



## Board

Present Janet E. Jackson, Chair  
Present Brooke Burns, Vice Chair  
Present Gambit Aragon  
Present Mark Fluharty  
Present Dr. Chenelle Jones  
Present Willard McIntosh, Jr.  
Present Pastor Richard Nathan  
Absent Kyle Strickland  
Absent Rev. Charles Tatum  
Present Aaron Thomas  
Present Mary Younger

## Guests

Present Richard Blunt  
Present Colleen Dunne  
Present Officer Dave Freetage  
Present Jacqueline Hendricks  
Present Officer Catherine Horvath  
Present Commander Mark Lang  
Present Tiara Ross  
Present Nate Simon  
Absent Robert Tobias  
Present Timothy Williams

## MEETING MINUTES

### WELCOME

At 2:03pm, Chair Janet Jackson welcomed the Columbus Civilian Police Review Board ("CPRB") to the meeting. Kyle Strickland and Rev. Charles Tatum had excused absences.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Mark Fluharty moved to approve the June meeting minutes, and Pastor Rich Nathan seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### DE-ESCALATION TRAINING

Commander Mark Lang along with Officers Catherine Horvath and Dave Freetage introduced the de-escalation training which has recently been presented to all Columbus Division of Police (CPD) officers: ICAT – Integrated Communication and Tactics training. This training relates to incidents where a suspect has no weapon or has a weapon that is not a firearm.

Pastor Nathan asked how many hours of this training a CPD officer gets per year. Officer Freetage explained that so far, every CPD officer has received 4 hours of ICAT training. Pastor Nathan noted the high number of mental health based scenarios discussed in the presentation, and the existence of specialists in that field which would be better suited to respond to these situations. He asked about current plans and practices of including mental health experts in CPD runs. Commander Lang explained that his team is specifically focused on training officers, but assured the Pastor that the Division does pair mental health professionals with officers on runs, and that officers can request assistance when





they encounter situations where such an expert would be beneficial. Pastor Nathan asked how many clinicians are on staff, and Commander Lang responded that the system is in flux and he does not have current statistics. Officer Freetage explained that the training does include as much mental health specific training as possible. Mary Younger expressed gratitude for the training being done for current and new officers, and that the present CPD environment empowers officers to do the right thing. Commander Lang agreed, and explained that officers are required to step in if they witness inappropriate behavior by other officers, and receive scenario training specifically to that end.

Brooke Burns asked how ICAT training fits into the current use-of-force continuum. Officer Freetage explained that the ICAT program is designed to avoid all use of force when possible, creating time for the situation to be diffused prior to force being implemented. This is new training, so they do not have statistics yet. Officer Horvath added that the continuum has not been amended at this time, but that uses of tasers are specifically being tracked and analyzed. Just because a use of force was deemed reasonable and legal does not mean it was necessary, if all other options had not been exhausted.

Gambit Aragon asked what is being done to empower officers to step up and stop their peers or supervisors from acting inappropriately. Officer Horvath noted the difference between training scenarios and actual situations – and that videos from outside Columbus are used merely as discussion points – not because those situations do not happen here. Mr. Aragon asked how diverse the CPD training staff is, and Commander Lang admitted, “Not enough.”

## INSPECTOR GENERAL STATUS REPORT

Chair Jackson invited Inspector General Hendricks to share her updates. The Inspector General (IG) took a moment to introduce her mother, who was present at the meeting.

### *Introduction of Administrative Staff*

The IG introduced Nate Simon, who is the new Executive Assistant in the DIG. His background includes a Political Science/Public Policy degree from The Ohio State University, serving as a legislative aide at the Ohio statehouse, and serving as Deputy Chief of Staff at the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners. He has a firm understanding of case work and community outreach. He noted his experience with ethics laws and Sunshine Laws, which will be useful as the Department works to build trust with the community.

### *Departmental Updates*

The Department of the Inspector General (DIG) is still working to hire an Executive Secretary for the CPRB, a Community Relations Coordinator, and an additional Investigator.

The current Investigative staff has undergone all of their planned training except for Implicit Bias and Cultural Competency, which is still pending.

The IG’s office is still undergoing renovations, hoping for a completion date in August. The temporary office will be open to the public as of July 11<sup>th</sup>.





The Case Management System (CMS) has been installed, and staff is being trained this week.

The Saunders PR Group is assisting with Community Outreach, and they and the IG are working with the CPRB Community Engagement Committee to begin scheduling community meetings.

### *Citizen Complaint Intake Process*

The Department will be operational on July 11<sup>th</sup>. Office location is temporarily 150 S Front St. Hours will be Monday-Friday 9am-5pm. Appointments will be required for meetings with case managers, but complaints may be filed in-person at any time without an appointment. Chair Jackson noted that the City no longer has parking meters, which could be a barrier for citizens who are unaware of the parking app, or unable to use it. She suggested that community outreach and communications should include this information.

The IG reviewed the many ways complaints can be filed, which include: in person at the DIG, in person at a CPRB meeting, via phone, via email, via the website, or by mailing in a written complaint form.

The IG reviewed the Citizen Complaint Form, which includes the updates suggested at the previous CPRB meeting. Aaron Thomas asked about including the timeline for the complaint process on the form, and the IG explained that such information would be available on the website but not on the form, to prevent it from becoming cumbersome and overwhelming.

The IG reviewed the Complaint Intake Process Flow Chart which was presented at the June CPRB meeting.

The IG walked the Board through the Action Plan Memorandum template, the Garrity Advisement form, and the Investigation Report template.

### *Goals for July*

- Be ready for the office to open to the public on July 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Hire additional staff and complete all staff training.
- Begin an aggressive community outreach campaign.

Upon receiving no further questions from the Board, the Chair thanked the IG for her updates.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Ms. Younger informed the Board that she has met with the IG twice to discuss tandem community outreach between the CPRB and the DIG. They have discussed goals and plans with the Saunders PR Group, who will be assisting with the outreach materials and campaign. Tiara Ross has provided lists and contact info for all area commissions, and the Department of Neighborhoods is assisting with scheduling initial Commission meetings. Additional outreach is being done in collaboration with the New Americans Program and the faith community. At this time, there are 200 neighborhoods and over 900,000 people in the greater Columbus area, and the Board will have the opportunity to volunteer to attend meetings with groups at their convenience. If any Board member has specific groups they would





like to be included in meetings with, they should inform Ms. Younger via email. Each community meeting will include a member of the CPRB Community Outreach Committee and an additional Board member or two.

Dr. Chenelle Jones mentioned the need to be intentional in addressing youth groups, given the intense involvement with the CPD at this time. Ms. Younger asked for an example, and Dr. Jones explained that Area Commissions are predominantly older individuals, whereas young people are more likely to be at recreation centers or sports camps. Chair Jackson added that a number of local nonprofits serve youth groups and could be of assistance.

The Board took a break at 3:18pm. The meeting resumed at 3:33pm.

### **APPOINTMENT OF REVIEW COMMITTEES**

Chair Jackson and Vice Chair Burns have assigned Board members to three review teams:

#### **Committee #1:**

- Brooke Burns
- Dr. Chenelle Jones
- Pastor Nathan

#### **Committee #2:**

- Kyle Strickland
- Rev. Charles Tatum
- Mary Younger

#### **Committee #3**

- Willard McIntosh
- Aaron Thomas
- Mark Fluharty

Mr. Aragon and Chair Jackson will currently not serve on a committee. Chair Jackson has reached out to the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement regarding best practices available, as well as future training opportunities.

### **DISCUSSION OF REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FROM COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS**

Tracy Maxwell Heard, Executive Director of MACC, reached out to Chair Jackson in hopes she/the Board would sign onto a grant application. The Chair declined, as she did not have Board approval, but wanted to raise the issue for future reference.

She will ask the City Attorney's Office about the legalities of the Board doing something like this, and wanted to gauge the Board's feelings as well. Pastor Nathan agreed that the Board advocating for any issue outside of their designated responsibility is something that should be discussed as a whole. Mr.





Fluharty expressed that he would need information regarding whether it's appropriate legally, and would prefer the Board be fully up and running before making any such decision. Dr. Jones explained she had been approached by TAPPS as well, and she felt it was inappropriate to require the Board to review potentially multiple proposals to determine whether or not they were worthy and appropriate of support. She expressed a concern about the Board having to pick and choose between community members and groups. The Chair asked the Board how they would like her to proceed. Mr. Fluharty shared his concern about the Board moving past their intended purpose. Dr. Jones agreed, and expressed concern that this would tax the Board's capacity. Mr. Fluharty requested that the City Attorney's office weigh in on the legality of the Board entertaining these requests prior to the Board motioning to decline future requests. Mr. Thomas requested that the language in any future policy be specific, rather than a broad refusal of all calls for community support. Chair Jackson agreed to speak to Robert Tobias and confirm the legalities. Ms. Burns mentioned that the bylaws could be updated to include this guidance for future boards.

The Chair asked the Board for any new business. Mr. Fluharty requested clarification on the process for the Review Committees. The Chair clarified that each committee will receive and review different cases, and then bring their determinations before the full Board.

Ms. Younger mentioned the updated CPD cameras, and expressed an interest in receiving an update on the new body worn cameras as well as a new unit in the CPD which focuses on dialogue with the community. She also mentioned ShotSpotter, which helps officers respond to shots fired in the community, and asked for the Board to consider future training on the technology. Deputy IG Richard Blunt explained that he is setting up training for the DIG staff regarding the body worn cameras, and offered to put his CPD contact in touch with the Board. Dr. Jones followed up on the Dialogue with the Community topic, stating it is brand new and only involves two officers at this time.

## AUGUST BOARD MEETING

Chair Jackson raised the suggestion to take a break during the month of August with no meeting. Mr. Fluharty motioned and Dr. Jones seconded. Unanimous vote to cancel the August meeting of the CPRB.

## ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jackson asked for a motion to adjourn at 3:50pm. Ms. Burns moved, Mr. Fluharty seconded. Unanimous vote to adjourn.

