

**Civilian Review and Accountability Board
Meeting Summary**

Wednesday, July 28, 2021

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

Members Absent: Turney Berry and Barbara Haigler.

Guests and Staff: Lena Muldoon, Lt. William Vogt, Stacey Ayers, and Faith Augustine.

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 today's meeting includes updates on a few items, and discussion on how the Board can build bridges with the community. She thanked members for participating in the virtual meeting, reminded members to stay on mute unless speaking, and noted that the chat function was available for questions during the discussion.

II. Approval of the June 23, 2021 Meeting Summary

Chairwoman Green advised that the June 23rd meeting summary was sent to members in advance and included in the meeting packet. Denise Sears made a motion to approve the summary and Marianna Michael seconded. Hearing no changes, the summary was approved.

III. Board Updates

A. Training

Chairwoman Green reminded members that with the in-person training that was held on Saturday, July 10th, the classroom training is now completed. She noted that she appreciated the honest and open dialogue among the Board and LMPD representatives through the training process. She also reminded members to contact Sgt. Witt to schedule the required ride-along training. In response to a question from a member, Lt. Vogt noted that the night shift will begin at either 7:00pm or 8:00pm. In response to another question, Lt. Vogt advised that if possible, it would be advantageous to ride a 12-hour shift to experience the true call volume that officers respond to. He noted that the largest call volume is in Division 1, 2, and 4.

B. Inspector General Search Committee

Chairwoman Green asked Kellie Watson to provide an update on the Inspector General Search Committee. Kellie Watson reminded members that the job description was revised with input from the Civilian Review and Accountability Board members. The position was

reposted and closed on July 16th. The search committee is meeting on Friday, July 30th to begin reviewing the applications. She reported that a total of 68 applications were received. The Search Committee is planning to hold interviews in August and hoping to make an offer to a candidate by the end of August.

C. Open Discussion on CR&AB Outreach

Chairwoman Green noted that this item was added to the agenda at the request of several members. She acknowledged that the search for an Inspector General began prior to members being appointed to the Board, but with the IG job description being revised and the position reposted, the hiring process has been delayed. She noted that even if an employment offer is extended by the end of August, the IG will need some time to hire staff and develop processes and procedures therefore it could still be a few months before the Civilian Review and Accountability Board is working with the IG. Since the Board has completed the required training and is in process of completing ride-along training, she asked members for input on work to be done to further the mission of the Board until the IG is operational. She acknowledged that ordinance allows the Board to review closed internal affairs cases and to further community engagement activities. Chairwoman Green stressed the importance of informing the community of the work of the Board on a regular basis.

Denise Sears noted that she left energized after the classroom training at the LMPD Training Academy and was encouraged by the open dialogue with the officers in attendance. She also agreed that the Board should be moving forward and was not interested in reviewing closed cases. She reiterated the importance of the partnership between the police and the community and the Board should put forth the effort to help with bringing the police and the community together. She suggested that the Board provide a press statement or hold a community conversation to report out to the community. Charles Keyes agreed that outreach to the community is critical. He suggested that the Board hold in-person meetings and begin to draft by-laws and determine procedures to be ready to assist the IG when operational. He suggested that the next meeting include discussion regarding the Board standards and by-laws, and to develop a community outreach plan.

Stachelle Bussey raised concerns related to the timeline of the IG office considering that some Board members were appointed to serve an initial one-year term. She noted that the Board is accountable to the community and there are things the Board can do to begin building trust with the community. She gave her support to host community conversations and suggested inviting the community to training activities especially the opportunity to experience the simulator at the Training Academy. She also suggested developing a newsletter and social media page to inform the community on the work of the Board. Faith Augustine advised members that there is a Civilian Review and Accountability Board webpage where information related to the Board is posted, including meeting notices, meeting summaries, agendas, etc. She advised that teleconference notifications are posted on the webpage so the public can access the virtual meetings. Denise liked the idea of a social media page, so that members could share the posts on their personal pages. She noted that Jennifer is the spokesperson for the Board. Jennifer clarified that the Board Chair is authorized to speak about ongoing investigations only. Antonio Taylor supported the idea

of a community discussion to help build the relationship between the community and the police. Guillermo Sollano agreed that the community is waiting to hear from the Board and supported the idea to report out on the work of the Board. Stachelle Bussey reiterated the importance of reporting out to the community and reminded members that the Board was created for a very important reason.

Charles Keyes added that in discussion with Councilman Mark Fox he was informed that the initial one-year term limit for Board members was for the period to begin after the training was completed. He suggested that efforts be made to revise the ordinance and suggested that additional guidance be provided related to what Board members communicate so they are all on the same page. Marianna Michael suggested longer term limits to support a stable Board. Denise cautioned that some businesses are going back to mask mandates and therefore suggested hybrid meetings be considered an option. She also suggested that the Board draft a communications policy. Scott Dickens noted that members with expiring terms or those that are not interested in reappointment should provide ample notice in advance to allow time for the replacement member to receive training before the term begins.

Chairwoman Green spoke of the challenges with completing the training requirements within 90 days while balancing other work/personal obligations. Scott stated that he thought the classroom training hours were sufficient but completing 24 hours of ride-along training would take some time. Kellie agreed that the classroom training was adequate but completing the ride-along hours will be tough. She explained that members have staggered appointment terms so that all the Board members do not rotate off at the same time. She suggested that before the Board moves forward with a community conversation, to create a plan and identify the facilitator, the conversation to be held, and to make sure that members remain in compliance with the ordinance provisions. Scott reminded members that the 24 hours of ride-along training was a compromise as some recommended additional hours. Marianna agreed that completing 24 hours of ride-along within the timeframe of 90 days is challenging and suggested spreading the hours over the course of one year. Charles reminded everyone that members can be reappointed for an additional three years once the initial term expires, but Chairwoman Green reminded him that members are required to go back to the recommending agency, so it is not a rubber stamp.

Another item for discussion was raised by Kellie Watson related to subpoena power. She suggested that the Board consider what to do with subpoena power, and how to do business without it. Chairwoman Green reported that she recently had a conversation with Jennifer Hancock, Impetus, regarding advocating in the upcoming legislative session for the Board to get subpoena power and noted that it would be a tool to have in the toolkit if necessary. Charles noted that he would like to have a Board vote on the issue.

Chairwoman Green thanked members for their input and the important discussion today. She noted that many follow-up items were identified from the discussion including: drafting by-laws, hosting a community conversation or providing a report out to the community, creating social media channels, one-year term limits for some initial members, press conference to announce an IG, identifying a location to hold in-person meetings, Board discussion about subpoena power, and ride-along training hours. She advised that she has a

meeting with the Mayor's Office on Friday and will raise the concerns and ideas mentioned today.

IV. Adjourn/Next Meeting Date

Chairwoman Green reminded members that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 25th from 9:00am – 11:00am. A meeting notice will be sent to members prior to the meeting.