

Civilian Review and Accountability Board

Meeting Summary

Wednesday, May 24th, 2023

Members Present: Kellie Watson, Chair; Turney Berry, Vice-Chair; Scott Dickens; Jennifer Green; Marianna Michaels; Denise Sears; Guillermo Sollano; Antonio Taylor; and Barbara Haigler.

Staff: Edward Harness; Ambra Hunter; Kattie Snow; Stella Dorsey; Erin Spalding; 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

Member Barbara Haigler made a motion to approve the May Agenda. Member Antonio Taylor seconded the motion. Unanimously passed.

III. Review and Approval of Minutes from April 26, 2023

Barbara Haigler made a motion to accept, Antonio Taylor seconded the motion.

IV. Public Comment

David Olshefski – Did not attend.

V. Discussion and Possible Action:

- a. Presentation: LMPD – The Big Picture (Dr. Whetstone)** – Snapshot of LMPD day to day work in 2022. The whitepaper of the presentation is available online at <https://louisvilleky.gov/office-inspector-general/document/lmpd-big-picture-visualization-work-community>

Dr. Whetstone thanked LMPD Major Kuriger and Metrosafe Assistant Director Mr. Hunter for their help. The presentation aimed to shed light on the vast number of activities and citizen contacts handled by the police department, emphasizing the importance of understanding the work accomplished by the police and the relative number of misconduct complaints within this context. The data was broken down into several categories, including Calls for Service and Self-initiated activity documented in 911 data, reports written and in the LMPD Report Management System (RMS), arrests by LMPD personnel, and complaints against officers investigated by LMPD's Special Investigations Division (SID).

The presentation further explained that police work is driven by two primary factors: Calls For Service (CFS), which are calls from citizens into the 911 system, and Self-Initiated Activity, which is police work generated by officers out on the street and reported to, but not originated by, 911 dispatch. Additionally, a third driver was identified as directives from commanding officers, typically Sergeants and above. These drivers guide the daily tasks of officers and are key to understanding the scope and nature of police work.

The presentation also highlighted the challenges posed by the jurisdiction's size and diversity. LMPD serves a large and diverse community of

777,874 citizens spread across nearly 400 square miles. The demographics vary widely between geographic areas, and officers deal with these geographic issues daily, especially in the Third, Seventh, and Eighth Divisions. The presentation emphasized that understanding the geographic and demographic context is crucial to appreciating the complexity and volume of the work undertaken by the LMPD.

VI. Investigation Recommendations

- a. **21-IG-2023** – Date of incident, 4/2/2023. Received in office, 4/25/2023. Anonymous complaint alleges LMPD vandalized vehicles in a hotel parking lot. IG Harness does not recommend a formal investigation as the preliminary investigation could not minimally substantiate the claim. Board unanimously agreed that an investigation not take place.
- b. **23-IG-2023** – Date of incident, 4/10/2023. Received in office, 4/25/2023. Complaint about the officer involved shooting at Old National Bank. IG Harness recommends a formal investigation under SS36.83.A.2 Serious injury or death of any individual resulting from police action or inaction. Board unanimously agreed that investigation take place.
- c. **24-IG-2023** – Date of incident, 4/22/2023. Received in office, 4/25/2023. Anonymous complaint alleges LMPD officers are directing TARC drivers to bus people to the west side to be killed by gangs. IG Harness did not recommend a formal investigation as it did not fall under our jurisdiction nor was the nature of the claim credible. Board unanimously agreed that an investigation not take place.
- d. **26-IG-2023** – Date of incident not given. Received in office, 4/25/2023. Anonymous complaint alleges LMPD 3rd Div. officers were directing postal employees to Covid-19 steal stimulus checks. IG Harness did not recommend a formal investigation as the preliminary investigation could not minimally substantiate the claim. Board unanimously agreed that an investigation not take place.
- e. **27-IG-2023** – Date of incident not given. Received in office, 4/25/2023. Unknown allegations. Chair Watson asked for clarification, IG Harness clarified that the complaint contained no allegations but directed us to call an LMPD officer and ask. IG Harness did not recommend a formal investigation as the claims could not be minimally substantiated. Board unanimously agreed that an investigation not take place.
- f. **31-IG-2023** – Date of incident, 4/29/2023. Received in office, 5/7/2023. Anonymous complaint alleges used excessive force. IG Harness did recommend a formal investigation under SS83.A.2 and SS83.A.4; serious injury or death of any individual resulting from police action or inaction and excessive use of force. Board unanimously agreed that an investigation take place.

VII. Investigation Findings

- a. **13-IG-2023** – Date of incident, 2019. Investigated by PSU and appeal was heard by Police Merit Board. Findings contain Chief Conrad and the Merit Board's findings. The IG did sustain a lack of de-escalation and use of force. There is nothing the IG can recommend as relating to this officer as it has already reached its final disposition. Antonio Taylor clarified that there were no recommendations to make based on the findings. IG Harness clarified that the officer had already been disciplined so a further recommendation

would be moot. IG Harness asked the members if Investigator Snow's notes were sufficient. Antonio Taylor asked for the findings of fact to be read. Scott Dickens made a motion to accept the findings, Antonio Taylor seconded. Board unanimously agreed to accept the findings. The findings are available online at <https://louisvilleky.gov/office-inspector-general/document/13-ig-2022>

VIII. Other Business:

- a. FY/24 Budget update** – June 6th is the Metro Council hearing four the OIG's budget. The proposed budget by Mayor Greenberg is 1 million, reduced by the amount appropriated for service contracts that were unused in the previous fiscal year. Chair Watson asked what those services were, IG Harness clarified it was for legal services and transcription services, neither of which was as needed as anticipated. Scott Dickens wanted to know what happens when we go under budget, IG Harness clarified it reverts back to the general fund but that he has proposed to council that we be funded as a percentage of LMPD's budget instead of as a line item and that any excess would be created for a rainy-day fund.
- b. DOJ Consent Decree update (IG Harness)** – IG Harness reported the DOJ had been in town over the past two weeks and our office had been represented at all those meetings. The OIG's staff also met privately with representatives from the DOJ. The IG anticipates that they will have a proposed consent decree in the middle of June.
- c. Community Engagement update** – IG Harness updated the board that he had been at the Earth and Spirit Center and the Transgender Wellness Summit. The OIG is also going to be present at the next two Mayor's Nights Out and the LGBT Pride Festivals. There are also the upcoming Community Policing Councils the office has planned.
- d. NACOLE** – Nov 12th – 15th in Chicago. Let Ambra know before next month's meeting so arrangements can be made. Information is available at NACOLE's website.
- e. Other Business** – May 7th was the cutoff for the recommended Retaliation Policy and we have not received a response. IG Harness will send a reminder and CC the board members. If it is not adopted or no response is received, it will be on next month's agenda for next steps.

IX. Adjournment- *Next Regularly scheduled Civilian Review & Accountability Board meeting will be at the Mayor's Office in Room 106 June 28th, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.*