

Approved Minutes of Board of Police Commissioners
Date of Meeting: Thursday, May 7, 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 Glenn Hodges 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, May 7, 2026. The Agenda was accepted and adopted.

D. Chair Dewaelsche requested the approval of the Meeting Minutes for April 30, 2026. The minutes were approved as presented.

E. 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 Former Commissioner Sharon Elaine Bernard, Esq. (Posthumously)

Resolution Honoring Sharon Elaine Bernard, Esq.

WHEREAS Sharon Elaine Bernard made a vital impact to the communities she served in every role she held in her lifetime, including the pivotal role of a Detroit Police Commissioner. With a reputation for thorough preparation and integrity, she demonstrated leadership by example and received numerous awards for her decades of leadership and commitment; and

WHEREAS A native Detroiter, she moved to Arkansas after marriage, where she obtained her law degree from the University of Arkansas and became the first Black woman admitted to the State Bar of Arkansas. Then known as Sharon Bernard Miller, she became a renowned civil rights activist and served as an Arkansas delegate to the White House Conference on Aging, as well as on the Arkansas Governor's Commission on the Status of Women; and

WHEREAS Upon her return to Detroit, she began a distinguished 30-year career at Michigan National Bank. In 1979, Mayor Coleman A. Young appointed her to the Board of Police Commissioners. She served with distinction and became Board Chairperson during a critical period of reforms for the Police Department; and

WHEREAS Former Police Commissioner Bernard served on a myriad of professional and civic organizations, often as chairperson of the board of directors. She served as Chairwoman of the Detroit Urban League and worked tirelessly as a friend, fundraiser, and mentor for the benefit of numerous organizations. Former Commissioner Bernard leaves behind an outstanding legacy of unwavering commitment to issues affecting civil rights, children, and women. She also holds a unique place in City history, along with former District 2 Police Commissioner Linda Bernard, for siblings who served on the Board; and

WHEREAS The Board, along with the community, extends its sincerest condolences to the family and friends of former Police Commissioner Sharon Bernard, as her life is celebrated at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament on Friday, May 8, 2026.

THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking on behalf of the citizens of the great City of Detroit, hereby awards this resolution posthumously to former Police Commissioner Sharon Elaine Bernard for her dedication to both the public and private sectors, her unwavering commitment to the City of Detroit and its citizens merits our highest regard.

Commissioner Jones motioned “that we accept this resolution honoring Former Police Commissioner Sharon Elaine Bernard, Esq.” The motion passed.

3. **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. Closed cases: on April 14th, officers were dispatched to a shooting at the corner of Remington Avenue and Dequindre. Upon arrival, officers located a victim suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. The victim was transported to the local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. On the same date, officers located camera footage that captured the incident and the vehicle involved. On April 24th, suspect Sudeandre Brown was arrested and on April 27th, the second suspect DeJuan Freeman was arrested. Both men have been charged with murder in the first degree. On April 28th, officers were dispatched to a felonious assault at a liquor store in the 19500 block of Joy Road. Upon arrival, officers observed a victim at the location unresponsive with apparent stab wounds. The victim was conveyed to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. Officers located the video footage that captured the incident. It was a verbal altercation, in which the man was stabbed to death after he attempted to talk to a young lady's girlfriend. Members of DPD executed multiple search warrants throughout the city and were able to contact witnesses who were present. On April 29th, the defendant, identified as Verkita Reese Reed, turned herself into the Detroit Public Safety Headquarters. A warrant was submitted to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. Traffic enforcement: April 26th to May 2nd, the Traffic Enforcement Unit conducted operations in the 2nd and 11th Precincts. Officers made 403 traffic stops, issued 972 tickets for moving violations and 122 tickets for speeding. Community updates: on Wednesday, May 6th, Walk-a-Mile Wednesday was held in the 12th Precinct. Walk-a-Mile Wednesdays will be every other week. Today was National Day of Prayer. Next week will be Police Week. 3 officers will be going on the wall in DC next week and today they were unveiled and placed on the wall at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters. Those officers are Sergeant Shannon Wright, Corporal Rhonda Morris and Police Officer Kelvin Patrick. This is to honor fallen members. This past Sunday, 119 members obtained either their bachelor's and/or master's degree from Cleary University. Lieutenant Mark Young was awarded his honorary doctorate degree.

Commissioner Watts inquired if there is any kind of engagement or communication that the Chief has with the owners or Deputy Chiefs around a strategy, that way residents don't feel uneasy walking into gas stations and liquor stores. This is in relation to loitering that occurs at gas stations and liquor stores. **Chief Bettison** stated that he plans on making topics like that to be able to educate the community as to how they can help as well. Additionally, Chief Bettison stated that the owner of the gas station, liquor store or business establishment, when an individual is loitering on their property, they have to be the complainant.

Commissioner Camille stated that she continues to receive concerns from residents regarding the experience they're having when calling the 911 center. Stated that she requested the curriculum and did receive an outline, however, she was looking for more detail like PowerPoint presentations and talking points for the instructors. Requested to see that. Additionally, Commissioner Camille stated that if there is a 911 new hire class coming in, it would be nice to sit in on some of that instruction and just observe and listen to what's being instructed there. **Chief Bettison** stated absolutely. He stated that Commissioner Camille will be provided a copy of the curriculum and welcome her to sit in on a class. Stated that they hire quite frequently and it shouldn't be long before they have a class and will get her that information.

A. Chief of Police Recommendation to Appoint to the Rank of 1st Assistant Chief (1)

**Appointment to the Rank of 1st Assistant Chief
Assistant Chief Franklin Hayes**

Vice Chair Woods motioned “to appoint Assistant Chief Franklin Hayes to the Rank of First Assistant Chief.” The motion passed.

B. Chief of Police Recommendation to Appoint to the Rank of Assistant Chief (1)

**Appointment to the Rank of Assistant Chief
Deputy Chief Kari Sloan**

Commissioner Jones motioned “to appoint Deputy Chief Kari Sloan to the Rank of Assistant Chief.” The motion passed.

C. Chief of Police Recommendation to Appoint to the Rank of Deputy Chief (1)

**Appointment to the Rank of Deputy Chief
Commander Shanda Starks**

Vice Chair Woods motioned “to appoint Commander Shanda Starks to the Rank of Deputy Chief.” The motion passed.

D. Chief of Police Recommendation to Promote to the Ranks of Lieutenant (1.1), Sergeant (24) and Detective (3)

Promotions to the Rank of Lieutenant

Commissioner Boman motioned “to approve the recommendation of Chief Bettison to promote the following individuals to the rank of Lieutenant.” The motion passed.

Sergeant Trey Lyons
Sergeant Brent Rodak
Sergeant Markila Thomas
Sergeant Daniel Nielsen
Sergeant Gwendolyn Stokes
Sergeant William Cook

Sergeant Richard Tucker
Sergeant Edward Jackson
Sergeant Robert Wellman
Sergeant Roland Frederick
Sergeant Tracey Miller-Pletzke

Promotions to the Rank of Sergeant

Commissioner Camille requested to pull the following:

Corporal Latoya Chavies
Police Officer Amir Amen-Ra
Police Officer Mitchell Griggs
Police Officer Travis Humphlett

Vice Chair Woods motioned “to approve the recommendation of Chief Bettison to promote the following individuals to the Rank of Sergeant.” The motion passed.

Corporal David Garcia
Police Officer Latoya Peacock
Police Officer James Hall
Detective Shannon Bullock
Police Officer Morgan Tonti
Detective Jeffery Cooper
Police Officer Ian McBee
Detective Shelby Kersten
Detective Caitlyn Patrick-Davidson
Detective Eugene Fielder

Detective LaRondo Tyler
Detective Melinda Cook
Police Officer David Vazquez
Police Officer Ian Marchand
Detective Nigel Villarreal
Detective David Wiggins
Detective Angela Rice
Police Officer Daniel Polisuk
Police Officer Anthony Porcalla
Detective Terence Barron

Commissioner Williams motioned “to approve the recommendation to promote Corporal Latoya Chavies.”

Commissioner Morris motioned “to deny the Chief’s recommendation to promote Corporal Latoya Chavies.”

Commissioner Morris motioned “to postpone the Chief’s recommendation to promote Corporal Latoya Chavies to next week.” The motion passed.

Vice Chair Woods motioned “to approve the recommendation of Chief Bettison to promote Police Officer Amir Amen-Ra to the Rank of Sergeant.”

Commissioner Camille motioned “to postpone the Chief’s recommendation to promote Police Officer Amir Amen-Ra.” The motion passed.

Vice Chair Woods motioned “to approve the recommendation of Chief Bettison to promote Police Officer Mitchell Griggs to the Rank of Sergeant.”

Commissioner Camille motioned “to postpone the Chief’s recommendation to promote Police Officer Mitchell Griggs.” The motion passed.

Vice Chair Woods motioned “to approve the recommendation of Chief Bettison to promote Police Officer Travis Humphlett to the Rank of Sergeant.”

Commissioner Camille motioned “to postpone the Chief’s recommendation to promote Police Officer Travis Humphlett.” The motion passed.

Promotions to the Rank of Detective

Commissioner Camille requested to pull the following:

Police Officer Zazearra Carter

Vice Chair Woods motioned “to approve the recommendation of Chief Bettison to promote the following individuals to the Rank of Detective.” The motion passed.

Police Officer Jermel Mitchell
Police Officer Adam Langford

Vice Chair Woods motioned “to approve the recommendation of Chief Bettison to promote Police Officer Zazearra Carter to the Rank of Detective.” The motion passed.

Commissioner Camille motioned “to postpone the Chief’s recommendation to promote Police Officer Zazearra Carter.” The motion failed.

YES: 2

NO: 8

MOTION: FAILED

YES: Commissioners Boman and Camille

NO: Chair Dewaelsche, Vice Chair Woods, Commissioners Carter, Ivey, Jones, Morris, Watts and Williams

4. **Oral Communication / Public Comments:** Ms. Fredia Butler, Mr. Josh Mann, Ms. Charnita Williams, Ms. Bernice Smith, Minister Eric Blount, Ms. Michelle George, Mr. Eddie People, Mr. Jahdante Smith, Mr. Keyshawn C., Mr. Charles Cousin, Mr. Rhuben Crowley, Former Commissioner William Davis, Ms. Jawana Oliver, Ms. Bonita Davis and Ms. Tonya Jackson provided public comments.

Commissioner Camille inquired if the Department has prepared an official update for the community on where everything stands with the Tracy Allen situation. **Corporation Counsel Conrad Mallett** stated that they are still waiting on the prosecutor’s decision. It is only until she actually decides the Detroit Police Department will have a full range and understanding of what the opportunities are. There is no official report for the Board yet.

Commissioner Camille motioned “that the Board (staff) draft a memo to Madam Prosecutor reminding her of the critical role that she plays in holding police accountable in Detroit and that we implore her to make the decision that protects the residents, to not bring this officer back and to do what she can in her power to make sure that doesn’t happen.” The motion passed as amended.

Commissioner Morris motioned “to amend the motion to direct corporation counsel to draft the memo, coming from a legal perspective.” The motion passed.

Commissioner Boman inquired if the final speaker, Ms. Tonya Jackson, filed a complaint with OCI. **Chief Investigator Jerome Warfield** stated that to his knowledge, he wasn’t sure but could check and see. Stated that given the nature of the complaint, it would be forwarded over to IA. **Commissioner Watts** stated this came up during a policy committee meeting and requested that Board Secretary follow up and see what was going on with this particular case and thought it would go over to Chief Investigator Warfield and requested an update. **Chief Investigator Warfield** stated that he will follow up to see if OCI took the complaint and if so, the status will be given if not this week, early next week. **Commissioner Camille** inquired if Ms. Jackson, when speaking about her case, is referring to a lawsuit case that has concluded or some other type of case. **Corporation Counsel Mallett** stated that he is 99.9% positive that she has not filed a case against this officer that includes the City of Detroit and doesn’t know if she filed anything with the Wayne County Prosecutor. She did indicate that she has a personal protection order and that may be the case that she’s referring to. There’s no civil case. **Board Secretary Lydia Garnier** stated that she will follow up with Micheal McGinnis on the status of this matter. **Chief Investigator Warfield** stated that staff contacted him and said that BOPC #260425 was transferred over to the Internal Affairs Department from OCI. **Deputy Chief Michael Parish** stated that he confirmed with Internal Affairs and the case was closed without misconduct except for the fact that a PPO has been issued and sustained. The matter is over at disciplinary administration and the Department will take the appropriate measures to have the member suspended without pay in accordance with that system.

5. **Presentation to the Board.**

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

- A. 260504 BOPC Facial Recognition Report
- B. 260504 BOPC Shot Spotter Weekly Report
- C. DPD Disciplinary Admin Duty Status Report
- D. DPD Approved Representation and Indemnification (2026 YTD)
- E. DPD Arrest Report – April 2026
- F. DPD Force Report – April 2026
- G. DPD Internal Affairs Report – April 2026
- H. DPD Suspended With Pay Report
- I. Stronger Together Detroit Correspondence
- J. Announcements

Next Board Meeting (Community): Thursday, May 14, 2026 @ 6:30 p.m. at 8th Precinct @ WCCCD Northwest – Lewis Auditorium, 8200 West Outer Drive, Detroit, MI 48219

June Community Meeting: Thursday, June 11, 2026 @ 6:30 p.m. at 7th Precinct @ Martin Luther King Jr. High School, 3200 East Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48207

Next Committee Meeting – All Committee Meetings held at DPSH, 1301 Third Street, Detroit, MI 48226
Citizen Complaints Committee, Tuesday May 12, 2026 @ 3:00 p.m.

Ad Hoc Committee for the Review of BOPC Bylaws and Standard Operating Procedures, Thursday, May 14, 2026 @ 2:00 p.m.

7. **Unfinished Business.**

8. **New Business.**

- A. **Closed Session pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(h), to receive legal advice from Corporation Counsel regarding material exempt from discussion by state or federal statute.**

Commissioner Camille moved that “the Board go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(h), to receive legal advice from Corporation Counsel regarding material exempt from discussion by state or federal statute.” (Time: 5:40 p.m.) The motion passed.

Reconvene Open Meeting (6:11 p.m.)

- B. **BOPC Committee Action Motion**

Commissioner Watts motioned “that any BOPC committee action requiring action by the full Board be given one week notice to review the action before a vote by the full Board.” The motion passed as amended.

Vice Chair Woods motioned “to amend the motion and include that if a two-thirds majority vote by the Board that there will be an exception to the notice of one week.” The motion passed.

9. **Adjournment.**

Chair Dewaelsche adjourned the meeting at 6:22 p.m.