

Draft Minutes of Board of Police Commissioners
Date of Meeting: Thursday, January 29, 2026 – 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.** Chaplain Troy Dantzler 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	
Henrietta Ivey	Yes	
Lavish T. Williams	Yes	
Darious Morris	Yes	
Scott Boman	Yes	
Beverly J. Watts	Yes	
Lisa Carter	Yes	
Victoria Camille	Yes	
Robert Jones	Yes	
Quorum (Yes)	10	

3. **Chair Dewaelsche** requested the approval of the Agenda for Thursday, January 29, 2026. **Vice Chair Woods** motioned to amend the Agenda to move New Business Item 8A Closed Session to before the Chief of Police Report. **Chair Dewaelsche** requested the approval of the motion to amend the Agenda. The motion was approved.

4. **Chair Dewaelsche** requested the approval of the amended Agenda for Thursday, January 29, 2026. The amended Agenda was approved.

5. **Chair Dewaelsche** requested the approval of the Meeting Minutes for January 22, 2026. **Commissioner Camille** stated that she has two amendments to the minutes. Commissioner Camille motioned “ *I move to amend the statement Commissioner Camille inquired about non-personnel expenditure funds, and if DPD goes through city procurement when spending those funds to instead state Commissioner Camille inquired about non-personnel expenditure funds and if DPD goes through city procurement and the CIOGS process when spending those funds.* ” The motion was approved.

Commissioner Camille requested a second amendment and stated the following: *In that same section 9A, where it states Commissioner Camille inquired about an expenditure in July in the amount of \$703.56 and if that expenditure was for the gun range and Rouge Park to also add the statement and requested that DPD provide the date that they ceased testing explosives in the area.* The motion was approved.

Chair Dewaelsche requested the approval of the Meeting Minutes for January 22, 2026 with the amendments. The minutes were adopted as amended.

6. **Introduction of Board administrative and investigative staff, the Chief of Police, Elected Officials or Representatives and Community Leaders.**

7. **BOPC Officers' Report – Chair Dewaelsche**

A. **Resolution Honoring Detective Don Dent (Retirement)**

Resolution Honoring Detective Don Dent (Retirement)

WHEREAS Officer Don Dent joined the Detroit Police Department on November 28, 1994. After successfully completing the Detroit Metropolitan Police Academy, he was assigned to the Eighth Precinct. On June 14, 1999, he transitioned to Headquarters Surveillance, where he participated in the apprehension of violent offenders and the investigation of serious crimes such as bank robberies and other high-profile cases; and

WHEREAS On August 7, 2001, Officer Dent was assigned to Crime Scene Services. There, he showcased exceptional skill in processing crime scenes, collecting and documenting evidence, and supporting investigators citywide. His professionalism extended to providing expert testimony in court, demonstrating his deep expertise in evidence handling and investigation; and

WHEREAS On November 19, 2002, Officer Dent joined the Special Victims Unit/Child Abuse section, dedicating himself to protecting vulnerable children. He investigated cases involving abuse, neglect, fatalities, and missing children, while also assisting the Homicide Section in cases involving children who lost parents to violence. Beyond his investigative work, he trained new detectives and officers, led community initiatives during Child Abuse Awareness Month, organized holiday programs for children in need, and mentored youth through the Brotherhood and Sisterhood Program; and

WHEREAS Officer Dent was promoted to Detective on August 15, 2014, continuing his service within the Special Victims Unit/Child Abuse. As the Department's liaison for child abuse matters, he strengthened collaboration with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. Throughout his distinguished career, Detective Don Dent earned numerous awards and commendations, including the MLB All-Star Game Award, Rosa Parks Funeral Award, NFL XL Super Bowl Award, Conclusion of Consent Award, 2014 Ford Fireworks Award and Confinement Judgment Award.

Therefore, be it

RESOLVED That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners hereby expresses its deepest appreciation and gratitude to Detective Dent for his thirty-one (31) years of faithful and exemplary service to the Detroit Police Department and the citizens of the City of Detroit. His passionate dedication to law enforcement and his many contributions to public safety for Detroit residents merit our highest regards.

Commissioner Carter motioned "to adopt the resolution honoring Detective Don Dent." The motion was adopted.

B. Resolution Honoring Detective Ben Biddle (Retirement)

Resolution Honoring Detective Ben Biddle (Retirement)

WHEREAS On January 6, 1997, Detective Biddle was appointed to the Detroit Police Department. Upon completion of the Detroit Metropolitan Police Academy, Police Officer Ben Biddle's first assignment was the Detroit Police Department's Fourth Precinct. On November 13, 2000, Officer Biddle was assigned to Child Abuse. There he was tasked with investigating crimes against children and child deaths. Officer Biddle was tasked with teaching the Command Staff, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office along with the Student Police Officers about child abuse, and what is required of the Child Abuse Unit; and

WHEREAS In 2003 and 2004, Officer Biddle was chosen to represent the Detroit Police Department, Child Abuse Unit, for the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice and Family Independence Agency, assisting with writing Forensic Interviewing Protocol for the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS On August 15, 2014, Officer Biddle was recognized and officially promoted to the rank of Detective. At his current assignment, Special Victims Unit / Child Abuse, he continued to excel, operating as the Detroit Police Department's liaison for Child Abuse. Bridging the gap to the Wayne County Child Protective Services, Detective Biddle was a part of several programs such as, Child Abuse Month, Adopt A Family, Trunk or Treat, National Night Out and the Brotherhood and Sisterhood program, mentoring young men and young women from the city of Detroit; and

WHEREAS Throughout his stellar career, Detective Biddle was the recipient of the MLB All Star Game Award, Rosa Parks Funeral Award, NFL XL Super Bowl Award, Conclusion of Confinement Award, 2014 Ford Fireworks Award, Conclusion of Consent Judgment Award, two (2) Lifesaving Citation Awards, Perfect Attendance Award, numerous citations, letters of appreciation and recommendation.

Therefore, be it

RESOLVED That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners hereby expresses its deepest appreciation and gratitude to Detective Ben Biddle for his twenty - nine years of dedicated service to the citizens of the City of Detroit. His passionate dedication to law enforcement and his many contributions to public safety for Detroit residents merit our highest regards.

Commissioner Carter motioned "to adopt the resolution honoring Detective Ben Biddle." The motion was adopted.

C. Resolution Honoring Investigator Glenda Fisher (Retirement)

Resolution Honoring Investigator Glenda Fisher (Retirement)

WHEREAS Investigator Heath-Fisher was appointed to the Detroit Police Department on January 17, 1995. After successful completion of the Detroit Metropolitan Police Academy, she was assigned to the Sixth Precinct and fulfilled her patrol assignments with diligence. On September 9, 1996, she worked in the Personnel Services Division; and

WHEREAS On August 23, 1999, she was promoted to Investigator and assigned to the Northwestern District Investigative Operations Unit. On June 25, 2012, she was assigned to the Criminal Investigations Unit, which is now known as the Detective Bureau; and

WHEREAS During her career with the Detroit Police Department, Investigator Heath-Fisher was the recipient of numerous awards, which included the Chief's Merit Award, the 2014 Ford Fireworks Celebration Ribbon Award, the Conclusion of the Conditions of Confinement Consent Judgement Award, the NFL Super Bowl XL Recognition Award, the Rosa Parks Funeral Recognition Award and the MLB All Star Baseball Recognition Award.

WHEREAS On Monday, February 2, 2026, with more than thirty-one (31) years of service, Investigator Glenda Heath-Fisher, assigned to the Eighth Precinct Investigative Operations Unit, will be retiring from the Detroit Police Department.

Therefore, be it

RESOLVED That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners hereby expresses its deepest appreciation and gratitude to Investigator Heath-Fisher for her faithful and exemplary service to the Detroit Police Department and the citizens of the City of Detroit. Her passionate dedication to law enforcement and her many contributions to public safety for Detroit residents merit our highest regards.

Commissioner Jones motioned "to adopt the resolution honoring Investigator Glenda Fisher." The motion was adopted.

8. New Business

A. Closed Session pursuant to Section 8(1)(a) of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(a), the Department's Request for the Board to Consider Administrative Leave Without Pay but with Medical Benefits for Police Officer Yahaira Gomez, Badge 986, Assigned to Police Recruiting. (Reconvene Public Meeting to vote – A 2/3 majority vote required)

Commissioner Camille moved that "the Board go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 8(1)(1) of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(a), the Department's Request for the Board to Consider Administrative Leave Without Pay but with Medical Benefits for Police Officer Yahaira Gomez, Badge 986, Assigned to Police Recruiting. (Reconvene Public Meeting to vote – A 2/3 majority vote required)(Time: 3:25 p.m.) The motion passed.

Reconvene Open Meeting (4:12 p.m.)

Commissioner Carter moved that "the Board follow the recommendation of Chief Bettison and place Officer Gomez on administrative leave without pay but with medical benefits." The motion failed.

YES: 5

NO: 5

MOTION: FAILED

YES: Chair Dewaelsche, Commissioners Carter, Ivey, Jones and Watts

NO: Vice Chair Woods, Commissioners Boman, Camille, Morris and Williams

9. Chief of Police Report.

Deputy Chief Tiffany Stewart reported on current CompStat Crime/Statistical Data for Violent Crime and Property and recent critical incidents impacting the community. The Unsheltered Population Response Team appeared on Fox 2 News. They're a team of five members and a team of officers that assist the City's unsheltered population with finding housing and providing them with essential clothing items. To donate clothing or essential items, please reach out to the Unsheltered team or the Public Safety Foundation. You can email to drop off clothes here at Detroit Public Safety Foundation. Deputy Chief Stewart stated that at one point they were dropping off clothes for the community closet at the Sixth Precinct as well. The email is unshelteredpopulationresponseteam@detroitmichigan.com. Traffic enforcement stats for the week are as follows: DPD is still in Precincts Nine, Ten, Eleven and Twelve doing traffic enforcement operations. Officers conducted a total of 390 traffic stops

and issued over 1,000 tickets for moving violations as well as speeding tickets. Search warrant recoveries: this week in the Ninth Precinct, DPD conducted two search warrants, one of which recovered a gun and arrested a juvenile for an armed robbery. Another search warrant, an arrest was made for assault with intent to murder. Domestic violence arrests: a husband and wife had an argument and the husband, the offender, threatened the wife with a firearm. He was later charged with firearms possession by a prohibited person and felonious assault. Community updates: Procedural Justice and Police Legitimacy Forum will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2026 at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters. Community members are encouraged to voice community concerns and learn about the procedures police use to accomplish their duties. Recruiting updates: On Monday, January 26, 2026, a new academy class of 30 student police officers began the training academy. On Monday, February 2, 2026, DPD will be hiring professional staff, such as office management assistants and crime analysts. Anyone interested in joining the Detroit Police Department as an officer or civilian professional staff can visit joindetroitstfinest.org for opportunities.

Commissioner Williams inquired about what the policy is for face masks and officers when interacting with the community. Stated that he has been told by many that they've been approached, jumped out on, officers come up with their mask on and they're not identifying themselves, nor do they know what the officers look like. How can they properly make a complaint? **Deputy Chief Stewart** stated there is not a policy with regard to face masks for Detroit Police Department. Conversations with the officers have taken place regarding face masks and not wearing them. Their uniforms should have their name and their badge numbers on it at all times. Should an officer have a face mask on, citizens can request the officer to pull it down so that they can see their face. They can call any precinct, ask for the supervisor on the desk, to file a complaint, or come through this Board to file a complaint, should an officer not pull their mask down and provide their identity. **Commissioner Williams** asked what about officers IDing themselves. **Deputy Chief Stewart** stated that officers should be identifying themselves upon citizens' request and that they are required to do that. For those officers who do not, again, they can go through the complaint process. **Deputy Chief Stewart** stated that there is a policy related to masks but it's the baklava mask, and it's for Special Response Team or Traffic in weather-related conditions when they're out there for an extended time in weather-related conditions. Regular traffic stops or anything along those lines, the officers should not have on masks.

Commissioner Watts following up on what Commissioner Williams was saying. If they're not identifying themselves, is it easier sometimes to go back and check their body cam camera and are they required to have a body camera on at all times. **Deputy Chief Stewart** stated yes, they are. They're having citizen contact, there should be body camera footage of their communication with said citizen. **Commissioner Watts** asked if it is tracked on how many occurrences when people don't have it on? **Deputy Chief Stewart** stated yes, she believes DPD does that. **Deputy Chief Stewart** asked **Deputy Chief Parish** if DPD is tracking when officers are not wearing their body-worn camera footage. **Deputy Chief Parish** stated yes, the Civil Rights Division conducts audits and inspections on compliance with the body-worn camera policy. **Commissioner Watts** asked so there's an audit. **Deputy Chief Parish** stated yes, it's an audit. **Commissioner Watts** asked how often that audit is conducted. **Deputy Chief Parish** stated that Civil Rights is always looking at body-worn camera to be honest. How often the audits are published, he would have to get back with the Board on that. He stated that it may be quarterly, but he'd like some grace to actually look that up. **Commissioner Watts** stated she would like to see that and see what that percentage is. **Deputy Chief Parish** stated the last audit was around 97.2%, so overwhelming compliance but officers do make mistakes out in the field.

Chair Dewaelsche stated that she just wanted to add that the Board also tracks complaints that they receive in response to Commissioner Watts inquiries.

Commissioner Ivey inquired if the cameras are supposed to be on once they leave the station until they return back to the station or their respective precincts? **Deputy Chief Stewart** stated no. The policy dictates when they're having citizen interaction.

Commissioner Morris stated just to be fair about it, for clarity purposes, are there provisions put in place for officer safety? Are there any measures in place, in an instance like that, where the officer is not mandated to reveal their identity for safety purposes? **Deputy Chief Stewart** stated that historically speaking, those in that specific situation, officers would come back with the mask on. However, during this heightened time of fear, we've asked even those officers to take their masks off.

Commissioner Camille inquired if it is possible for the Board to have a copy of the policy and/or the desk-level procedures for civil rights on how they go about conducting those audits. **Deputy Chief Stewart** stated yes, she believes that it's possible for her to receive that. **Commissioner Camille** inquired about a man that was found dead in the area of Majestic and Ragoon and if the department had anything more to share. **Deputy Chief Stewart** stated that she is not aware of the Majestic and Ragoon situation so she can't report out on that. **Commissioner Camille** inquired about what the protocol is for how many scout cars are typically sent out to canvas the area when there is an alert indicating multiple shots in the area. **Deputy Chief Stewart** stated they'll dispatch one car out to that area to look for any evidence related to bullet casings or anything along those lines. **Commissioner Camille** inquired if it is the mobile field force that's assigned to protests and other First Amendment Activities. **Deputy Chief Stewart** stated yes. **Commissioner Camille** asked if they use their regular department badge numbers or do they have some other type of identifying number. **Deputy Chief Stewart** stated no, they use their regular badge numbers. **Commissioner Camille** asked if they're required to give their name and badge if the public asks. **Deputy Chief Stewart** stated yes. **Commissioner Camille** inquired about the Executive Protection Unit and do they adhere to the same policies as your other units or do they have their own set of policies specific to their roles. **Deputy Chief Stewart** stated no, all police officers have to follow the same rules and regulations, the same policies. They are duty bound by the same rules and regulations. **Commissioner Camille** asked if they wear badge numbers and identification? Can you identify who they are by looking at them or are their

uniforms different? **Deputy Chief Stewart** stated that it depends on the Chief's schedule. Oftentimes they're in uniform and then oftentimes they're in suits. It just depends on the Chief's schedule and what's on his agenda for the day. **Commissioner Camille** asked if that unit is also assigned to City Council. **Deputy Chief Stewart** stated yes, they have members assigned to City Council as well as the Mayor. **Commissioner Camille** inquired about what quality controls DPD has in place to make sure that DPD staff are adhering to policy and preserving constitutional rights during questioning. **Deputy Chief Stewart** stated that questioning for offenders should be on video. It can be reviewed at any given time once the entire investigation package is presented to the Wayne County Prosecutor Office. **Commissioner Camille** inquired if there are any type of control mechanisms in place just to verify that everyone's following the rules, and any type of missteps are being caught before someone's down the path in court. **Deputy Chief Stewart** stated yes, there is a supervisor assigned to every squad, every homicide squad. When the warrant package goes over, it is reviewed by the commanding officer, your captain or your commander over the homicide unit before it's submitted to the Wayne County Prosecutor.

Commissioner Boman inquired if the policy that we have about non-involvement with ICE carry over to Border Patrol. **Deputy Chief Stewart** stated that it does. **Commissioner Boman** asked if it includes ICE and Border Patrol and if there is anything else or are those the two. **Deputy Chief Stewart** stated those would be the two.

10. **Oral Communication / Public Comments:** Mr. Dana Lunn, Ms. Fredia Butler, Ms. Charnita Williams, Ms. Michelle George, Mr. Jimmy McCarroll, and Ms. Jawana Oliver provided public comments.

11. **Presentation to the Board**

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

- A. 260126 BOPC Facial Recognition Report
 - B. 260126 BOPC Shot Spotter Weekly Report
 - C. Memorandum from Commissioners Boman, Camille and Ivey to DPD Re: Data Sharing Information
 - D. Announcements
- Next Board Meeting: Thursday, February 5, 2026 @ 3:00 p.m. at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third Street, Detroit, MI 48226

February Community Meeting: Thursday, February 12, 2026 @ 6:30 p.m. at 11th Precinct @ Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 13651 Dequindre Street, Detroit, MI 48212

13. **Unfinished Business**

A. **Commissioner Camille** stated that she has unfinished business items.

- 1. **Commissioner Camille** inquired about when the CJIS presentation will be scheduled. **Board Secretary Gamier** stated there is no update at this time.
- 2. **Commissioner Camille** inquired on the status of gas station body-worn camera audit report. **Board Secretary Gamier** stated that request is outstanding.
- 3. **Commissioner Camille** asked Corporation Counsel if he has a status on the legal opinion regarding DPD staff member Ms. Mayberry and that there were questions about her eligibility to hold that office. **Corporation Counsel Conrad Mallett** stated that he distributed that to the Chair and to the Chief today and will send over to all of the BOPC this evening.
- 4. **Commissioner Camille** inquired about the lawsuit reporting and adding the defendants to the report and receiving that report on a regular basis. **Corporation Counsel Mallett** stated that the names will be added on the report. It can be discussed during closed session. In most instances, we will not have the answer being supplied by the law department. By definition then, it's going to appear to be very imbalanced and so I just want to kind of present that with the caveat, but we can certainly understand and go over the cases as they come in with the specific objective that you described, to see whether or not, based on the allegation made there are policy adjustments that the Board might want to initiate. This would not be an opportunity to examine discipline. It's for a very specific purpose associated with the creation of policy. **Commissioner Carter** asked how often the Board will receive the report. **Corporation Counsel Mallett** stated quarterly. **Commissioner Camille** stated that the original request was for the Board to get an updated report every 2 weeks and then upon further discussion, it was decided to receive the report monthly. **Corporation Counsel Mallett** stated we can do monthly.

14. **Adjournment.**

Commissioner Carter adjourned the meeting at 5:11 p.m.