

Draft Minutes of Board of Police Commissioners
Date of Meeting: Thursday, August 28, 2025 – 3:00 PM
Location: Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third Street, Detroit, MI 48226

1. **Chair Dewaelsche** called the BOPC Board Meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was declared.
 - A. **Invocation.** Chief Investigator Jerome Warfield provided the invocation.
2. **Introduction of Police Commissioners.**

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

3. **Chair Dewaelsche** requested the approval of the Agenda for Thursday, August 28, 2025. The motion was accepted and adopted.
4. **Chair Dewaelsche** requested the approval of the Meeting Minutes for August 21, 2025. The minutes were adopted as presented.
5. **Introduction of Board administrative and investigative staff, the Chief of Police, Elected Officials or Representatives and Community Leaders.**
6. **BOPC Officers' Report – Chair Dewaelsche.**

Resolution Honoring Corporal Rhonda Morris (Posthumously)

Whereas, Rhonda Morris believed that success came from “standing together, shoulder to shoulder, ready for whatever comes next.” With such faith and purpose, it is not surprising that she chose a career devoted to public service. She became a student police officer on June 24, 1996 after her acceptance to the Detroit Metropolitan Police Academy. On November 27, 1996, Officer Morris was appointed to the Detroit Police Department and assigned to patrol operations in the Sixth Precinct; and

Whereas, Officer Morris proudly served the Sixth Precinct for 20 years and built a special and deep relationship standing together with the community. Although her official assignments included the Northwestern District from September 14, 2005 to September 21, 2009, she patrolled the same neighborhoods and continued working with the thousands who knew her as effective, courteous, and professional in every encounter; and

Whereas, When the Department dissolved districts, her official assignment again became the Sixth Precinct, and she served there for seven more years before being assigned on October 3, 2016 to Firearms Training. Officer Morris continued to excel in her duties and earned promotion to Corporal on March 14, 2019. Corporal Morris continued her assignment in Firearms Training until she died active on August 18, 2025; and

Whereas, Corporal Morris was the deserving recipient of numerous honors and letters of commendation from supervisors and area residents. Her awards included the Rosa Parks Funeral Recognition Award, the

NFL Super Bowl XL Recognition Award, the Major League Baseball All-Star Recognition Award, the 2014 Ford Fireworks Award, and both Consent Judgment Awards; and

Whereas, Corporal Morris tirelessly served the City of Detroit, the Police Department, and residents for 29 years with loyalty, professionalism, integrity and dedication. She was widely respected throughout law enforcement and the Detroit community as a consummate professional. The Board of Police Commissioners joins with all Detroiters in offering condolences to the family and friends of Corporal Morris. Her selfless public service will be remembered at services on Thursday, August 28, 2025 and long after by an eternally grateful City.

Therefore, be it

Resolved, The Board of Police Commissioners awards this resolution posthumously in honor of Corporal Rhonda Morris for her dedicated and distinguished 29 years of service to the people of Detroit and the Police Department. Detroit always will remember and cherish Corporal Morris' legacy of steadfast courage and unwavering public service in law enforcement and public safety.

Commissioner Jones motioned "to accept the Resolution Honoring Corporal Rhonda Morris (Posthumously)." The motion was adopted.

7. Chief of Police Report.

Assistant Chief Franklin Hayes reported on current CompStat Crime/Statistical Data for Violent Crime and Property and recent critical incidents impacting the community. On August 27, 2025, two juvenile females came to the park to fight. Someone brought a gun and shots were fired. Two individuals were detained for questioning. Individual responsible for shooting has been identified and the Department has brought that suspect into custody. On August 25, 2025, officers responded to the Tenth Precinct for a reported kidnapping. The victim was recovered. On August 22, 2025, an armed individual went to Henry Ford Hospital and fatally shot his ex-wife. The suspect has been taken into custody. This past week, a search warrant was executed in the 15,000 block of Maple Ridge. Upon execution of the search warrant, officers made a felony arrest, 3 misdemeanor arrests, confiscated 8 firearms, and various amounts of cocaine, fentanyl, heroin, methamphetamine, pills and casts. On August 20, 2025, the Fourth Precinct had a back-to-school supply giveaway. On August 25, 2025, the Twelfth Precinct visited Detroit Greenfield Union to pass out backpacks and supplies to students for their first day back to school. On August 30, 2025, the Detroit Police Department will be hosting its annual picnic Peace Pic at Skinner Park. On September 6, 2025, the Detroit Police Department will be hosting the 8th annual Showdown in Motown Bike and Car Show at Belle Isle. On August 25, 2025, three juvenile girls were reported missing from the 5000 block of Outer Drive when they left the location without permission. Investigators were able to locate the girls and on Tuesday, August 26, 2025 were recovered safely and reunited with their families. An incident occurred last weekend where two officers were struck by another vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed, sustaining various injuries. Both officers are recovering.

Commissioner Banks commended the Department on bringing the crime statistics down in the city. **Assistant Chief Hayes** stated thank you.

Commissioner Burton inquired about the PAL team that was recently suspended. **Assistant Chief Hayes** stated that the decision to suspend was made by the PAL Board of Directors. Stated that he can share the Board of Directors information and they can go into that incident and how they arrived at that decision. **Commissioner Burton** inquired if the Detroit Police Department is working on any joint task force to assist ICE. **Assistant Chief Hayes** stated that the Department is not.

8. Oral Communication / Public Comments: continued – Minister Eric Blount, Ms. Charnita Williams, Ms. Bernice Smith, Ms. Victoria Camille, Ms. Taura Brown, and Former Commissioner William Davis provided public comments.

9. Presentations to the Board.

A. DPD Budget Report (Fiscal Year Q4 Apr – June 2025) – ACFO Nevvus Nazarko

ACFO Nevvus Nazarko reported on DPD budget for Fiscal Year Quarter 4 (Apr-June 2025). Reports included Quarter 4 Year-to-Date Budget versus Actual Revenues and Expenses, General Fund Quarter 4 Year-to-Date FY25 Budget

versus Actual Revenue and Expenses, Vehicle Purchase Report, Capital Expenditure Report and Grant Activity Report.

Chair Dewaelsche inquired about the reason would be for the 64% variance in the forfeiture fund revenue. **ACFO Nazarko** stated that one cannot ever budget accurately the forfeiture fund revenues. That depends on the forfeiture activity. When the budget is created it's based on the history but the history is not a good indicator as to the future revenues especially on the forfeiture fund. **Chair Dewaelsche** inquired about the expenditures for the forfeiture fund being \$945,000 and the revenue being \$834,000. **ACFO Nazarko** stated that yes, because the Department didn't bring in the budgeted revenue, they must scale back the amount of expenditures because they did not bring the amount of revenues in that was initially budgeted. The budget is evaluated throughout the year to determine if enough money is being brought in to support activity. If not, expenses are scaled back or a different funding source is sought.

Commissioner Bernard inquired on the variances being great and asked for an explanation. **ACFO Nazarko** stated that it's nothing unusual on what is being shown on the budget.

Commissioner Banks inquired on the \$324 million dollar salary budget and if that is for Detroit Police officers only. **ACFO Nazarko** stated that the budget includes all of DPD, both civilians and police officers.

Commissioner Burton inquired if there is any room in the budget to increase the funding for NPOs. **ACFO Nazarko** stated that the NPOs and the Metro Division is part of the budget.

Commissioner Bernard stated that she believes that the Police Reservists do need to receive some sort of compensation. Also inquired about the cost of the horse stable. **ACFO Nazarko** stated that it costs \$3,500 to make some repairs and improvements.

Vice Chair Woods commended Chair Dewaelsche, ACFO Nazarko and the Department for reviewing the budget.

- B. Office of the Chief Investigator – Chief Investigator Jerome Warfield** reported on the current progress of the Office of Chief Investigator as it pertains to case intake and closure rates, status of the backlog of cases and projections for the remainder of 2025.

Commissioner Banks inquired on how long it took to close the 5,979 cases. **Chief Investigator Warfield** stated they were all closed between January of this year and Monday, August 25, 2025. **Commissioner Banks** inquired on what the staffing is at OCI. **Chief Investigator Warfield** stated that OCI has 22 total investigators, 3 supervisors, 2 administrative staff employees and are in the process of hiring 2 additional administrative staff employees.

Commissioner Bernard inquired on what area is seeing the greatest increase in complaints against the police department. **Chief Investigator Warfield** stated it's still service, demeanor, and procedure. Those areas make up 70% of the complaints coming into the OCI. **Commissioner Bernard** inquired if any recommendations have been made to the Department on reducing those numbers. **Chief Investigator Warfield** stated that OCI turns over the trends to the Department and the Department addresses it on their side. **Commissioner Bernard** asked if there are any incentives for the Department to reduce the number of complaints. **Chief Investigator Warfield** stated that OCI doesn't have any incentives.

Commissioner Burton inquired if OCI has the opportunity to work with Risk Management. **Chief Investigator Warfield** stated that when something is discovered that is egregious, Risk Management is notified immediately. Additionally, Risk Management has been present at OCI to reinforce body worn camera policy so that investigators and supervisors are very well versed in that policy and will continue to work with Risk Management in the future. **Commissioner Burton** inquired on if cases are trending upward or downward this year. **Chief Investigator Warfield** stated that they are trending upward.

Vice Chair Woods inquired if there have been egregious situations where Chief Investigator had to contact Risk Management and inform them that an incident needed to be responded to immediately. **Chief Investigator Warfield** stated yes, absolutely.

10. Report from Board Secretary Lydia Gamier.

- A. ALWOP PO Dietrich Lever Jr.
- B. 250825 BOPC Facial Recognition Report
- C. 250825 BOPC Shot Spotter Weekly Report
- D. Applicant Appeal Requests – Kishmeir Thompson, Justin Bognear, Justice Roberson, Ashton Sanders
- E. Policy Committee Memorandum
- F. Announcements

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, September 4, 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, September 2, 2025 @ 5:00 p.m.
Policy Committee, Tuesday, September 16, 2025 @ 5:00 p.m.
Policy Committee, Tuesday, September 30, 2025 @ 5:00 p.m.

11. Unfinished Business.

12. New Business.

13. Adjournment.

Chair Dewaelsche adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.