

Approved Minutes of Board of Police Commissioners
Date of Meeting: Thursday, August 21, 2025 – 3:00 PM
Location: Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third Street, Detroit, MI 48226

1. **Vice Chair Woods** called the BOPC Board Meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was declared.
 - A. **Invocation.** Commander Chaplain Desiree Benjamin provided the invocation.
2. **Oral Communication / Public Comment:** Minister Eric Blount provided public comments.
3. **Introduction of Police Commissioners.**

Detroit Board of Police Commissioners' Membership / Attendance		
	In Attendance	Not-In Attendance
Eva Garza Dewaelsche, Chair		Excused
Darryl Woods, Vice Chair	Yes	
Tamara Liberty Smith	Yes	
Linda D. Bernard, Esq.	Yes	
Cedric Banks		Excused
Willie E. Bell	Yes	
Willie E. Burton	Yes	
Lisa Carter	Yes	
Ricardo Moore	Yes	
Robert Jones	Yes	
Quorum (Yes)	8	2

4. **Vice Chair Woods** requested the approval of the Agenda for Thursday, August 21, 2025. The motion was accepted and adopted.
5. **Vice Chair Woods** requested the approval of the Meeting Minutes for August 14, 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 – Vice Chair Woods.**
8. **Chief of Police Report.**

Chief Todd A. Bettison reported on current CompStat Crime/Statistical Data for Violent Crime and Property and recent critical incidents impacting the community. On Monday, August 18, 2025, DPD pushed out the Emerald Alerts program. This is a new program that sends alerts to members of the public regarding serious missings, children, and vulnerable adults. Chief Bettison met with the fire commissioner regarding the Hass alerts, which is new technology that will alert citizens if they are approaching a traffic stop. It is being utilized to keep the public informed as well as prevent accidents occurring at traffic stops and/or accident scenes.

Commissioner Moore requested that Chief Bettison elaborate on victims not participating in the criminal justice process and the investigative subpoena piece. **Chief Bettison** stated that DPD has the power to arrest off of probable cause. An individual can only be kept at the Detroit Detention Center for 72 hours. The Wayne County Prosecutors Office has to issue a warrant. Once a warrant is issued, the individual can then be taken to the Wayne County Jail. A warrant will not be issued if the complaining witness, which is the victim, changes their mind or does not come forth. The investigative subpoena is a mechanism that the prosecutor has to demand the witness to come forth so that the case can move forward.

Commissioner Bernard raised concerns about minor children being questioned without parents or a lawyer being present. **Chief Bettison** stated that DPD is a constitutional policing department and they are going to follow the law even when it pertains to juveniles.

Commissioner Burton inquired on how the Department measures success of a missing person investigation and what policy, funding, or legislation could City Council provide to strengthen that work. **Chief Bettison** stated that there is a dashboard on the Department's social media page that shows the number of missing as well as the number of recovered. That's how success is measured as it pertains to missing and recovered persons. City Council comes into play as it pertains to the technology and funding technology that the Department uses in recovery efforts. **Commissioner Burton** inquired if it is true that the Trump Administration is responsible for violence trending down in Detroit. **Chief Bettison** stated that in his conversations with the Mayor, the Mayor did not say that. The historic crime reductions in the city of Detroit is due to various agencies working in concert to reduce crime in Detroit.

Commissioner Moore moved "to approve the recommendation of Chief Bettison to promote Lieutenant Kelly Slaughter to the rank of Captain." The motion passed.

9. **Oral Communication / Public Comments: continued** – Ms. Fredia Butler, Ms. Charnita Williams, Ms. Bernice Smith, Pastor Yvette Griffin, Ms. Danielle Bolton, Mr. Roo and Former Commissioner William Davis provided public comments.

10. **Presentations 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 July 2025.

Commissioner Carter inquired about officers that are subject to the terms of the poaching law, how is the money recouped and where that money is going. **Director Patillo** stated that it was finalized last week with corporation council on how to handle this process. Information from DPD will be provided to Corporation Council, who in turn will notify the candidate and also notify the agency they went to, informing the candidate that the money has to be paid back. Stated that she will keep the Board updated on this.

Vice Chair Woods inquired about two officers that resigned in lieu of termination. Requested that the Board be updated on those two officers as well as be informed immediately when that happens in the future. **Director Patillo** stated ok.

- B. **Missing & Recovered Persons – Captain Marcus Thirkill – Detroit Police Homicide Division** – Captain Thirkill presented on the Homicide/Missing Persons Unit and the responsibilities and duties of the unit.

Commissioner Moore asked what happens if the missing person is found deceased. **Captain Thirkill** stated then that case will be considered closed and classify it accordingly (homicide, natural causes, etc.). **Commissioner Moore** inquired about the missing juvenile that was recently found deceased in the cemetery; requested an update on that case. **Captain Thirkill** stated that an arrest has been made, investigation is ongoing, and a warrant has been submitted to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. **Commissioner Moore** inquired if Amber Alerts are initiated by the Homicide/Missing Persons Unit and what the process is. **Captain Thirkill** stated that Amber Alerts are initiated by the State. DPD provides information to them during the course of their investigation and the State will issue the Amber Alert. **Sergeant Jones** elaborated on the Amber Alert process.

Vice Chair Woods requested to see how many missing persons were found deceased and how many missing persons involved foul play. **Captain Thirkill** stated that he can provide that information. **Vice Chair Woods** inquired about the Emerald Alert system, which DPD recently started, to notify the public that a person is missing. **Captain Thirkill** stated that is correct.

Commissioner Bernard inquired if she can be tracked if she put the Emerald Alert system on her phone. **Captain Thirkill** stated that to his knowledge, the system does not have tracking capability.

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

- A. 250818 BOPC Facial Recognition Report
- B. 250818 BOPC Shot Spotter Weekly Report
- C. July 2025 OCI Closed Cases
- D. July 2025 BOPC Arrest Report
- E. July 2025 Force Report
- F. July 2025 BOPC Internal Affairs Report

- G. BOPC Suspended With Pay Report
- H. Policy Committee Memorandum
- I. Announcements

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, August 28, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third Street, Detroit, MI 48226

September Community Meeting: Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the 4th Precinct at Marathon Oil Michigan Headquarters, 1001 South Oakwood Avenue, Detroit, MI 48217

Next Committee Meetings: All Committee Meetings are held at DPSH, 1301 Third Street, Detroit, MI 48226
Policy Committee, Tuesday, August 26, 2025 @ 5:00 p.m.

12. Unfinished Business.

13. New Business.

14. Adjournment.

Vice Chair Woods adjourned the meeting at 4:28 p.m.