

**Civilian Review and Accountability Board**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**Wednesday, November 30th, 2022**

**Members Present:** Kellie Watson, Chair; Turner Berry, Vice Chair; Guillermo Sollano; Marianna Michaels; Scott Dickens; Denise Sears; and Barbara Haigler.

**Staff:** Edward Harness; Ambra Hunter; Kattie Snow; Stella Dorsey; Tracy Carter; and Dr. Thomas Whetstone.

**I. Welcome and Call to Order**

Kellie Watson, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

**II. Approval of the Agenda**

Vice Chair Berry made a motion to approve the November Agenda. Marianna Michaels seconded the motion.

**III. Review and Approval of Minutes from October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2002**

Denise Sears made a motion to accept the October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 minutes, Guillermo Sollano seconded the motion.

**IV. Public Comment**

- a. Chaunda Lee – Asked how many cases have been investigated, how many have been closed with no findings. Asked why complainant has to file an open record request to obtain information, doesn't think that she should have to file a request to find out why her case was closed. Chair Watson said that questions are usually not answered in real time so that the information can be verified for accuracy but that she would get back to Ms. Lee with answers.

**V. Discussion and Possible Action**

- a. Hillard Heintze Report (Chair Watson)  
Chair Watson opened the floor to the board members for comment regarding section 2.4 Complaints Against LMPD Personnel. Denise Sears wanted the recommendations read. Chair Watson read them aloud. Denise Sears does not think there is enough clarification in the recommendations, or some are overly vague, and questions how they are implemented. Marianna Michaels thought intermediate deadlines could help resolve the issue of investigations not being completed in 180 days as required. Vice Chair Berry commented that there must

be a balance between the generalness and specificity of the recommendations and that there needs to be a rubric for progress. Next month, the board will review what priorities have arisen from the process thus far.

b. Ordinance Amendments (Chair Watson, IG Harness)

Chair Watson opened the floor IG Harness. Prior to the September meeting, he sent a proposed amendment to the ordinance to remove some of the vague language that was being cited as an impediment to the MOU. He reported that city council has a proposed Ordinance Amendments that they will be voting on tomorrow. It does not seem to include changes proposed by LMPD. It clarifies that the OIG's office only does administrative investigations, not criminal investigations. It does not say how a criminal behavior should be handled if found. Jennifer Green does not understand why it must be specified that it is an administrative investigation only. Chair Watson said that LMPD is not cooperating with requests for interviews because they are under the impression that it could become criminal so stating that it is administrative could allay those concerns. Chair Watson does not think that this will be the final version as it has yet to go through committee. IG Harness thinks the issue is that if a statement cannot be compelled, the officer is not protected under Garrity. If the MOU were signed, it would resolve the issue and create a situation where the statement was compelled. Denise Sears clarified that the updated MOU would address this. IG Harness confirmed. Chair Watson commented that the ordinance needs more clarification on some matters but that not all procedural issues need to be in the ordinance. Jennifer Green said that without the ability to compel a statement, it hampers the OIG's office ability to carry out its obligations. IG Harness clarified that it is not that they are refusing, but that it's a technical issue involving officer's 5<sup>th</sup> amendment rights and the Officer's Bill of Rights. Denise Sears wanted to know if it was fair to assume that a change in the police chief would mean this issue is tabled until there is a new police chief or could it be resolved during Chief Shield's tenure. IG Harness said it was hard to say but he did not believe that it was a priority for the current police chain of command. Chair Watson said that complainants deserved to be updated regularly even if the OIG continued to be hampered by a lack of cooperation. Denise Sears wanted to know if IG Harness was in talks with the transition team relating to public safety. IG Harness said no, but he had been in contact with the general transition team. He said that it was a priority to the office to complete investigations, not all investigations needed a statement, and that, if necessary, the office would ask for a waiver on the 180 day requirement to close an investigation.

c. Board Member attendance (Chair Watson)

Chair Watson said that there had been questions about attendance. The first issue was meeting in person versus virtually and that had been answered by the

board which would continue to meet in person. The second was to try to find areas in the community to have meetings. Scott Dickens suggested public libraries. Chair Watson said that the third question was about the plausibility of hybrid meetings and that due to constraints of space and technology, hybrid meetings are not possible at this time. Vice Chair Berry suggested that once a quarter, meetings be virtual. Denise Sears wanted to know what purpose it would serve as it still would not meet the requirements for board attendance if in person attendance was a hardship. Vice Chair Berry said it would not only reduce the hardship on board members but that it could also make it easier for the public to attend. Jennifer Green supported Vice Chair Berry's idea. Chair Watson said that consistency was important both for public perception and staff support. Chair Watson said it would be helpful if members could alert Ambra Hunter, the OIG Administrative Coordinator, if they were unable to attend or would be late so a quorum could be ensured.

d. LMPD Personnel cooperation (IG Harness)

Chair Watson opened the floor to IG Harness. The cooperation agreement was with Chief Shields who just resigned so that the agreement is on hold. Chair Watson said including officers' rights in the request for a statement might help. IG Harness said that the request already included the ordinance, that the officer was a witness, that it is an administrative investigation only, and that they should speak to their FOP representative about their rights.

e. CJIS MOU update (IG Harness)

Tabled.

## **VI. OIG Investigations**

**None to present at this time.**

## **VII. Other Business**

**a. U of L Law School – Visiting Faculty status**

Dr. Whetstone wants to know if anyone has contacts at UofL that could help him get visiting faculty status so that he can have greater access to resources.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

Members agreed to continue discussion at the next meeting and were reminded that it is scheduled for December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 3:00 and will be held virtually. A link has been provided on the board's official website.