

Draft Minutes Detroit Board of Police Commissioners
Date of Meeting: Thursday, April 24, 2025 – 3:00 PM
Location: Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third St., Detroit, Michigan 48226

1. **Vice Chairperson Smith** called the BOPC Board Meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.
 - A. **Invocation.** Chaplain Jeremy Durr provided the invocation.
2. **Oral Communication / Public Comments:** Lieutenant Mark Young.
3. **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
Darryl Woods, Chairperson	Yes	
Tamara Liberty Smith, 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	
QuanTez Pressley		Excused
Eva Garza Dewaelsche	Yes	
Quorum (Yes)	10	

4. **Vice Chairperson Smith** requested the approval of the April 24, 2025 Agenda.

Commissioner Hernandez motioned “that the Board take a recess for 15 minutes.” The motion passed.

Chairperson Woods called the BOPC meeting back to order at 3:33 p.m.

Commissioner Moore motioned to amend the Agenda, “to move Oral Communication / Public Comments prior to the BOPC Officers’ Report.” The motion passed.
5. **Chairperson Woods** called for the approval of the Agenda for Thursday, April 24, 2025 with the amendment. The motion passed.
6. **Chairperson Woods** requested the approval of the Meeting Minutes for April 17, 2025. The minutes were adopted as presented.
7. **Chairperson Woods** requested the approval of the Closed Session Minutes for April 17, 2025. 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. **Oral Communication / Public Comments:** continued Ms. Charnita Williams, Minister Eric Blount, Mr. Jahdante Smith, Mr. Real, Former Commissioner William Davis, Ms. Taura Brown, and CAC Scotty Boman provided public comments.
10. **BOPC Officers’ Report.** No Report
11. **Chief of Police Report.**

Chief of Police Todd Bettison reported on current CompStat Crime/Statistical Data for Violent Crime and Property and recent critical incidents impacting the DPD and the community. Chief Bettison discussed several topics: DPD is focusing on seniors and residential buildings concerning complaints of individuals taking advantage of where they congregate

and live. This Saturday [April 26, 2025], the Special Victims Unit will be hosting an outdoor event to raise awareness about child abuse. Also, the community can bring prescription drugs, any unused medication to be disposed of safely and anonymously at any Detroit Police Department Precinct - it is the DEA Drug Take Back Day.

Commissioner Banks asked Chief Bettison, your administration is down in crime in a lot of different categories from a year ago. What is the strategy?

Chief Bettison indicated that it is continuous, relentless working together, a phenomenal team, with community support. The Mayor, the City Council, the Board of Police Commissioners have given the DPD the tools needed. Be it technology, the increase in pay to hire and retain officers and the Community Violence Interrupters (CVI). Also, a couple of days ago the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan approved and passed the Public Safety Trust Fund, which will bundle another \$18 Million to the City of Detroit; and so, it still has to go to the Senate. All of those things working together, pulling it up to enhance public safety. That is really the strategy.

Commissioner Moore mentioned two incidents where members had alcohol problems and the supervisors and other officers knew it and ignored it. That concerns me that people are not helping each other within the ranks. So what are the policies and procedures in place to help officers who have substance abuse and mental health issues?

Chief Bettison answered, it really starts with all of us, but it's a philosophy, from the top down, and I believe in communication, not only from the top down, but bottom up. We have our Family Unit. The Family Unit you heard about is not only for the community. It is where we wrap our arms around individuals who have experienced trauma and hurt in the community, and we got our Chaplain Corps, etc., but it's internally as well. So, within the Family Unit we have our Peer Support Unit. Our peer support makes sure our officers get the help that they need.

Chairperson Woods also expressed the Board wants to see a robust response to substance abuse disorder and mental health issues within the department.

Commissioner Bernard detailed the benefit of the Public Safety Trust Fund initiative for the City of Detroit, that 1% of the sales tax, which is 6 cents. Therefore, 1% of the sales tax now will go into the Public Safety Trust Fund, and Detroit is going to get the majority of this first batch of money, which is like \$80 million. The second thing mentioned there was either cocaine or fentanyl, or something in senior citizen housing. I think that the community thinks in order to be in senior citizen housing. You have to be over 60 or over 65. But that's not true. Senior citizen housing can also be used as a result of the Federal regulations for people who are simply handicapped. If I'm 25 and I'm in a wheelchair then, and I've lost the use of my legs permanently. For example, then I can live in a senior citizen place. So it is not just seniors, but people who are severely disabled, but can continue to be mobile.

Chief Bettison submitted a list for the promotion to the ranks of Lieutenants, Sergeants, and Detectives requesting those members be promoted.

Commissioner Moore moved, "to approve the recommendation of Chief Bettison to promote the following individuals to the rank of Lieutenant." The motion passed.

Sergeant Maquel Grandberry
Sergeant Melanie O'Rourke
Sergeant Richard McLatcher
Sergeant Glenn Anderson
Sergeant Patrick Tomsic
Sergeant Kevin Alfrey

Sergeant Kevin Alfrey
Sergeant Timothy Vernon
Sergeant William Morrison
Sergeant Terri Kenned
Sergeant Cornelius O'Leary

Commissioner Moore moved, "to approve the recommendation of Chief Bettison to promote the following individuals to the rank of Sergeant." The motion passed.

Detective Kimberly Sterner
Police Officer Anthony Williams
Police Officer Tabitha Sears
Police Officer Richelle Riddle
Police Officer Jacob Hebner
Detective Dion Corbin
Detective Hayley Genaw
Police Officer Kendell Jefferson
Police Officer Joseph Eason

Police Officer Robert Dale
Detective Alexis Campbell
Police Officer Zachary Cooper
Corporal Nicholas Murphy
Detective Jennifer Adams
Detective Garrett Buffington
Detective Eric Smith
Detective Larry Jenkins
Police Officer Gabriele Simpson

Police Officer Blake Navarre
Police Officer Danielle Honeycutt
Police Officer Justin Hearn
Detective Hallie Mackson

Police Officer Matthew Webb
Police Officer Darwin Smith
Police Officer Emily James

Commissioner Moore moved, “to approve the recommendation of Chief Bettison to promote the following individuals to the rank of Detective.” The motion passed.

Corporal John Siejutt
Police Officer Marissa Snyder
Police Officer Dillon Hanson
Police Officer Garrett Micallef
Police Officer Zachary Barrick
Police Officer Jacob Browning
Police Officer Juan Pejuan
Police Officer Derrick Daniel

Corporal Aireona Smith
Police Officer Donovan Wheeler
Police Officer Crystal Anderson
Police Officer James Oshea
Corporal Douglas Mart
Police Officer Richard Barmore
Corporal Christine Lewis
Police Officer Yousseif Berro

Chairperson Woods expressed for the record that there were some names recommended that the Board will continue to research and will do our due diligence to place that on the agenda for next week.

12. Presentation to the Board.

Technology Utilization & Efficacy: Facial Recognition and License Plate Readers – Stephen Lamoreaux, Director – Crime Data Analytics. Facial Recognition Technology comprises two things to create a comprehensive program. The Biometric software, it uses deep learning algorithms which fall under broadly the category of artificial intelligence that compare an input image to a database of images; and, morphological comparison. This is a human centric process. Anytime we deploy technology, we surround it with the human centric process. We have analysts that are trained examiners, they receive training from the FBI; then DPD provides some internal training on policy and usage as well; and, once they complete that training, they are authorized by the Department to run facial recognition searches. Our process requires that once an examiner makes a determination and they think they have a possible lead, it is reviewed and confirmed independently by another trained examiner; and then, if they agree, it goes to a supervisor for the final review before it can be sent out as a lead to the investigative units. We have worked closely with the ACLU to develop our current policy. It is considered one of the strongest in the country for preserving civil liberties, and we are continuously working on internal processes to make sure that we will always adhere to this policy. A few key points in this policy, we limit the type of crimes that we are allowed to run facial recognition on - that would be anything defined by the FBI as a Part 1 Violent Crime that includes criminal homicide.

Commissioner Dewaelsche had several questions. It was stated that examiners receive training from the FBI. What is the extent of the training? How many hours do they receive or days?

Director Lamoreaux detailed 3-1/2 days of in-depth training where modules are focused on individual facial features. They take tests with the FBI, and at the end of it the FBI will sign off that they have a good understanding of conducting these human morphological comparisons.

Commissioner Dewaelsche asked what is the reason for such a significant decrease in the measurements data comparison – in 2023 you had 102 total searches, and, in all of 2024 you only had 27?

Director Lamoreaux expressed as part of the negotiations on the new policy, we have made a conscious decision not to use facial recognition as an initial tool. We encourage precincts to exhaust every other possible lead and then submit facial recognition requests, if everything else runs cold. We are seeing the incoming requests decrease. We are seeing through the training that we have rolled out as part of the settlement agreement with the ACLU.

Chairperson Woods added that the settlement agreement was with Mr. Williams, who was victimized by facial recognition. So the person who had been victimized by it, was able to come to the table and work with the department and work with the ACLU and the University of Michigan civil rights class. Mike Steinberg and our policy chair and the policy committee to be able to come up with robust policy. That is why you see the change in those numbers. So that type of robust engagement has been very effective, and I think the community should be very aware of how we got to this point. That's very significant.

Commissioner Bernard expressed it has been nationally recognized that facial recognition technology is inherently racist, based on the algorithms that are programmed into the technology that has not been corrected. I want to applaud DPD for not using it more, because everybody from Harvard University to Stanford University. Every university has determined that they can't seem to weed out the racism that's in the algorithm. What I'd like for you to provide us at a later date, perhaps within the next two weeks, is how much litigation the department has had, or the city has had related to facial recognition? How many filings? How many cases, and what those cases cost us the legal fees? Because we always use outside counsel on them and the settlements for those persons. I know that there have been both men and women involved, so that might be helpful to just the gender of the plaintiff.

Commissioner Moore inquired how much do we spend on facial recognition?

Director Lamoreaux We don't spend anything directly on facial recognition. We access it through Michigan State Police, their network. So we pay very little. We pay a little bit for access to MCJIN. But we're paying that access for a variety of other law enforcement tools as well.

Chief Bettison addressed the question, indicating that the Michigan State Police provides facial recognition services for law enforcement entities across Michigan. So rather than us waste taxpayers dollars per se, we're able to utilize that system.

Commissioner Moore asked how much is budgeted for facial recognition in the city budget?

Director Lamoreaux said nothing is budgeted for facial recognition, specifically we are budgeted, or we pay for tokens which allow us to access MCJIN with the Michigan Criminal Justice Information Network and that provides access to a variety of law enforcement tools. The State grants us a small number of licenses for our trained examiners to run facial recognition through their application.

Chief Bettison said we will get you the exact amount, so that you will have a dollar amount, so we can provide you for 2023, 2024 based off the token system that, he said, or usage as to how much it costs, but it's very minuscule.

Commissioner Moore asked I understand there's a Federal judge involved in facial recognition that is analyzing cases back to 2017. Is that true?

2nd Deputy Chief Grant Ha stated, Federal judges are not involved. The federal judge was only involved in regards to the settlement of the case. The settlement included the facial recognition policy that we've been discussing in this meeting.

Commission Moore expressed, I thought it was an analytical look at all the cases going back to 2017. Is that true?

2nd Deputy Chief Ha Yes, that that was part of the order. We conducted it and that information was given to the ACLU.

Commissioner Moore So what about the Board. Are we going to see that?

2nd Deputy Chief Ha We can do that.

Commissioner Hernandez asked along with the cost report, facial recognition, can we get a summary of what the agreement looks like? What does DPD provide in return? We're paying for these tokens, and we have access to capabilities of the tool. But what are we providing in return? If anything? Is there an agreement between Michigan State Police and Detroit Police for DPD to be able to access that system. The answer is, yes. I just want a summary of that agreement, because if there's anything that DPD is providing in return for access to that service, I think we should all know about it, and the public should, as well.

Director Lamoreaux said We can provide a copy and a quick summary. DPD has agreed to provide quick notifications when parties internally responsible for overseeing facial recognition usage change. We've agreed to quickly update them on who's responsible for it. We've agreed to make sure that we, on a regular schedule, provide them with a list of our authorized examiners, and these are the only people that are allowed to run facial recognition requests or submit them to MSP. On the department's behalf, we have agreed to participate in some scientific working groups as a department, to specifically help drive, basically knowledge exchanges with other public sector and policy Think Tank experts about best practices surrounding these technologies. And we've just agreed to notify them of any potential incidents very quickly. So that they're aware.

License Plate Readers the Board should be aware we had recent expansion in this area. License Plate Reader is a specific type of camera that is designed to capture high-resolution images. Here we deploy them to capture the rear end of cars, to capture license plates. There's some specialized software that goes along with that to convert that image into text, and then compare the text to national criminal databases. That can be done for Real Time Alerts or Investigative follow up. These are the two basic uses. We have real time alerts for wanted vehicles. So this is what a lot of people think of when they think of license plate readers. A license plate photo is snapped. The software compares that text to NCIC, which is a national criminal database for one that includes wanted vehicles. If plates match we are in it within our LPRs; we get an alert in the Real Time Crime Center here at DPSH. This is technology; so we have to surround it with a human centric process. We don't just immediately act on that. We have to do some research on that, and there's a couple of reasons for that. So once the plate number may match. But, they could be different States. It could be a Michigan plate, and we could match a plate from, say, Georgia. And then again, there's also a delay in how it takes information to be uploaded into the State; and, then the national database. So, there can be a 12-hour delay. Newer LPR technology goes a little bit beyond license plates. It will search based on the color of the vehicle. The make and model of the vehicle, and increasingly, tools are, including the ability to find damage or different colored stickers on a car as well. LPRs can only be used for purposes such as crime analysis to alert us; that the presence of a wanted vehicle is in a specific area, or to identify movements of a vehicle is relevant to a criminal investigation after the fact. We have a pretty wide variety of license plate readers now. We have our city street intersections; that's the traditional one. We have a variety of vendors now, too. You can see we have 328 devices on city street intersections. There's still some more pending in the installation process, so that number will be increasing over the coming weeks and months. We also, through our analysis, had identified increasing concerns of gun violence on freeways, and worked with the State of Michigan to help fund a freeway camera overview project and put license plate readers on ramps and off ramps. I think that will be a valuable tool. There's certainly some instances where in the past, we have gotten a basic description of a vehicle. The person has fled on the freeway, and it becomes very hard to figure out where that vehicle went and identify it. In some cases, we've had some more luck if they are driving around city streets, and we get some information on them there. But, too often, that has been a blind spot for us. So we are looking forward to the ability to identify a vehicle connected to a crime, figure out where it went, and try and find it that way. So these devices are in big intersections to capture all four directions. There may be two or three readers in each of the four directions, which takes eight to twelve devices. And, then we also have 55 police cars that have mobile LPRs mounted on them. So as they drive around they can capture that data and they can get alerts in real time to those officers as well.

Commissioner Hernandez asked about "trailers". There were mobile units; and others. Are those trailers like the ones that are downtown? Grand Circus? Portable trailers or sometimes in parking lots?

Director Lamoreaux replied that you may be thinking of the ones that have those long, tall cameras. So, those are not specifically what I am talking about here. A lot of those - the NFL had used some of those through the draft; and, there were a few around in parks. A lot of those now are going to be privately owned that they are a quick way of deploying a very visible deterrence method. We definitely encourage some problematic businesses to invest in that. I am not sure where we are in the procurement process. It is definitely a technology we are interested in. What I am referring to specifically is a trailer that we took some LPRs, the same kind that are in the car. We mounted them on something that we can tow, and so we have a few quick deployment solutions. If there is a major event that we need additional coverage or we can respond quickly to an emerging trend.

Commissioner Hernandez asked is there some kind of like wish list capability that you might want to put out there that might facilitate additional cases being solved? Whether it be LPRs or otherwise, in the form of technology?

Director Lamoreaux replied, I am sure we could very quickly come up with a list of technology. We have been very intentional about what we do. Part of that is while we want to deploy the technology that we can deploy, we also don't want to deploy it too fast. We don't want to get overwhelmed. We are very intentional about our gunshot detection expansions. We're not in a rush to expand that again because we'd want to make sure that we don't overwhelm our resources. I think the same is true for license plate readers and anything else.

Chief Bettison added, that to answer your question, as far as keeping our department moving forward and not getting left behind; but, definitely want to work with the Board so that we can look at Drone Technology as well. I know that could be a concern for the community; but, at the same time it depends on how you utilize it. So many major departments across the country now are utilizing drones to respond to 911 calls to get there a lot quicker; to be able to show exactly what is going on - whether or not they even need to be able to send the police in the first place. The drones, from what I am seeing and hearing from my counterparts, they only respond when a citizen calls 911 into that location. So we are not just sending them to look. It is based off of a call for service, and it can get there within seconds. But we definitely want to do

