

**Community Oversight Board**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, September 18, 2019 – 4:00 PM to 6:00 pm**  
Metro Historic Courthouse  
1 Public Square

Ashlee Davis, Chair, COB called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and announced the presence of a quorum for conducting business. Appeal notice read.

Board Members in Attendance During the Meeting: Ashlee Davis, Jamel Campbell-Gooch (First Vice-Chair), Robert Cooper, Phyllis Hildreth, Walter Holloway, Adele Lewis, Andres Martinez, Brenda Ross, Matthew Sweeney, and Emmett Turner.

Board Members Absent: Danita Marsh.

Others in Attendance: William Weeden (Community Oversight Board Executive Director), Jill Fitchard (Community Oversight Board Assistant Executive Director), Community Oversight Staff and Members of the Public

**Chair Remarks**

Chair Ashlee Davis spoke about the importance of having public comments in the meetings and explained what the future procedures would be regarding public speakers. She further explained that the attendance of Mayor-Elect Cooper was very important in reaching the goals of the organization. Chair Davis stressed that due to Mayor-Elect Cooper being out of town, he should be contacted again within a month and urged to attend the next COB meeting. Chair Davis proposed that she, William Weeden, and Jill Fitchard have a meeting with the Mayor before the next Board meeting. Member Dr. Phyllis Hildreth inquired if such a meeting had already taken place with Mayor Briley, as two motions were made in the last meeting concerning such. Chair Davis answered that an invitation had been extended to Mayor Briley, but a meeting did not take place. Member Dr. Phyllis Hildreth commented that the meeting should now be transferred to the Mayor-Elect rather than the outgoing Mayor.

**Executive Director Update**

COB Executive Director William Weeden addressed Member Dr. Phyllis Hildreth regarding the meeting with Mayor Briley. The meeting did not happen due to Mayor Briley being out of town. Also, Mayor-Elect Cooper was out of town at the time of the proposed meeting. This meeting will occur soon, and an open dialog is expected by all.

MNCO Staff members attended Metro Police Departments CompStat briefing held on September 13th. Both research analysts (Liz Orozco & Peter Vielehr) were in attendance and took notes of the briefing.

A successful meeting was held with the District Attorney's office to discuss how MNCO and the DA's Office could work together in the future; a recap of this meeting was prepared by Legal Advisor Todd Pinckley.

Director Weeden discussed in detail the call out notification process and timeline. Director Weeden advised that DEC Acting Director Angie Milliken has now included MNCO in the notification process.

A discussion was held regarding the numerous attempts to include the COB in the call out notification process since the inception of this organization. Director Weeden reviewed the timeline of these efforts with the Board Members. Chair Ashlee Davis inquired whether adding the COB to the notification process was a simple "flip of the switch" situation; Director Weeden responded it was not that simple because the authorization needs to come from the Chief of Police. If the Chief of Police gives authorization to DEC, then it can be done. Vice-Chair Jamal Campbell-Gooch asked if the authorization to be on the notification list has to come from somebody already on it. Director Weeden stated that was his understanding from the email that he received from DEC Acting Director Milliken; once the authorization comes from someone on the list, the new organization could be added.

Vice-Chair Jamal Campbell-Gooch asked if there had been any participation from Chief Anderson in building the current MOU (Memorandum of Understanding); Director Weeden responded by saying that there had been no participation from Chief Anderson but that he had been invited to submit comments and to participate in the Board's community forum held on the August 27th. Before the forum, however, Chief Anderson sent Director Weeden a new MNPD policy—a document titled "MNPD Declaration of Cooperative Interaction with NCOB" dated August 10, to which Director Weeden sent Chief Anderson Comments the following week. Member Dr. Adele Lewis asked if the notification issue had been resolved; Director Weeden responded by saying that the issue had been resolved.

Member Matt Sweeney questioned if all three circumstances for notification had been resolved; Director Weeden replied that all three notification issues were resolved. Member Matt Sweeney then questioned as to when the first conversations with DEC Acting Director Milliken were initiated and what was needed to get the department added on to the notification process: Director Weeden responded that his first interaction with Acting Director Milliken occurred on September 10th. However, Legal Advisor Todd Pinckley had reached out to the DEC Legal Advisor Cynthia Gross on August 13th about whether an MOU was necessary for the notification process.

Member Brenda Ross remarked that from the first initial meeting, it was clear that the Chief wanted everything in writing and questioned if that been done. Mr. Weeden assured her that everything had been put in writing, and the final draft of the MOU went to the FOP (Fraternal

Order of Police) and the police department. Chair Ashlee Davis asked if Chief Anderson had offered his denials to these requests in writing; Director Weeden replied that he has not.

Member Chief Emmett Turner asked what changes were requested; Director Weeden responded by saying that the changes requested were the method of requesting documents, the availability of police officers to the COB, and training. Member Matt Sweeney explained that the MOU was built at the Board level and the last draft was sent to approximately 100 individuals, twenty-one organizations and the Chief of Police. The final meeting on the MOU was Friday, September 13, 2019.

Member Walter Holloway suggested that the meetings needed to be recorded because the Chief will not put anything in writing and that this issue needs to be brought to the new Mayor. Vice-Chair Jamal Campbell-Gooch asked if all five drafts of the MOU were sent out; Director Weeden responded by saying that only the final draft was sent; Chair Ashlee Davis then stated that MOU's are important when setting up an organization and implored Director Weeden to reach back out to Chief Anderson on this matter. She further asked if Chief Anderson had made any member of his team available; Director Weeden responded that he had not.

Community Oversight Board Assistant Executive Director Jill Fitchard interjected that she was disappointed in the Chief not sending a representative, as well as him not appearing at the Citizens Police Academy as he has for the other previous academies. Deputy Chief Mike Hagar could have made an appearance and elected not to, he also knew about this meeting being held tonight. Assistant Director Fitchard also made a clarification regarding the DEC; DEC Acting Director Milliken stated that she had been working with Attorney Gross regarding the manner of notification. However, the COB is not an MNP organization, and there are only two departments that Acting Director Milliken takes direction from are MNP and the Nashville Fire Department.

Member Andres Martinez referred to the letter that was sent out by Chief Anderson explaining that data records cannot be readily retrieved and reviewed without taking up resources. Member Martinez explained, however, that when Lead Research Analyst Dr. Peter Vielehr submitted similar requests in the past before his employment with the COB, he did not have issues gaining access to the requested documents nor was he required to pay a fee. Lead Analyst Vielehr confirmed that he had requested the database before using the exact same language when he was a private citizen. He stated that he had then received those databases from MNP free of charge. Lead Analyst Vielehr then referred to his report comparing his work privately versus now being a COB employee and gave examples of the differing results.

Member Dr. Phyliss Hildreth moved that all paperwork brought before the board be put out publicly and that time lines be posted as well; Member Brenda Ross gave a second on the motion. Dr. Adele Lewis interjected that all emails should be included for transparency, and the

Board unanimously approved. Director Weeden went on to explain, however, that per the ITS, only word documents can be posted on the website, and he will follow up with ITS on this issue.

### **Opening Remarks Welcomed by COB**

I. Mayor-Elect John Cooper (unable to attend)

II. Chief Steve Anderson, Metropolitan Nashville Police Department (declined offer to attend)

III. District Attorney Glenn Funk thanked the board and staff for their hard work and stressed that having groups work together is beneficial for the community. Assistant District Attorney Jenny Charles was introduced as the liaison to the COB. She will meet monthly with the COB to address concerns and issues. She will also meet with the Assistant District Attorney assigned to a case and will notify staff when the investigation is finished and when records can be made public if no prosecution is pending, as well as providing declination letters.

IV. Department of Emergency Communications (DEC) Acting Director Angie Milliken, along with Assistant Director Peterson explained that the MOU issue had been resolved. She explained that there was confusion surrounding the difference between the COB board and Metro Nashville Community Oversight as a metro agency and what records and information could be provided, but that issue has been resolved. The process of the DEC was then explained; an MOU is needed for releasing audio and CAD reports to maintain confidentiality during an investigation, a meeting will be held tomorrow to address this matter.

### **Public Comments**

I. Davie Tucker expressed his gratitude for the Board and addressed his takeaways. He further stated that there was a lack of cooperation and trust with MNPD along with their systematic policing of people of color and poor people in this city. He implored that the Board be diligent in making a change in the way policing is done and to please exert all efforts towards operating within the capacity of the established law for success.

II. President of the Nashville NAACP Keith Caldwell gave appreciation to the Board and stated it was shameful how the Chief is acting and that we need to hold him accountable, he does not mean well judging from his behavior, or he would do well by this body. Mr. Caldwell stated that the Chief is the problem, and he has been the problem, and we need to get him out of here.

III. Austin Davis stated there is a problem with Nashville police leadership in this city and spoke about how he and his family have been affected by police leadership involving a case from 2008. Mr. Davis referenced the website [www.thesilentbell.org](http://www.thesilentbell.org) and called for Chief Anderson to resign immediately.

IV. Hambino Godbody introduced himself and asked Director Weeden had he reached out to the communities, especially North Nashville. Director Weeden's response was that plans are in place to reach out to the community every Friday; however, the majority of our efforts have been geared toward establishing the department. Director Weeden also stated that members of the community will be asked to serve on an advisory board and that it is a departmental goal to be out in the community as much as possible.

V. Thomas Tucker inquired as to how the Chief of Police can be relieved from his duties and stated that he is learning a lot about how the police operate from attending these meetings.

#### **MOU and Collaborative Partnerships Discussion**

Chair Davis stated that there is a meeting tomorrow between the MNCO and DEC. After this meeting, we need to move swiftly and would like a decision by the end of the day tomorrow. The hope is to have a signed MOU. Chair Davis asked Member Andres Martinez will work with Mr. William Weeden and staff members on connecting with Metro IT regarding how shared documents can be publicly posted.

#### **New Business/Announcements**

Chair Davis will reach out to the Mayor-Elect with her concerns. When a meeting is scheduled, the information will be provided to the Board. The staggered terms of board members will be discussed at the Board meeting on October 2, 2019. She further applauded Mr. Weeden's efforts and implored him to seek assistance from the Board if it is needed in any form. The Citizens Police Academy is occurring on Tuesday, and the NACOLE conference is coming up with the staff and Member Brenda Ross attending. Vice-Chair Jamal Campbell-Gooch stated we need to investigate other location options in the community when holding COB meetings to have access to everyone.

#### **Adjournment**

Member Dr. Adele Lewis presented a motion to adjourn with Member Andres Martinez providing a second, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 pm.