne RESA for one year, further expanding her impact on the educational landscape. Throughout her career, she has worked with a wide range of diverse students and families, and her focus on building strong relationships with students, staff, parents, and community stakeholders has been a key driver of her success. She is deeply committed to fostering high achievement, maintaining a safe school environment, and ensuring equitable learning opportunities for all students; and

WHEREAS Principal Williams is a proud two-time alumna of Western Michigan University, where she earned both her bachelor's degree in secondary education-English and a master's in educational leadership. Her commitment to excellence was recognized in 2013 when she received the College of Education and Human Development's Golden Apple Award. In 2023, she was appointed to the Board of Trustees for Western Michigan University by Governor Gretchen Whitmer; and

WHEREAS Outside of her professional achievements, Principal Williams is a dedicated mother to two sons, Deonte Roberts and Jordon Williams. She enjoys spending quality time with them, cherishing the balance between her career and family life. Her vision as an educator remains clear: to create a learning environment that fosters continuous improvement and provides equitable educational opportunities for every student.

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 Principal Lisa Williams. 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, Principal Lisa Williams.

Presented by: Atty, Linda D. Bernard J.D., LL.M
Elected Commissioner, District 2

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

11. Chief of Police & 2nd Precinct Report.

Interim Chief of Police Todd Bettison thanked the Board of Police Commissioners for their support and oversight on behalf of the men and women of the Detroit Police Department. Interim Chief Bettison express under his administration as Chief there will be transparency of law enforcement.

2nd Precinct – Commander Anthony O’Rourke provided a summary report of overall crime statistics within the 2nd Precinct and activities and operations.

12. Oral Communication / Public Comments: Ms. Glenda McGadney, Mr. Gregory Moss, Mr. Roo, Mr. Jahdante Smith, Ms. Charnita Williams, Mr. Ronald Foster, Former Commissioner William Davis, Ms. Latesha Edwards, Ms. Fredia Butler, Mr. Michael Thompson and Mr. Scotty Boman provided public comments.

13. Unfinished Business.

Commissioner Moore motioned, “that the Board of Police Commissioners postpone the request for the Board to receive legal advice concerning employee evaluation.” The motion passed.

14. New Business.

A. Special Personnel & Training Search Committee Memorandum

Commissioner Dewaelsche provided key updates from the committee meeting held November 8, 2024. In accordance with the Charter, Sec. 7-805. Chief of Police. The Board of Police Commissioners shall conduct a professional search with a reputable and qualified executive search firm or other equally qualified entity to identify candidates for Chief of Police. The Mayor shall appoint, subject to the approval by City Council, a Chief of Police from a list of qualified candidates provided by the Board of Police Commissioners.

By the recommendation of the Special Personnel & Training Committee a motioned to hire TJA Staffing. The motion passed.

YES = 6

NO = 0

ABSTAIN = 1

MOTION = PASSED

Yes: Chairperson Woods, Vice Chairperson Smith, Commissioners Bernard, Banks, Moore, Dewaelsche

No:

Abstain: Commissioner Pressley

B. Policy Committee Memorandum

Commissioner Bernard provided key updates from the committee meeting held November 12, 2024.

15. Adjournment.

Chairperson Woods adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.