

**Civilian Review and Accountability Board  
Meeting Summary**

**Wednesday, August 25, 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:** Kendall Boyd, Lena Muldoon, Jimmy Higdon, Althea Jackson, Stacey Ayers, Faith Augustine, and Kala Kachmar.

**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 the meeting includes updates on several items. 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. She informed members that she presented on the work of the CR&AB to the Metro Council Public Safety Committee and suggested that members watch the archived recording located on the Metro Council website.

**II. Approval of the July 28, 2021 Meeting Summary**

Chairwoman Green advised that the July 28<sup>th</sup> 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 Marianna Michael seconded. Hearing no changes, the summary was approved.

**III. Board Updates**

A. Discussion 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. Jennifer noted that members feedback will be incorporated into the draft, and the draft will be sent back to the JCAO to make sure they are in compliance with the ordinance. Jennifer opened the floor for comments and questions. Turney Berry suggested that the CR&AB revisit the bylaws once the Office of the Inspector General is operational. Jennifer agreed and noted that the CR&AB does not want to hamstring the Inspector General in any way. Charles Keyes and Denise Sears indicated that they would review the bylaws draft and provide feedback to Chairwoman Green tomorrow.

B. Subpoena Power Overview

Chairwoman Green reminded members that at the July meeting members suggested having a discussion regarding advocacy in the upcoming legislative session for the Board to get subpoena power. She introduced Lena Muldoon, Metro Government Intergovernmental Affairs Liaison to talk more about this. Lena advised that she serves as the liaison between Metro Government and the State Legislature. She noted that Metro Government sets legislative priorities around this time each year and explained that because it can take several legislative sessions to pass legislation, many items return to the priority list each year. She reported that subpoena power for the CR&AB was a priority item last year and will be again this year. She introduced Jimmy Higdon, MML&K, who assists Metro Government with lobbying and advocacy on state legislative matters. Jimmy explained to members that the Kentucky General Assembly will convene in January 2022 and adjourn in April. He advised that there may be a special short session called by the Governor before January, but it would be specific to COVID response or redistricting and would not address any issues applicable to the CR&AB. He briefly explained how the legislative process works and noted that several bills were filed in the 2021 legislative session related to granting subpoena power to the CR&AB.

He offered three suggestions when advocating for legislation: 1) issue humility, 2) designating a spokesperson to be the voice of the Board, and 3) message discipline. He offered additional ideas as it relates to lobbying on the issue and how to approach legislators. In response to a question from Denise Sears, Jimmy explained that subpoena power for the CR&AB was a new issue introduced last year, and as mentioned before it can take several legislative sessions for a proposed bill to become law. He noted several positive actions of the Board that should be mentioned when advocating including all of the training that members have completed, and the importance of having an IG on board and vocal to speak on the issue. In response to a question from Chairwoman Green, Jimmy explained that the legislature can not grant power until the end of the legislative session and a "Louisville only" solution can be passed without affecting the rest of the state. He noted the importance of having an IG in place working with an effective Board.

In response to a question from Charles Keyes, Lena noted that when advocating for subpoena power last year, the administration worked with the Metro Council. She added that Greater Louisville, Inc. and other agencies are in support as well. Jimmy explained that in last year's session the Jefferson County Delegation proposed two different approaches to subpoena power: 1) Circuit Court issuing the subpoena, and 2) Metro Council approving the subpoena.

Chairwoman Green asked members if they wanted to vote today to collectively support and advocate for subpoena power or want to wait until the September meeting. Denise raised concerns that if the Board doesn't publicly advocate that it would send the wrong message. After discussion, Denise made a motion that the Board publicly advocate for subpoena power, and Guillermo Sollano seconded. Charles called for discussion on the motion and asked for clarification. Denise explained that the details and the "how to" can be decided later but stressed the importance of the Board publicly advocating for subpoena power. Turney Berry suggested that the Board authorize the most effective approach and make the best statement that will do the most good. Kellie agreed that the Board can come back and

work out the details but publicly advocating is important. Chairwoman Green summed up the importance of deploying this Board as an advocacy tool and the need for the Board to use subpoena power with surgical precision. Since there is a motion and a second on the table, she called for a vote that the Board supports publicly advocating for subpoena power. The motion was approved unanimously, 11-0. Chairwoman Green thanked Lena and Jimmy for their presentation and suggestions.

### C. Community Outreach/Lean into Louisville

Chairwoman Green introduced Kendall Boyd to speak about the Lean into Louisville initiative and how the Board can get involved. Kendall began by explaining that Lean into Louisville launched in 2017 with a series of presentations, conversations, activities and art exhibits to explore and confront the history and legacy of all forms of discrimination and inequality in the city and the country. While the activities have been initiated by Louisville Metro Government, the project involves various community partners, schools, businesses, the faith community and others. Since many community members and organizations are already doing great work in this area, Lean into Louisville is working to lift up that work. He explained that the idea for the initiative was sparked by the clashes in Charlottesville, Va., in August 2017, and the deep ignorance and lack of understanding of the nation's history of discrimination and its ongoing impacts. Though it is an evolving effort that will be enhanced and expanded, Lean into Louisville has had three major components: learning opportunities, talking circles, and public art.

Kellie Watson added that as part of the Lean into Louisville work the Synergy Project was launched. She explained that the Synergy Project is a community engagement initiative aimed at further strengthening police and community relationships grounded in trust and legitimacy and was launched in June 2019. Trained facilitators from Spalding University assisted with the sessions, and Dr. Kniffley was responsible for analyzing the information shared at the sessions as it related to how to improve police and community relations. Kendall noted that since COVID interrupted the in-person Synergy sessions, some virtual events were held. He explained that in the FY 22 budget, Metro Council expressed concerns with the Synergy Project and decided to allocate \$600,000 to implement the National Network for Safe Communities (NNSC) Reconciliation model. NNSC's Police-Community Reconciliation framework is an approach to building common ground adapted from transitional justice processes like the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in post-Apartheid South Africa. Communities and law enforcement name the harms that have been done; encourage those who caused harm to acknowledge and commit to repairing it; give voice to the harmed to share their experiences and have them honored; take concrete steps to repair those harms; and facilitate dialogue, trust, and understanding to construct a better way forward.

There are five steps of the Police-Community Reconciliation process: 1) Acknowledgment of harm by law enforcement leaders and other public officials, 2) Listening sessions where police hear directly from harmed communities, 3) Narrative collection to share personal experiences of harm with the broader community, 4) Fact finding to establish a consensus record of local harm, and 5) Commitment to ongoing change of public safety policy, practice,

and strategy. Kendall invited to Board to be engaged in the process and promote community engagement efforts, specifically as it relates to the listening sessions and fact finding. In response to a question from Guillermo related to the involvement of the Hispanic and immigrant community, Kendall noted that dialogue with the Hispanic and immigrant advocacy groups is very important. He also noted that the Office of Globalization is involved and aware of the concerns. Antonio agreed that this Board should be involved in the community engagement process. In closing, Kendall thanked members for their feedback and provided his email address and contact information for Michael Meeks so members can reach out with additional questions.

#### D. 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 16<sup>th</sup>. The search committee received a total of 68 applications and will be interviewing eight candidates this week and next week. There was a short delay from Metro Human Resources with getting the interviews scheduled. After the first round of interviews are conducted, the candidate pool will be narrowed, and second interviews will be held mid-September. She reminded members that the ordinance prevented candidates with law enforcement experience in Kentucky from consideration. In response to a question from Denise, Kellie said that she was not sure if any candidates were lost due to the delay. She indicated that it was reasonable to assume that an offer could be extended by mid to late October. Kellie informed members that several candidates are from out of state so it can take longer for background checks to be completed. Chairwoman Green added that the Search Committee is to provide a list of three candidates to the Mayor. The Mayor will recommend a candidate for Metro Council approval through the Government Oversight and Audit Committee.

#### E. General Updates

1. Ride Along Observations
2. Social Media Accounts
3. Term Limits
4. Physical Meeting Space for the CR&AB
5. IG Physical Office Space

Chairwoman Green provided brief updates on the above topics. She noted that some Board members have completed ride alongs with LMPD, and some have reached out to her with issues they have encountered with scheduling. She asked Faith Augustine to share Lt. William Vogt's cell phone number with Board members at the conclusion of the meeting and suggested that they reach out to him directly if they encounter any issues. She reported that the Mayor's Communications Team will be allocating resources to assist the CR&AB with a Board website and social media accounts and noted that updates will be provided as the work moves forward. Chairwoman Green acknowledged that one-third of the Board was appointed to a one-year term that expires in March 2022. She raised the concern to the Mayor's Office and advised that they are willing to work on a solution whether that is to

propose an ordinance revision or identify another option. Jennifer also informed members that the concern was shared with the Metro Council's Public Safety Committee as well. As it relates to identifying meeting space for the Board, Chairwoman Green reported that the LouieLab has been reserved for the Board to use when it is safe to meet in person. She also noted that Metro has identified office space for the Inspector General to consider.

Jennifer opened the floor for questions or comments about any of the above items. Scott Dickens spoke about his experience riding with an officer in the 5<sup>th</sup> Division and some comments the officer made about the Board that caused concern. He explained that the officer believed that the CR&AB could impose discipline, and he spent a great deal of his time explaining the role and responsibilities of the Board. He suggested providing officers with accurate information about the role and responsibilities of the Board. Denise Sears reported that she also spent time clarifying information about the role of the Board. In response to a question from Denise, Jennifer noted that members should be making a good faith effort to complete ride along training. Kellie Watson advised that she recently completed a ride along in the First Division and there were eight officers patrolling the entire Division from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm. She also said the officer had a lot of questions about the Board. Stachelle Bussey noted the importance of police acknowledging the temperature of the community that deal with police in a different way. She noted that this Board can bring more accountability. Jennifer told members that their feedback can be elevated if needed as she does not want anyone to feel uncomfortable.

#### **IV. Adjourn/Next Meeting Date**

Chairwoman Green reminded members that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00am – 11:00am. A meeting notice will be sent to members prior to the meeting.