

Approved Minutes of Board of Police Commissioners
Date of Meeting: Thursday, March 19, 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 3:01 p.m. A quorum was declared.

A. Invocation. Chaplain Darnell Ison provided the invocation.

B. 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	

C. Chair Dewaelsche requested the approval of the Agenda for Thursday, March 19, 2026. The Agenda was accepted and adopted.

D. Chair Dewaelsche requested the approval of the Meeting Minutes for March 12, 2026 with the amendment of Commissioner Williams being in attendance at the March 12, 2026 BOPC Board Meeting. The minutes were approved as amended.

E. Chair Dewaelsche requested the approval of the Meeting Minutes for March 13, 2026. The minutes were approved as presented.

F. Chair Dewaelsche requested the approval of the Closed Session Meeting Minutes for March 13, 2026 – Police Officer Derond Crawford. The minutes were approved as presented.

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

2. **BOPC Officers' Report – Chair Eva Garza Dewaelsche.**

A. Resolution Honoring Remnant Worshipers' Ministry

Resolution Honoring The Remnant Worshipers' Ministry

WHEREAS The Remnant Worshipers Ministry, founded in 2004 under the leadership of Pastor G. Peggy McIntosh, has faithfully served the City of Detroit for over two decades through spiritual guidance, outreach, and community service; and

WHEREAS The Ministry has demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting residents by addressing food insecurity through large-scale food distributions and providing clothing, supplies, and resources to individuals and families in need; and

WHEREAS Through partnerships and outreach efforts, including initiatives led by Rev. Dr. Eddie Connor, the Ministry has served tens of thousands of individuals and supported vulnerable populations, including those experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS The Ministry also promotes mental health awareness and overall wellness, contributing to a stronger and more resilient community; and

WHEREAS The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners recognizes the vital role of community organizations in enhancing public safety and improving quality of life; and

THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners hereby honors the Remnant Worshipers Ministry for its dedication, compassion, and outstanding service to the people of Detroit, and expresses its sincere appreciation for its continued impact on the community; and

BE IT, FURTHER

RESOLVED That a copy of this resolution be presented to the Remnant Worshipers Ministry as a symbol of the Board's gratitude and recognition.

Commissioner Boman motioned "to approve the resolution honoring the Remnant Worshipers Ministry." The motion passed.

B. Resolution Honoring Reginald Burks - Retirement

Resolution Honoring Retiring Civilian Reginald Burks

WHEREAS Reginald Burks began his career with the City of Detroit on November 12, 1985, as a microbiologist at the Waste Water Treatment Plant in the Water and Sewerage Department. In 1987, he transferred to the Detroit Police Department, where he began his distinguished career as a photographer within Central Photo/Graphic Arts, ultimately becoming a highly respected expert in his field; and

WHEREAS Mr. Burks photographed thousands of police cadets, departmental personnel, executive leadership, identification images, and countless community events, contributing significantly to the Department's public image and historical record. His professional excellence extended beyond the Department, benefiting numerous law enforcement agencies. In 2006, he attended advanced training at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, becoming the first member of Central Photo to achieve this distinction; and

WHEREAS Mr. Burks has photographed notable political figures, athletes, and public figures, while also documenting major civic events including championship parades, the Grand Prix, the Detroit-Windsor Tug Across the River, and the Free Press International Marathon. Among his most cherished professional experiences was documenting the historic 1990 visit of South African President Nelson Mandela, where he was granted full access to the event from arrival through public address; and

WHEREAS Mr. Burks holds a bachelor's degree from University of Michigan, is a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, and has been inducted into the Detroit Negro League Softball Hall of Fame in recognition of his photographic contributions to the preservation of the sport's history. Beyond his professional accomplishments, his career reflects unwavering commitment, professionalism, and a deep dedication to both the Detroit Police Department and the people it serves.

THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners hereby recognizes with deep appreciation and respect Reginald Burks for his remarkable career, outstanding service, dedication, and contributions to the Detroit Police Department and the City of Detroit.

Commissioner Williams motioned “to approve the resolution honoring Civilian Reginald Burks.” The motion passed.

3. **Chief of Police Report.**

Chief of Police Report.

A. Chief of Police Recommendation to Appoint to the Rank of Commander (1) and Captain (1)

Appointment to the Rank of Commander

Captain Laurie Carter

Commissioner Jones motioned “to support the recommendation to appoint Captain Laurie Carter to the position of Commander.” The motion passed.

Appointment to the Rank of Captain

Lieutenant Jon Gardner

Commissioner Boman motioned “to postpone the vote for the recommendation to appoint Lieutenant Jon Gardner to the Rank of Captain.” The motion passed.

Deputy Chief Mark Bliss reported on current CompStat Crime/Statistical Data for Violent Crime and Property and recent critical incidents impacting the community. There are no critically injured members reported this week. On March 10, 2026 at approximately 11:54 p.m., a verbal altercation occurred at a liquor store in the 14800 block of Livernois Avenue. It is alleged that the female defendant gave the male defendant a broken glass bottle. The male defendant stabbed the male victim multiple times in the neck. The victim was privately transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased. On March 13, 2026, following an investigation by the Detroit Police Department, the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office charged Mr. Steven Lewis Hooks and Ms. Bernice Shaneka Chenevert in connection with the fatal stabbing. Both were charged with premeditated first-degree murder and were arraigned and remanded to jail. On March 17, 2026, the Organized Crime Division and Partners of BC conducted an emergency closure of the Wall Street Lounge after a non-fatal shooting and several assaults occurred at the location. On February 27, 2026, a non-fatal shooting occurred outside the Detroit Edison Public School Academy. Seventh Precinct investigators, with the help of the community, news media and the Southfield Police Department made two arrests, charging both the suspect and the victim with gun charges. On March 4, 2026, a female victim made a report that a suspect threatened her with a gun in the 18800 block of Greeley. On March 11, 2026, officers conducted surveillance and executed a search warrant. The offender was arrested and recovered 4 long guns, 2 handguns, ammunition, suspected cocaine and other narcotics. The offender has been charged with possession of controlled substance, firearm possession by a prohibited person, assault with a dangerous weapon and felony firearms. Traffic enforcement: from March 8 to March 14, 2026, the Traffic Enforcement Unit conducted operations in Second, Ninth and Twelfth Precincts. Officers made 540 traffic stops, issued 1,198 tickets for moving violations and 251 tickets for speeding. Narcotics enforcement: from March 9 to March 15, 2026, the Narcotics Unit executed several search warrants, making 4 felony arrests, confiscating 4 firearms, 48 grams of cocaine, 68 grams of fentanyl and 45 pills. Community updates: The Office of Community Outreach and Engagement in collaboration with Lieutenant Mark Young and Sergeant Rodney Sizemore is seeking donations of new and gently used ties for our upcoming Brotherhood Summit. Donations can be dropped off at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters lobby and will be accepted through March 26, 2026. The Ninth Precinct is currently hosting Prom Dress Pickup Days for high school girls. Girls can pick out gently used prom dresses, shoes and accessories. Pickup will be available at 11187 Gratiot Avenue on March 21 and March 28 from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Commissioner Ivey inquired if she could share the Department’s flyer to social media for the time. **Deputy Chief Bliss** stated yes.

Vice Chair Woods inquired if the Chief made a statement on the former Detroit Police officer that has been accused of being a serial rapist. **Deputy Chief Bliss** stated that the Chief addressed the command staff regarding the retired sergeant and reiterated the fact that no one is above the law, and it was the Detroit Police that pushed ahead to make sure that this person was brought to justice.

Commissioner Camille inquired about the former Detroit Police officer that has been accused of being a serial rapist and when he left DPD and if that was voluntary or involuntary. **Deputy Chief Bliss** stated that he doesn’t have that information but if you make a request, the Department can get that information to her. **Commissioner Camille** inquired if businesses pay some type of fee structure in order to have DPD monitor the green light location. **Deputy Chief Bliss** stated that is incorrect, they pay a third party to have the cameras installed but there’s no payment to the Detroit Police Department. **Commissioner Camille** followed up to clarify that the businesses are paying for the installation for the equipment and

then they sign up for the green light program with DPD but there's no cost for that program. **Deputy Chief Bliss** stated yes. **Commissioner Camille** inquired if there's an incident that's captured on that footage, there's no reason why the person that's reporting that, or the victim that's reporting that to DPD, there's no additional cost or anything to retrieve that as part of the investigation or anything. **Deputy Chief Bliss** stated no. **Commissioner Camille** inquired if victims of gun violence are compelled to cooperate with an investigation. **Deputy Chief Bliss** stated if there is an investigation, the Department elicits a response from the victim, but they are not compelled for that. **Commissioner Camille** inquired if there's a practice of pursuing the victim or surveilling that victim or anything. **Deputy Chief Bliss** stated it would all depend on the type of case. If a case is being investigated, due to recollection, you would like to get that information as soon as possible. **Commissioner Camille** inquired if someone makes a request for body-worn camera footage, is what is shared through a FOIA, just the incident of the officers that arrive on scene and deal with that specific, core activities of that incident or when other DPD staff, such as technicians from crime scene services, if they're wearing body-worn camera and they're collecting evidence, is all of that body-worn camera footage packaged with that incident or is it just the immediate situation. **Deputy Chief Bliss** stated that he would have to look into that to give accurate information. **Commissioner Camille** inquired if DPD is no longer using its own software for facial recognition but using Michigan State Police's software. **Deputy Chief Bliss** stated that is correct. **Commissioner Camille** inquired if there is a cost when DPD makes an inquiry to Michigan State Police. **Deputy Chief Bliss** stated no, not that he is aware of. **Commissioner Camille** inquired under what circumstances is DPD using the facial recognition technology. **Deputy Chief Bliss** stated that if there's a violent crime and there has to be certain things vetted in order to allow an investigator to use facial recognition technology. It has to be approved, supervisor approval, certain types of violent crimes. Some cases may fit the criteria and some may not. The Department follows the policy very closely in order to make sure because the Department understands how sensitive this type of technology is.

Commissioner Watts inquired if DPD has plans to beef up or have targeted initiatives around gas stations and after-hour facilities. **Deputy Chief Bliss** stated overall, there is a focus on that.

4. **Oral Communication / Public Comments:** Ms. Bernice Smith, Mr. Marcel Ulacia, Ms. Cassandra Rodriguez, Ms. Fredia Butler, Mr. Teron Haynes, Mr. Jacob Smith, Ms. Charnita Williams, Ms. Cassidy Clark, Ms. Michelle George, Former Commissioner William Davis, Ms. Taura Brown, Mr. Rhuben Crowley, Mr. Jade Slaughter, Mr. Devin and Mr. Jahdante Smith provided public comments.

Commissioner Boman inquired if information can be provided on how many violent incidents are interrupted as a result of Shot Spotter where there was no other call, nothing else going to 911, how many cases are there where the Shot Spotter was used where it resulted in the arrest of people for a violent crime. **Deputy Chief Bliss** stated if Commissioner Boman could submit that the Department will definitely answer his questions. Stated that he does not have that information available right now. Stated that for the accuracy of his request, please submit it through the Secretary so the Department can address it.

Vice Chair Woods inquired if the Department is communicating with alleged victims and having a conversation with them about the reasons why the Department can't go forward. **Deputy Chief Bliss** stated that it is his understanding that there is open dialogue between the investigator and the victim in regard to the case status. Stated that the Department has the Family Unit that will reach out to victims and follow up on certain aspects. No one is left out there in an unknown state. **Vice Chair Woods** requested that information be reported to the Secretary that the communication is happening more often than not. **Deputy Chief Bliss** stated that the victims are addressed. The Department has a very robust system on keeping in contact. Stated that when the Secretary submits it, the Department will address it.

Commissioner Carter stated that she would like to know if someone actually spoke with the victim that spoke during public comment during a previous meeting. She would like to know what happened and if she received communication that she should have regarding the case and why it was closed.

Commissioner Watts stated that she would like to know who sat down with the victim and when.

Commissioner Morris inquired why the Executive Protection Unit that is assigned to the City Council and the Mayor are not wearing body cameras. **Deputy Chief Bliss** stated that he can look into what their processes are in wearing body-worn cameras and if they're required to have them on and get that information to Commissioner Morris.

Commissioner Camille stated that there was a request in a meeting of DPD to provide with a draft of a proposal for security at Board meetings, so that the Board could review that and then vote on if the Board accepts that as acceptable security. Inquired if that has come into the office or if DPD is still working on it. **Vice Chair Woods** stated that he spoke to the Chief about that and the Chief said that he will get something to the Board very soon. The Chief is working something out to be able to make sure that's accommodated.

Commissioner Watts inquired if the Board Secretary has any update on the Dawson case. **Board Secretary Lydia Garnier** stated that she spoke with Internal Affairs and the detective assigned to the case stated that there is an open investigation. The complainant has been contacted, and the complainant had not responded. That information was emailed to Commissioner Watts and Commissioner Williams. Stated that she will follow up McGinnis.

Commissioner Boman requested to see the summary of the transcript of the meeting that occurred between DPD, MSP and Rhuben Crowley pertaining to the Kenisha Coleman case. **Corporation Counsel Conrad Mallett** stated that he will ask Chief Bettison what records were kept, what conclusions were drawn, what the written record associated with that actually is and find out.

Commissioner Ivey inquired if she could receive that information as well pertaining to the Kenisha Coleman case. **Corporation Counsel Mallett** stated yes.

5. **Presentation to the Board.**

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

- A. 260316 BOPC Facial Recognition Report
- B. 260316 BOPC Shot Spotter Weekly Report
- C. Applicant Appeal Request of Eric Wilson
- D. Administrative Leave Without Pay but with Medical Benefits for Probationary Police Officer Keyshawn Rucker
- E. DPD Request for the Approval of the Specification Report for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
- F. DPD Response Re: Data Sharing (03172026)
- G. Request for Board Endorsement of the CPTA-drafted Bodycam Ordinance
- H. CPTA Draft Video Release Ordinance for the City of Detroit
- I. Policy Committee Memorandum (03172026)
- J. Announcements

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, March 26, 2026 @ 3:00 p.m. at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third Street, Detroit, MI 48226

April Community Meeting: Thursday, April 9, 2026 @ 6:30 p.m. at 9th Precinct @ City of Detroit Heilmann Recreation Center, 19601 Brock Avenue, Detroit, MI 48205

Commissioner Camille inquired about a request that came through on Monday requesting an urgent tour of the crime scene services for the commissioners, and there was at least one commissioner that also indicated that they wanted that as well. Inquired if there is an update on that. **Board Secretary Garnier** stated that the request was made immediately to the Chief's office. Stated that she spoke with the Chief of Staff and will follow up immediately after this meeting. Stated that she does not have an update other than that but was told that it would be coordinated and arranged as soon as possible.

7. **Unfinished Business.**

- A. **Motion that the Board submit a memorandum to the City Council requesting they revisit the ordinance related to the release of police video footage and to support the proposed language from CPTA and DARPA for amending the ordinance.**

Commissioner Camille motioned "that the Board submit a memorandum to City Council requesting that they revisit the ordinance related to the release of police video footage and to support the proposed language from CPTA and DARPA for amending the ordinance."

Commissioner Camille motioned "to postpone the matter until next week." The motion passed.

8. **New Business.**

- A. **Motion to adopt as policy, Directive 203.16 Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) Act**

Commissioner Watts motioned "by direction of the Policy Committee, I move to adopt as policy Item 8A, Directive 203.16 Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) Act." The motion passed.

- B. 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 Careema Yopp, Badge 4360, Assigned to the Second Precinct. (Reconvene Public Meeting to vote – A 2/3 majority vote required).**
- C. Closed Session pursuant to Section 8(f) of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(f), Applicant Justin Bognear. (Reconvene Public Meeting to vote – A 2/3 majority vote required).**

Vice Chair Woods moved that “the Board go into 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 Careema Yopp, Badge 4360, Assigned to the Second Precinct. (Reconvene Public Meeting to vote – A 2/3 majority vote required)(Time: 4:55 p.m.) The motion passed.

Vice Chair Woods moved that “the Board go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 8(f) of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(f), Applicant Justin Bognear. (Reconvene Public Meeting to vote – A 2/3 majority vote required)(Time: 4:55 p.m.) The motion passed.

Reconvene Open Meeting (6:00 p.m.)

Commissioner Boman moved “to deny the Chief's recommendation to suspend Police Officer Careema Yopp without pay.”

Commissioner Boman moved “to grant the appeal for Applicant Justin Bognear.”

Commissioner Boman moved “to withdraw both motions.” The motion passed.

No action taken.

D. BOPC Stipend Increase

Commissioner Watts motioned “for the Board of Police Commissioners to approve requesting additional funds in FY27 for monthly stipends to be increased per month to \$1,130.00 for District and Appointed Commissioners and increased to \$1,464.95 for the Chairperson of the Board.” The motion passed.

9. Adjournment.

Chair Dewaelsche adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.