

**Civilian Review and Accountability Board
Meeting Summary**

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Members Present: Jennifer Green, Chair; Turney Berry; Stachelle Bussey; Scott Dickens; Barbara Haigler; Charles Keyes; Marianna Michael; Denise Sears; Guillermo Sollano; Antonio Taylor; and Kellie Watson.

Guests and Staff: Lena Muldoon, Althea Jackson, Stacey Ayers, Councilwoman Paula McCraney, Faith Augustine, Sheryl Goodman, and Darcy Costello.

I. Chair's Opening Remarks and Welcome

Jennifer Green, Chair

Jennifer Green, Chair, welcomed members to the meeting of the Civilian Review and Accountability Board (CR&AB). She advised that in order to schedule ride-alongs, members should contact Lt. Vogt. She asked members if they wanted to share any information related to their ride along experiences. Antonio Taylor said that he recently had a positive experience in the 6th and 4th Divisions. Denise Sears reported that she has done three ride alongs so far and the officers have been appreciative of the information related to the Board that she has provided. Guillermo Sollano also shared his experience and noted that he was involved in an accident during a ride along.

II. Approval of the August 25, 2021 Meeting Summary

Chairwoman Green advised that the August 25th meeting summary was sent to members in advance and is included in the meeting packet. Denise Sears made a motion to approve the summary and Charles Keyes seconded. Hearing no changes, the summary was approved.

III. Board Updates

A. Adoption of Bylaws

Chairwoman Green advised that a proposed draft of the CR&AB bylaws is included in the meeting packet for members review and discussion. A template was provided by the Jefferson County Attorney's Office (JCAO) which includes many of the CR&AB's duties and processes that are spelled out in the enabling ordinance. She opened the floor for comments and questions. Barbara Haigler made a motion to approve the bylaws and Kellie Watson seconded and the bylaws were unanimously approved.

B. Inspector General Search Committee

Chairwoman Green asked Kellie Watson to provide an update on the Inspector General Search Committee. Kellie Watson advised that the Search Committee completed interviews and recommended three candidates to the Mayor. The Mayor is conducting interviews this

week. In response to a question from Turney Berry, Kellie said that a total of 10 to 12 candidates were interviewed and three qualified candidates were recommended to the Mayor. In response to a question from Antonio, Councilwoman Paula McCraney advised that the Mayor will select one of the three candidates and the recommendation will be sent to the Metro Council for approval. Kellie Watson asked if the recommendation had to go through a Metro Council Committee, and Councilwoman McCraney indicated that the recommendation is presented to the full Council.

C. Advocacy Model

Chairwoman Green introduced Stachelle Bussey and Antonio Taylor. Stachelle noted that they were asked to provide some ideas on how the Board can engage the community to improve community and police relations. Stachelle said that they have done some research related to improving community relations and how to be effective with building community trust. She explained that one idea is for the police and community to work on projects together (Community/Police Self-Esteem Build) and explained that these would be solution-based projects related to reducing violence. The second idea is for the CR&AB to engage the community by holding monthly webinars to update the community on the Board's progress. A monthly newsletter could also be created and posted on various social media platforms and the website. The last idea is to promote community awareness about the barriers in policing. Stachelle said that research shows that when Review Boards are properly funded and supported by the community then they can be effective. Antonio added that effective Boards work with the community, and people have power to influence policy changes.

Chairwoman Green thanked Stachelle and Antonio and opened the floor for comments and questions. Scott Dickens thanked Stachelle and Antonio for their thoughtful input but reminded members that the Board was created by an ordinance and he suggested that the Board confirm that the path is not inconsistent with the ordinal language. He added that the Board needs to ensure that it is acting within the designated role and responsibility. Kellie thanked Stachelle and Antonio and noted the importance of being transparent with the community. She noted that sharing information with the community on Board activities is building trust with the community.

Denise added that the language in the ordinance charges the Board with two functions: 1) increase citizen involvement in the investigation and review of allegations of police misconduct within LMPD, and 2) provide oversight to the Inspector General. Councilwoman McCraney noted that the role of the Inspector General is community service and the Board should partner with the IG and work collaboratively in that effort. Chairwoman Green thanked Councilwoman McCraney for the clarification and added that she would seek an opinion from the Jefferson County Attorney's Office before moving forward. She advised that the next meeting is October 27th, and hopefully an announcement will be made next month about the IG. Councilwoman McCraney thanked members for their involvement and expressed her appreciation for all the work that the Board has done. She suggested that the Board issue a press release announcing that the Search Committee completed interviews and recommended three candidates to the Mayor. Kellie added that although the process took

more time than hoped, she noted that it was well worth it to recruit qualified candidates for the position because it was important to get it right.

IV. Adjourn/Next Meeting Date

Chairwoman Green reminded members that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 27th from 9:00am – 11:00am. A meeting notice will be sent to members prior to the meeting.