

Draft Minutes of Board of Police Commissioners
Date of Meeting: Thursday, June 26, 2025 – 3:00 PM
Location: Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third Street, Detroit, MI 48226

1. **Chairperson Woods** called the BOPC Board Meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.
 - A. **Invocation.** Chaplain Brenda Puckett provided the invocation.
2. **Introduction of Police Commissioners.**

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	
QuanTez Pressley	Yes	
Eva Garza Dewaelsche	Yes	
Quorum (No)	10	

3. **Chairperson Woods** requested the approval of the Agenda for Thursday, June 26, 2025. The motion was accepted and adopted.
4. **Chairperson Woods** requested the approval of the Meeting Minutes for June 5, 2025. The minutes were adopted as presented.
5. **Chairperson Woods** requested the approval of the Meeting Minutes for June 12, 2025. The minutes were adopted as presented.
6. **Introduction of Board administrative and investigative staff, the Chief of Police, Elected Officials or Representatives and Community Leaders.**
7. **BOPC Officers' Report.**

Resolution Honoring Raphael B. Johnson

Resolution Honoring Raphael B. Johnson

Whereas, Raphael B. Johnson is a leading activist against gun violence as a founder and leader in the 180° Program, the Detroit 300, and other groups. In his current role as Michigan Senate Legislative Director, he plays a pivotal role in state legislation that enacts standards, funding and reforms for police agencies and the criminal justice system; and

Whereas, He is a graduate of the Gwynedd Mercy University Executive Doctorate in Educational Leadership program. He attended the University of Detroit Mercy, where he graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in legal administration and a Master of Arts in liberal studies; and

Whereas, Dr. Johnson's research redefined self-destructive behavior and aided stakeholders in properly identifying thought processes that lead to school disengagement, specified misbehaviors, and eventual adult incarceration. His 180° Program provided services that offered both students and educators the opportunity to achieve better academic, decision-making, and life outcomes. In 2015, Georgia Southern University incorporated his professional development series into its annual

National Youth At Risk conferences. In 2016, his research topic, Self-destructive Behavior in Urban Middle Schools as a Predictor of Adult Incarceration, won First Place in an international thesis competition hosted by Mary Immaculate College in Limerick, Ireland; and

Whereas, His many initiatives, along with his motivational sessions with troubled teens on The Maury Povich Show, drew wide praise and accolades. WMXD 92.3 FM awarded him its 2002 Hoodie Award for best community leader. In 2010, Mayor Dave Bing appointed him as a Police Commissioner. However, facing a lack of support from the Detroit City Council for confirmation, Dr. Johnson withdrew his nomination. His work continued, and he went on to earn honors as the 2011 Michiganiaan of the Year, the 2012 NAACP Ida B. Wells Award, and the 2019 Michigan Chronicle Men of Excellence award. He also is a multiple gold medalist in Michigan's USA Powerlifting League. Therefore be it

Resolved, The Board of Police Commissioners recognizes Dr. Raphael B. Johnson for his community leadership in improving public safety and strengthening police-community relations. His achievements in mentoring youth and in advancing public safety merit our highest regards.

Commissioner Moore motioned "to adopt the resolution honoring Raphael B. Johnson." The motion was adopted.

Resolution Honoring Captain John Widmer

Resolution Honoring Captain John Widmer

Whereas, John Widmer was appointed to the Detroit Police Department on June 13, 1994. Upon successfully graduating from the Detroit Metropolitan Police Academy, he began his professional law enforcement career at the Eleventh Precinct; and

Whereas, Officer Widmer's assignments with the Detroit Police Department also included the Sixth Precinct patrol section, the Special Response Team, Training Section, Fifth Precinct, and Family Advocate and Management Liaison Engagement (FAMLE). Over the years, Officer Widmer excelled in his assignments and was well known for his commitment to excellence in public safety; and

Whereas, Officer Widmer displayed tremendous knowledge and leadership skill. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2006. Four years later, Sergeant Widmer earned promotion to the rank of Lieutenant. From 2010 through 2023, Lieutenant Widmer held alternating assignments at the Special Response Team and the Training section; and

Whereas, Lieutenant Widmer was promoted to the rank of Captain on October 30, 2023 and assigned to the Fifth Precinct. On September 23, 2024, Captain Widmer's duties expanded to include the FAMLE unit; and

Whereas, Captain Widmer was the deserving recipient of the following awards: a Lifesaving Citation and Medal, two Department Citations, the Major League Baseball 2005 All-Star Game Award, the Chief's Unit Award, both Consent Judgement Awards, the Rosa Parks Funeral Award, the Ford Fireworks Award, and the Super Bowl XL Recognition Award, as well as commendations from supervisors and numerous letters of appreciation from citizenry. As he retires on July 3, 2025, Captain Widmer continues to be known as a consummate professional in public safety and law enforcement. Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking on behalf of the citizens of Detroit, awards this resolution in recognition of Captain John Widmer's 31 years of dedicated and diligent public service. His courage, leadership, and unwavering community spirit have improved the quality of life for the residents of Detroit. His dedicated service merits our highest regards, and best wishes for his future endeavors.

We thank and congratulate you, Captain John Widmer.

Commissioner Moore motioned "to adopt the resolution honoring Captain John Widmer." The motion was adopted.

Election of Board of Police Commissioners Officers

Election Results:

Chairperson – Elect of the Board of Police Commissioners 2025-2026.

Commissioner Eva Garza Dewaelsche: (8) Votes

Yes Votes: Banks, Bell, Dewaelsche, Moore, Woods, Pressley, Carter, Burton

Election Results:

Vice-Chairperson – Elect of the Board of Police Commissioners 2025-2026.

Vice Chairperson Darryl Woods: (6) Votes

Yes Votes: Banks, Moore, Dewaelsche, Woods, Pressley, Smith

8. Chief of Police Report.

Deputy Chief Mark Bliss reported on current CompStat Crime/Statistical Data for Violent Crime and Property and recent critical incidents impacting the community. Deputy Chief Bliss reported that there are no critically injured department members for the week of June 19, 2025 through June 26, 2025.

Community Updates are as follows: on Monday, June 23, 2025 at approximately 10:04 p.m., there was a shooting at Larned and Randolph before the fireworks began. A male and female were non-fatally shot after a fight between 2 males. The incident was isolated and occurred outside of the weapons free viewing areas. This is an ongoing investigation and a \$1,000 reward is being offered for any information that moves the case forward. The Third Precinct kicked off their Cycling with the Community summer event earlier this month. The cycling event will happen once a month until September. Chief Todd A. Bettison and members of the Detroit Police Department's Homicide Family Unit, Detroit Public Safety Foundation, and City of Detroit Office of Arts, Culture and Entrepreneurship hosted a Father's Day Brunch for fathers who have lost children to homicide. The June 25, 2025 Walk a Mile Wednesday was postponed. The next Walk a Mile Wednesday is scheduled for July 9, 2025. On June 26, 2025, the Detroit Police Department is hosting a Men's Wellness Event from noon until 6 p.m. at the Riverside Park. The community is invited to enjoy free food, resources and mobile health clinics. A panel discussion was held to discuss the importance of men's health. On June 27, 2025, 30 student police officers will take the oath of office and become sworn members of the Detroit Police Department. Graduation will take place at 10:30 a.m. at Second Ebenezer Church located at 14601 Dequindre Street, Detroit, MI 48212. Recruiting updates include the recruiting team being active at several events, including Motor City Pride as well Family Fun Day at the Fourth Precinct. Additionally, the recruiting team will attend the graduation on June 27, 2025.

Commissioner Moore inquired on what an FTO is. **Deputy Chief Bliss** stated that an FTO is a Field Training Officer, which is an officer that has received training in regards to train a newly graduated probationary police officer. Commissioner Moore stated that the Department is down 18 FTOs and does that impact new officers coming on and being trained. **Deputy Chief Bliss** stated that a supervisor can ride with a probationary police officer to get them through the program.

Commissioner Burton inquired if there has been an arrest in relation to the shooting that occurred during the fireworks on Larned and Randolph on June 23, 2025. **Deputy Chief Bliss** stated that his understanding of the situation is that there has not been an arrest made yet for the shooting.

9. **Oral Communication/Public Comment:** - Ms. Charnita Williams, Ms. Victoria Camille, Mr. Jody Givens, Minister Eric Blount, Ms. Bernice Smith, Mr. Joe Lewis, Mr. Graham Barton, Lieutenant Mark Young, Ms. Angela Smith, Monkey Wrench Mr. Roo, Ms. Shea Howell, Ms. Joanne Warwick and Former Commissioner William Davis provided public comment.

10. **Presentation to the Board.**

- A. **Human Resources Bureau – Director Katrina Patillo, DPD Personnel:** Director Katrina Patillo, Human Resources Bureau presented information regarding staffing and hiring of DPD personnel for the month of May 2025.

Commissioner Dewaelsche inquired if the number of vacancies for the Department has increased or remained static. **HR Director Patillo** stated that the number of vacancies will decrease as a class is being sworn in on June 27, 2025 and will fill those vacancies. **Commissioner Dewaelsche** inquired on how many times the physical agility test can be retaken, are there certain areas of the test that they are not passing and if they are made aware of what they will be tested on. **HR Director Patillo** stated that it doesn't matter how many times the test is retaken, it can be a combination of areas that they aren't passing or one area that they didn't pass and they are informed on what the physical agility test entails.

11. **Report from Board Secretary Lydia Garnier.**

- A. ALWOP Ahmed Aljebori
- B. 250616 BOPC Facial Recognition Report
- C. 250616 BOPC Shot Spotter Weekly Report
- D. 250623 BOPC Facial Recognition Report
- E. 250623 BOPC Shot Spotter Weekly Report
- F. Policy Committee Memorandum – 06/10/2025
- G. Policy Committee Memorandum – 06/24/2025
- H. Towing Committee Memorandum

I. **Announcements**

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, July 3, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third Street, Detroit, MI 48226

Next Community Meeting: Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the 6th Precinct at New Providence Baptist Church, 18211 Plymouth Road, Detroit, MI 48228

Next Committee Meetings: All Committee Meetings are held at DPSH, 1301 Third Street, Detroit, MI 48226

Policy Committee, Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Budget Committee, Tuesday, July 22, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

Policy Committee, Tuesday, July 22, 2025 @ 5:00 p.m.

Towing Committee, Wednesday, July 30, 2025 @ 4:00 p.m.

12. **Unfinished Business.**

Resolution Strengthening and Unleashing Local Control of Law Enforcement to Pursue Accountability and Protect Constitutional Rights and Standing in Opposition to Executive Order No. 14288

**Resolution Strengthening and Unleashing Local Control of Law Enforcement to Pursue Accountability and Protect Constitutional Rights, and Standing in Opposition to Executive Order #14288.
May 27, 2025**

Whereas: We are living in a time when human dignity and human rights are under siege. Executive Order #14288, which authorizes federal police and military deployment to local communities, conflicts squarely with established policies and procedures of the Detroit Police Department, as well as federal law¹; and

Whereas: Actions by the federal government disregarding constitutional protections of free speech, due process, and access to legal counsel are occurring with increasing breadth and frequency; and

Whereas: Federal law enforcement officials are violating minimum standards of conduct expected of every Detroit Police Department officer, including probable cause to interfere with the actions of a person,

clear identification of officers during interactions, active body worn cameras, and respectful treatment of people placed in custody; and

Whereas: For more than six decades, Detroit has developed the principle of civilian oversight over the Detroit Police Department. In 1973, in the aftermath of the Detroit Rebellion and the dismantling of the infamous S.T.R.E.S.S. unit, Detroit residents voted for a City Charter that gave broad oversight authority over the police to a newly created civilian Board of Police Commissioners. The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners is vested with responsibilities for oversight on policies and procedures, citizen complains of abusive behavior, promotions, discipline, and budgetary matters; and

Whereas: Civilian control over the police has been reaffirmed in all City Charters since 1974 and is explicitly affirmed in the City Charter of 2012 in which voters created seven elected and four appointed Police Commissioners. The 2012 Charter was approved by a vote of the people and accepted by the Michigan Legislature. The Charter establishes “The City’s police forces are in all cases and at all times in strict subordination to civil power;” and

Whereas: The establishment of civilian authority over police is the result of effective collaboration among and between all branches of government, citizens, and the police; and

Whereas: The current practices by federal executive branch of government, including the Justice Department, contradicts the most basic rights and dignity of people and violate standard procedures and practices which currently bind the Detroit Police Department, which were approved by the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, and which are consistently re-affirmed by the courts, including the right to due process, the right to habeas corpus, the requirement of reasonable suspicion and/or probable cause to stop, search or impede the freedom of travel, right to counsel, the right to be treated with dignity and respect, the right to fair and speedy process; and

Whereas: The use of federal troops to enforce civilian law in local communities is expressly forbidden except in the most extreme circumstances; and

Whereas: The City Charter establishes that “The People have a right to expect aggressive action by the City’s officers in seeking to advance, conserve, maintain and protect the integrity of the human, physical and natural resources of this City from encroachment and/or dismantlement.”

Therefore, be it resolved that:

The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners affirms their charter mandated responsibilities to “provide for the public peace, health and safety” of persons within the City; and

The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners affirms its responsibilities to protect the constitutional rights of all persons who come into contact with Detroit law enforcement and to guarantee due process of law; and

The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners rejects all federal interference with local police practices within our city, except insofar as there is a determination that the local police agency is engaged in practices that violate the constitutional and civil rights of its residents; and

The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners opposes the use of federal troops in the city of Detroit, and directs all officials to oppose such actions and take all measures necessary to ensure the city maintain local control to address local issues; and

The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners rejects the conflation of local law enforcement responsibilities with those of federal agencies such as FBI, ICE and the Department of Homeland security; and

The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners shall not participate in or cooperate with federal actions that encroach on the authority or jurisdiction of local law enforcement, whether by the FBI, ICE, the Department of Homeland Security or the Department of Defense, where standards of conduct and actions contradict the protections afforded our community by the sovereign power of the people as expressed in the City Charter of 2012; and

The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners directs the Chief of Police to ensure the basic standards of policing, including the assurance that First Amendment, Fourth Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment Due Process rights are enforced; and

On behalf of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, the Chief of Police will meet with his counterparts in federal law enforcement agencies to ensure the basic standards of behavior required by all law enforcement in our City are followed. These include but are not limited to the protection of constitutional rights, respect for human dignity, and protection of persons and property from harm; and

The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners will create a special task force to monitor the actions of federal agencies within the City. Any violation of basic constitutional rights shall be treated as a criminal offense. The DPD has an affirmative responsibility to interrupt such actions and to protect the freedom, wellbeing and integrity of residents; and

The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners shall demand that Corporation Counsel be directed to explore legal challenges to revoke or limit Executive Order #14288, dated April 28, entitled "Strengthening and Unleashing Local Law enforcement to Pursue Criminals and Protect Innocent Citizens."

Commissioner Moore motioned "to adopt the Resolution Strengthening and Unleashing Local Control of Law Enforcement to Pursue Accountability and Protect Constitutional Rights and Standing in Opposition to Executive Order No. 14288." The motion passed.

Commissioner Bernard stated, "By direction of the Policy Committee, I move to adopt as policy, Directive 102.8 Department Internet Usage/Web Pages/Social Networking, Directive 204.8 Environmental Ordinances and Directive 304.1 Firearms." The motion to adopt passed.

Commissioner Bernard motioned, "that all police special orders listed on Attachment 7G, with the expiration date of June 27, 2025 be extended for 90 days to September 25, 2025." The motion passed.

13. **New Business.**

14. **Adjournment.**

Chairperson Woods adjourned the meeting at 5:12 p.m.