

Draft Minutes of Board of Police Commissioners
Date of Meeting: Thursday, September 11, 2025 – 6:30 PM
Location: Marathon Oil Michigan Headquarters, 1001 South Oakwood Avenue, Detroit, MI 48217

1. **Chair Dewaelsche** called the BOPC Board Meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. A quorum was declared.

A. **Invocation.** Chaplain Jeremiah Baker 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		Excused
Willie E. Burton		Excused
Lisa Carter	Yes	
Ricardo Moore	Yes	
Robert Jones	Yes	
Quorum (Yes)	8	2

3. **Chair Dewaelsche** requested the approval of the Agenda for Thursday, September 11, 2025. The motion was accepted and adopted.
4. **Chair Dewaelsche** requested the approval of the Meeting Minutes for August 28, 2025. The minutes were adopted as presented.
5. **Chair Dewaelsche** requested the approval of the Meeting Minutes for September 4, 2025. The minutes were adopted as presented.
6. **Chair Dewaelsche** requested the approval of the Closed Session Meeting Minutes for September 4, 2025. The minutes were adopted as presented.
7. **Introduction of Board administrative and investigative staff, the Chief of Police, Elected Officials or Representatives and Community Leaders.**
8. **BOPC Officers' Report – Chair Dewaelsche.**

A. **Resolution Honoring the Hispanic Police Officers Association of Michigan**

Resolution Honoring the Hispanic Police Officers Association of Michigan

Whereas, The Hispanic Police Officers Association of Michigan has proudly served as a bridge between law enforcement and the community for more than three decades. Originally founded by Police Officers Manuel Pompa and Robert Ayala, it was revitalized in 1994 by Officer Javier Chapa and then Sergeant John Serda of the Detroit Police Department. The Association was built on the values of cultural pride, representation, and service; and

Whereas, The Association's founding mission was simple but powerful: to serve with integrity, build trust, and create opportunities for the next generation of leaders. It continues that mission under the current leadership of President David Vazquez, who has strengthened the organization's role as a voice for both officers and the communities they serve. It is a mission that resonates powerfully in Detroit, a city built on the strength of immigrants and diverse cultures; and

- Whereas, Through community outreach, mentorship, and scholarship programs, the Hispanic Police Officers Association of Michigan is not only supporting officers today, but also inspiring the officers of tomorrow. Its commitment extends to fostering a sense of unity and belonging by hosting events that bring people together. Its programs also strive to make a positive and lasting impact on the lives of those served by its police officers; and
- Whereas, The Association believes that diversity in policing is not just representation; it is strength. By celebrating heritage, engaging with residents, and investing in youth, the Hispanic Police Officers Association of Michigan proudly helps build a safer, stronger, and more united Detroit; and
- Whereas, Each year, the United States of America recognizes September 15th to October 15th as National Hispanic Heritage Month. As the Hispanic Police Officers Association of Michigan and its members diligently fulfill its mission every day, the annual observance is a fitting time to honor the Association, and the diaspora of the Hispanic community as a whole, for its important history and role in the community, the Police Department and the City of Detroit. Therefore be it,
- Resolved, The Board of Police Commissioners recognizes the Hispanic Police Officers Association of Michigan and its important history and impactful role. The community, Police Department, and the City of Detroit have benefited greatly for 30 years from the Association's revitalization and commitment to professional excellence, community service, and strong police-community relations.

Commissioner Moore motioned "to adopt the Resolution Honoring the Hispanic Police Officers Association of Michigan." The motion was adopted.

B. Resolution Supporting Restoration of the Eastside Colts 2025 Season

Resolution Supporting Restoration of the Eastside Colts 2025 Season

- Whereas, Youth sports are vital to ensuring children learn social and life skills that help make them productive and thriving members of society. Organized sports offer positive ways for youth to spend time and energy as they grow up. Competition provides for healthy and structured activities while allowing youth to learn important lessons about fairness, personal responsibility, group dynamics, and sportsmanship, as well as how to handle defeat and victory; and
- Whereas, The Police Athletic League, in partnership with the Detroit Police Department, was founded to provide recreational, educational, and mentoring opportunities for youth achievement. PAL deserves accolades for its organized sports leagues that have benefitted generations of Detroit youth and their families, including the sports and cheer teams for the Eastside Colts; and
- Whereas, The Eastside Colts and their cheer team recently saw their 2025 season suspended by PAL. The teams, which are comprised of youth ages 12 and under, were looking forward to playing with their friends and teammates and having a great season. Sadly, the Colts season was cancelled due to the appalling behavior and actions of adults, who rightly have been suspended. However, the children did nothing wrong and are suffering an unjust punishment. The cancelation of the season is unfair to the youth; it also teaches the wrong lesson about standards of personal behavior and responsibility; and
- Whereas, Research shows youth participation in organized play and learning activities lessen the risks associated with crime, especially the gun violence that is now a major public health threat in Detroit and throughout the United States. Restoration of the Colts season after the installation of new coaches is in the public interest, as well as in the best interest of the impressionable youth and their families. It also aligns with the long-held mission of PAL in serving and uplifting community youth. Therefore be it
- Resolved, The Board of Police Commissioners calls upon the Police Athletic League to work with the Eastside Colts on an equitable resolution to restore the 2025 season for the team by ensuring the Colts have new coaches committed to PAL values for youth sports.

Commissioner Carter motioned, “to adopt the Resolution Supporting Restoration of the Eastside Colts 2025 Season.” The motion was adopted.

C. Resolution Honoring Ann Byrne

Resolution Honoring Ann Byrne

- Whereas, Ann Byrne is a dedicated community leader who has selflessly shared her time, resources, and expertise with neighbors and stakeholders for decades as part of her mission to uplift the city of Detroit and her beloved southwest region. She is a tireless advocate for neighborhoods in every community and for every family; and
- Whereas, For nearly 50 years, many of her outstanding contributions have been made in improving public safety and building bridges between residents and the Detroit Police Department. In 1976, Ms. Byrne joined the Southwest Hope Radio Patrol, a program supported by the Police Department. She has been an active dispatcher and officer ever since she joined, and she never has been deterred by the hour of the day, the weather conditions, or any challenge, including the heydays of the arson fires during the Halloween period. Over the years, she also has served as the Westside Vice President for all the radio patrols and a citywide trainer who educated countless others in serving their neighborhoods; and
- Whereas, Ms. Byrne is a graduate of the prestigious Detroit Police Citizen Academy. She also has participated in other community preparedness programs and has extensive training in emergency response, active shooter training, and first aid including CPR. Her skills and knowledge, including her expertise in environmental safety and her professional experience in the environmental industry at Fermi II Power Plant and other companies, have been tremendous assets for the entire community; and
- Whereas, She is currently the president of the Springdale Woodmere Block Club, the treasurer of the Southwest Hope Radio Patrol, and a member of the Fourth Precinct Police-Community Relations Council. In addition, she is the president of Friends of Patton Parks and represents the group on the Detroit Parks Coalition, where she also serves on the subcommittee working for park and greenway safety in partnership with the Detroit Police Department. Therefore, be it
- Resolved, The Board of Police Commissioners, speaking on behalf of the residents of the great City of Detroit, recognizes Ann Byrne for her tireless contributions to strengthening public safety and police-community relations. Our City is forever indebted to her as a backbone of the community and for her invaluable contributions to the Fourth Precinct, the Detroit Police Department, and Southwest Detroit.

Commissioner Carter motioned, “to adopt the Resolution Honoring Ann Byrne.” The motion was adopted.

D. Resolution Honoring Emma Mullens

Resolution Honoring Emma Mullens

- Whereas, Emma Mullens is a lifelong resident of Southwest Detroit. She grew up in Delray, the melting pot neighborhood nestled by the interstate, the river, and the thriving industrial sector that made Detroit a global economic giant. A proud alumnus of Southwestern High School, Mrs. Mullen has dedicated herself to organizations and projects that restore or enhance the beauty and safety of southwest area neighborhoods and parks; and
- Whereas, Mrs. Mullens is very active in the community, where she and her husband, Rev. Leon Mullens, made their home and raised their family. She is a part of the Original United Citizens of Southwest Detroit and a regular at its monthly meetings. She is an active supporter and participant with the Fourth Precinct, the Police-Community Relations Council, and the many successful beautification and outreach projects done through the strong partnership between the police officers and residents.

Because Mrs. Mullens rarely says no when she can help people, the recent Fourth Precinct backpack giveaway saw her distributing items with her great-grandson at her side; and

Whereas, Mrs. Mullens prefers to be part of the solution, and never part of the problem. A retired daycare provider, she is a mentor to youth, chaperones school field trips, and welcomes new families to the neighborhood. She is a great resource to all for information about the community and city ordinances. She also leads by example. Mrs. Mullens purchased the lot next to her home and turned it into a lovely flower garden. When the city sidewalk fell into disrepair and city crews never fulfilled years of promises to fix it, Mrs. Mullens hired a contractor and had the sidewalk repaired at her own expense. Her many acts of kindness and service to her neighbors and the Fourth Precinct have made Mrs. Mullens a loved and respected pillar of the community. Therefore, be it

Resolved, The Board of Police Commissioners, speaking on behalf of the residents of the great City of Detroit, recognizes Mrs. Emma Mullens for her tireless contributions to strengthening public safety and police-community relations. Our City is forever indebted to her as a backbone of the community and for her invaluable contributions to the Fourth Precinct, the Detroit Police Department, and Southwest Detroit.

Commissioner Carter motioned, “to adopt the Resolution Honoring Emma Mullens.” The motion was adopted.

E. Scholarship Presentation

Vice Chair Woods, on behalf of the Board of Police Commissioners, presented Amulen Rozmus with a \$1,000 scholarship check.

9. Chief of Police & 4th Precinct Report.

Chief Todd A. Bettison reported on current CompStat Crime/Statistical Data for Violent Crime and Property and recent critical incidents impacting the community and the 4th Precinct. Community updates include recent activities. On September 4, 2025 Detroit Police Narcotics Unit executed a search warrant in the 10,300 block of Crocuslawn and also the 1400 block of Pinewood. Officers made felony arrests, confiscated cocaine, fentanyl, methamphetamines, white powder, 3 firearms, 1 rifle, 2 handguns and approximately \$1,500 in cash. Chief Bettison spoke about the accidents occurring on Gratiot. Gratiot is a large road, with several lanes, and drivers tend to speed. With Gratiot being owned by the State, Chief Bettison will be submitting requests to have infrastructure put in to address the high accident rate. In the interim, Chief Bettison has increased traffic enforcement on Gratiot and the next enforcement operation will be this weekend. Over the past 2 days, the traffic enforcement unit have wrote 242 speeding tickets and investigated 277 vehicles. Chief Bettison also spoke about the Porta Potty incident involving a young woman being sexually assaulted. The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office denied charges for the sexual assault due to the parties knowing one another and the victim becoming upset when the suspect didn't pay. As additional information is provided on the incident, the victim may be facing charges for making a false felony police report. At this time, the incident is still under investigation. Chief Bettison spoke about the 9-11 incident, how it has impacted our country, communities and first responders lives and together, we will continue to pay our respects to those who lost their lives during that tragedy. Tomorrow, September 12, 2025, 20 student police officers will be graduating. They will be taking their oath and working on the streets of Detroit. September is Suicide Awareness Month. If someone is in crisis, they can call 911 where there are behavioral health specialist embedded in the 911 call center and they can get the citizen the help they need. Additionally, if someone is feelings suicidal, they can call 988.

Chair Dewaelsche asked about the department wide phone outage and if everything has been restored to proper working order. **Chief Bettison** stated that everything is good and the outage did not affect 911. All the land lines at the precincts were affected as well as lines in the fire department.

Commander Shelly Holderbaum reported on current CompStat Crime/Statistical Data for Violent Crime and Property and recent critical incidents impacting the 4th Precinct. Commander Holderbaum discussed 4NET, which is the Neighborhood Engagement Team, an intervention aspect dealing with addicted and unsheltered individuals. In conjunction with Judge Shannon Holmes, specialty court programs and resources are provided to this population so as to equip them with better opportunities. 4NET is staffed by one sergeant and four police officers. Since the implementation of the program in August of 2024 there have been 225 referrals to specialty court, 23 narcotic related house closures, 121 felony arrests, 2,166 tickets, 1,061 traffic stops, 3,428 persons investigated, and 1,276 police runs.

Commissioner Carter requested that the Commander or Captain address INS/ICE activities within the 4th Precinct. **Captain Gonzalez** stated that the Detroit Police Department does not work with the federal entities or inquire about citizen's status. Additionally, community events have been held to educate the public on who DPD is and what their uniforms, vehicles, etc. look like. DPD is not working with or assisting INS/ICE in any way.

Chair Dewaelsche inquired if they are noticing a decrease in calls for service due to the presence of INS/ICE. **Commander Holderbaum** stated that she has not noticed a decrease in calls for service.

10. **Oral Communication / Public Comments:** - Ms. Ermina Ramirez, Former Commissioner William Davis, Ms. Jane Garcia, Mr. Jayden Allen, Mr. William Perkins, and Mr. Roo provided public comments.

11. **Presentations to the Board.**

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

- A. 250908 BOPC Facial Recognition Report
- B. 250908 BOPC Shot Spotter Weekly Report
- C. DPD Request to Conduct an Analysis of the Salary Range for the position of Director of Police Personnel
- D. Announcements

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third Street, Detroit, MI 48226

October Community Meeting: Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the 3rd Precinct at Considine Little Rock Recreation Center, 8904 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI 48202

Next Committee Meetings: All Committee Meetings are held at DPSH, 1301 Third Street, Detroit, MI 48226
Policy Committee, Tuesday, September 16, 2025 @ 5:00 p.m.
Budget Committee, Tuesday, September 30, 2025 @ 4:00 p.m.
Policy Committee, Tuesday, September 30, 2025 @ 5:00 p.m.

13. **Unfinished Business.**
14. **New Business.**
15. **Adjournment.**

Chair Dewaelsche adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.