

Community Oversight Board Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 20, 2019 - 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Howard Office Building - Sonny West Room
700 2nd Ave S, Nashville, TN 37210

1. Call to Order

- **Andres Martinez, called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and announced the presence of a quorum for conducting business. Appeal notice read.**
- **Board Members in Attendance:** *Adele Lewis, Jamel Campbell-Gooch, Walter Holloway, Danita Marsh, Andres Martinez (Vice-Chair), Matthew Sweeney, and Emmett Turner.*
- **Board Members Absent:** *Ashlee Davis (Chair), Phyllis Hildreth, Brenda Ross.*
- **Others in Attendance:** *Jill Fitchard (Community Oversight Board Acting Executive Director), John Buntin (Mayor's Office), Community Oversight Staff and Members of the Public.*

2. Establish Quorum

- Member Martinez established a seven-member quorum.

3. Approval of the Minutes

- Matt Sweeney moved to approve the September 18th minutes. Jamel Campbell-Gooch provided a second on the motion. The September minutes passed and were approved with one vote in opposition by Walter Holloway.
- Member Sweeney suggested that one correction should be made to the October 23rd minutes to reflect that the meeting was a regular meeting and not an emergency meeting. Dr. Adele Lewis moved to approve the minutes with that correction. Matt Sweeney provided a second on the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Chair Remarks

- In the absence of the Chair, Mr. Martinez read Ms. Davis prepared remarks starting at the Executive Board Meetings & Appointment section and skipping over the Executive Directors Engagement section due to Mr. Weeden resigning. ***Chair remarks can be found as Attachment A.**
- Mr. Martinez provided and update on the Executive Committee meeting held on November 18th, which discussed the Mayor's proposal for an MOU negotiations

taskforce. Dr. Phyllis Hildreth participated in a first meeting with MNP Deputy Chief Mike Hagar, without (but anticipating) authority of the Board, to proceed in establishing a negotiation structure. Member Hildreth would like the Board to approve the Mayor's counteroffer of a one-on-one COB MNP negotiations facilitated by the Legal Director of Metro Legal Bob Cooper to be considered rather than the Board's original offer of two negotiation teams. In its authorization Dr. Hildreth requested the Board to consider the following.

- The need to negotiate from the existing definitive MOU draft.
 - The need to consider what each party has offered and what between them has so far been agreed upon.
 - The need to identify sticking points.
 - The need for an agenda for the process going forward.
- At the Executive meeting Chair Davis created a taskforce of one, Mr. Sweeney, to provide background and briefing to Dr. Hildreth regarding the development of the MOU draft. Matt Sweeney explained that his role is strictly informational to ensure compliance with the Tennessee Open Meetings Act.
 - Member Lewis moved to approve the Mayor's taskforce model with the appointment of Dr. Phyllis Hildreth as the Board's representative. Member Sweeney provided a second on the motion which passed with six votes in favor and one no vote by Jamel Campbell-Gooch.
 - Mr. Campbell-Gooch stated that transparency is needed these closed-door meetings, where there are no community members present to observe. Walter Holloway thanked the Mayor for bringing the groups together and is hopeful for great accomplishments.
 - Mr. Sweeney moved that the Executive Committee be granted authority to approve the final agreement of the MOU, subject to the occurrence of an intervening Board meeting where Dr. Hildreth could brief the board. Dr. Adele Lewis provided a second. The Board members present unanimously approved the motion.
 - John Buntin, Policy Director for Mayor John Cooper, thanked the Board for inviting him to speak and stated that Mayor Cooper is a strong supporter of the COB, and he is hopeful that an MOU agreement will be made by the end of the year.

5. Executive Director Report

- Director Fitchard summarized the Executive Director's Report. * **Executive Director Report can be found as attachment B** Items of note in the Executive Director's Report include a scheduled meeting with Kristin Wilson, Mayor Cooper's Chief of Operations and Performance. Director Fitchard also will be attend the Mayor's

monthly department head meetings. The Director (with Todd Pinckley) also has a meeting scheduled November 22nd with the District Attorney Liaison Jenny Charles. The MNCO has just launched its website that can be accessed through a link on the Metro Government's website.

- During a discussion of the ongoing training Dr. Lewis offered her assistance in better aligning the training to the needs of the next group of Board members who will attend the Citizens Police Academy. Mr. Sweeney concurred with Dr. Lewis regarding the advisability of tailoring the classes for newly appointed Board members.
- Mr. Campbell-Gooch asked about the work being done towards community education. Director Fitchard explained that the Community Youth Advisory Council will launch next year and is being led by Investigator April Williams. A Vanderbilt University intern has been interviewed for the Community Oversight Intern Program, and she will start early next year providing 300 internship hours. Brensey Thompson, Community Liaison, also will be out in the community more after the holiday season to conduct listening tours and other initiatives.
- Director Fitchard provided an office update; the staff will be moved into their permanent office by November 25th. A budget update will be provided of the buildout at the next meeting. The MNCO office will be located in the same Washington Square Building, Suite number 370-M.
- Member Campbell-Gooch asked a question about the data report form provided to the Board. He wanted to know what data sets were needed when viewing the specific reports. Director Fitchard explained why the report was created, while Dr. Peter Vielehr explained the document in detail to the Board members. **The Data Report can be found as attachment C.**

6. MNCO Mediation Program

- Legal Advisor Todd Pinckley presented the Community Oversight Mediation Program. ***Community Oversight Mediation Program remarks can be found as Attachment D.**
- The Board and Mr. Pinckley discussed whether police officers could bring firearms to mediation proceedings. Danita Marsh confirmed Mr. Pinckley's assessment that police officers can bring their firearms, but they must be hidden. Mr. Walter Holloway suggested that practice should be reconsidered, which Mr. Pinckley will discuss with the NCRC.
- Mr. Campbell-Gooch asked about the provision that an officer could not mediate more than one (1) complaint per twelve (12) months or two (2) complaints within thirty-six (36) months; Robert Pinckley explained his reasoning but said the final decision is within the Board's discretion.

- The Board discussed mediator training. Board Member Marsh explained what training is involved with being a Rule 31 Mediator.

7. Public Comment

- Timothy Hughes read a statement from Kate Briefs who is a Community Oversight Now member. The statement centered around a quote which was made in the last COB meeting, with which she took issue. Ms. Briefs also thanked the board for its efforts and gave her support.
- Susan Hudson-McBride, Community Oversight Now member, encouraged the Board and staff by letting them know that they are supported and have continued support going forward.
- Constance Mollett expressed her concern regarding police following citizens in the stores located by Briley Parkway.

8. New Business/Announcements

- Member Martinez reminded the Board about the Media Policy and informed everyone about the passing of Brenda Ross's mother, extending best wishes to the family.
- Director Fitchard spoke regarding the steps taken within the department after William Weeden's resignation. Specifically, the MNCO is continuing with business obligations and appreciates the work that Mr. Weeden started in Nashville. Community Members and the Administration were thanked for their continued support, along with the Board Members for allowing Director Fitchard to lead the department until a new Executive Director is found.

9. Adjournment

- Matt Sweeney moved to adjourn with Emmett Turner providing a second. The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 pm.

Approved by the Board at the COB meeting 1/22/20

/s/ Matt Sweeney **1/24/20**
Secretary