

**Civilian Review and Accountability Board**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Members Present:** Kellie Watson, Chair; Turney Berry, Vice-Chair; Barbara Haigler; Jennifer Green; Marianna Michael; Scott Dickens.

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

**I. Welcome and call to order**

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

**II. Approval of the Agenda**

Member Michael made a motion to approve the September 27<sup>th</sup> Agenda. Member Green seconded the motion. Unanimously passed.

**III. Review and Approval of Minutes from August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**

Member Haigler made a motion to accept, Member Dickens seconded the motion. Unanimously passed.

**IV. Public Comment**

None

**V. Discussion and Possible Action:**

**a. Member Charles Keyes removal**

Chair Watson called everyone's attention to the matter of the board's request to replace Member Keyes as he has not attended in over 12 months. Mayor Greenberg has requested that Metro Council supply two nominations for replacement.

**b. CPC Recommendation from July Meeting**

**VI. Investigation Recommendations**

**a. 12-IG-2023** – Date of incident is 1/11/2011. Received in office 3/20/23. Complainant alleges that LMPD was called on a mental health warrant against him. It was found LMPD responded appropriately. IG Harness recommended that a full investigation not take place. Board unanimously agreed that an investigation not take place.

**b. 42-IG-2023** – Received in office 7/31/23. Complainant alleges that LMPD improperly served multiple mental health warrants against complainant. IG Harness recommended that a full investigation not take place as LMPD responded appropriately. Board unanimously agreed that an investigation not take place.

**c. 44-IG-2023** – Ongoing dates. Received in office 7/19/23. Complainant alleges that in their attendance at shooting meetings ran by then Deputy Chief Gwinn-Villaroel, they witnessed negative attitudes and statements by a lieutenant that were derogatory and dismissive towards the shooting

victims that Chief Gwinn-Villaroel did not address while she was running the meetings. IG Harness recommended that a full investigation not take place as it does not meet one of our 6 requirements. Chair Watson wanted to know if we should let Chief Gwinn-Villaroel know it was received. Board unanimously agreed that an investigation not take place but that it be forwarded to PSU and the Chief.

- d. **45-IG-2023** – Date of incident is 5/27/2023. Received in office 8/7/23. Complainant alleges that LMPD failed to accommodate interpretation services for someone who's primary language was not English. We have been unable to make contact despite office's best effort. IG Harness recommended that a full investigation not take place as contact can not be made. Board unanimously agreed that an investigation not take place.
- e. **46-IG-2023** – Date of incident is 8/9/2023. Received in office 4/10/23. Complainant alleges that the LMPD court liaison directed complainant to seek mental health treatment and to explain to the judge what had happened. Complainant alleges judge demanded the medical records improperly. IG Harness recommended that a full investigation not take place as it was regarding the judges' behavior and we lack jurisdiction. Board unanimously agreed that an investigation not take place.
- f. **48-IG-2023** – Date of incident is 40 years ago. Received in office 8/11/2023. Complainant alleged various acts of harassment. IG Harness recommended that a full investigation not take place as the time passed precludes a fair and thorough investigation. Board unanimously agreed that an investigation not take place.
- g. **49-IG-2023** – Date of incident is 2017. Received in office 8/21/2023. Complainant alleges that LMPD used excessive force in removing him and did not return property that was seized. IG Harness recommended that a full investigation not take place as it was not substantiated during the initial review and that the complaint has been heard by the Police Merit Board. Board unanimously agreed that an investigation not take place.
- h. **50-IG-2023** – Date of incident is 9/1/2022. Received in office 8/30/23. Complainant alleges that as a black, deaf man, he was discriminated against and physically assaulted by other patrons at a peddler's mall. LMPD investigated and no charges were brought against any party. The complainant confirmed that his complaint is against the staff at the peddler's mall and not LMPD. IG Harness recommended that a full investigation not take place as it was not against LMPD. Board unanimously agreed that an investigation not take place.
- i. **52-IG-2023** – Date of incident is 9/5/2023. Received in office 9/7/2023. Complainant alleges that LMPD's PSU failed to notify him within 45 days by letter of the status of complainant's PSU complaint. Investigator ascertained that the complaint was in the review process and the policy regarding what constituted the 45 days of review was ambiguous. IG Harness recommended that a full investigation not take place but that the policy be clarified. Board unanimously agreed that an investigation not take place.

- j. **53-IG-2023** – Date of incident is 5/9/2023. Received in office 9/13/23. Complainant alleges that LMPD failed to present records for complainant’s open record request. IG Harness recommended that a full investigation not take place as it is not within our jurisdiction. Board unanimously agreed that an investigation not take place.
- k. **55-IG-2023** – Date of incident is 3/6/23. Received in office 9/17/2023. Complainant alleges that LMPD wrongly fired her when she complained about harassment because of a bias towards the other officers in the case. Member Dickens wants to know if it matters that at the time of the incident, she was a sworn officer. IG Harness does not believe the ordinance prohibits us from investigating a complaint originating from a sworn officer. IG Harness recommended that a full investigation take place as it meets the requirements of 36.83.A.3 Abuse of authority and 36.83.A.5 Discrimination. Board unanimously agreed that an investigation take place.
- l. **58-IG-2023** – is related to 31-IG-2023, fully authorized by the board to investigate an LMPD officer’s action under excessive force. During investigation, we were informed that in accordance with the MOU, there is a PIU investigation that was initiated by this event and as such cannot be concurrently investigated by the OIG in accordance with the MOU. The OIG now seeks to investigate how it was handled by the supervisor and not the original officer. Chair Watson wanted to clarify that since there will be overlap, will there be a hold up by the PIU investigation? IG Harness said he did not believe so because the target of the PIU investigation could be excluded from an OIG investigation. IG Harness recommended that a full investigation take place. Board unanimously agreed that an investigation take place.

## **VII. Investigation Findings**

- a. **18-IG-2022** – Date of incident, 12/11/2022. Authorized by board 10/26/2023 under discrimination. Findings was there was a concurrent PSU investigation into the matter which concluded that training was recommended. We are closing by exception as the recommended counseling has taken place. Chair Watson asked for motion to accept findings as written. Board unanimously accepted findings as written.

## **VIII. Other Business:**

- a. **31-IG-2023** – IG Harness said everything had been discussed under 58-IG-2023.
- b. **CPC Updates** – There have been meetings in all divisions with varying levels of attendance. We had Council Member Ruiz and her aide attend. All told, there were 75 attendees across the 8 meetings.
- c. **Other Outreach** – Pride 9/9 was well attended, we were there for 10-11 hours. We made lots of contacts and gave out a lot of branded items.

## **IX. Adjournment- *Next Regularly scheduled Civilian Review & Accountability***

*Board meeting will be held in person at the Mayor's Office in Room 103 on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.*