

Community Oversight Board Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 18, 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

- **Ashlee Davis (Chair)**, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and announced the presence of a quorum for conducting business.
- **Board Members in Attendance:** *Ashlee Davis (Chair), Jamel Campbell-Gooch, Phyllis Hildreth, Walter Holloway, Danita Marsh, Andres Martinez (Vice-Chair), Brenda Ross, Matthew Sweeney, and Emmett Turner.*
- **Board Members Absent:** *Adele Lewis*
- **Others in Attendance:** *Jill Fitchard (Community Oversight Board Executive Director), John Buntin (Mayor's Office), Martesha Johnson, (Metro Public Defender), Community Oversight Staff and Members of the Public*

2. Establish Quorum

- A quorum was established for the meeting.

3. Approval of the Minutes

- Matt Sweeney moved to approve the September 11, 2019 minutes. Jamel Campbell-Gooch provided a second on the motion. The September minutes passed and were unanimously approved.
- Matt Sweeney moved to approve the October 2, 2019 minutes. Andres Martinez provided a second on the motion. The October minutes passed and were unanimously approved.
- The November meeting minutes will be approved at the January 2020 Board meeting.

4. Chair Remarks

- Chair Davis announced that food would be served after the meeting and invited the community to partake along with the COB, once the meeting is adjourned.

- Chair Davis read a thank you note from Brenda Ross and her family, thanking everyone for their support during the family's time of mourning.
- Chair Davis advised that the Executive Committee met earlier in the month to discuss the MOU progress being led by Dr. Hildreth and the Body Worn camera policy announced by the Mayor. After the Mayor's announcement Chair Davis and Director Fitchard spoke about Mayor's office's failure to include the MNCO staff in the pre-announcement discussion about the plan to rollout 40 body-worn cameras. Director Fitchard later met with John Buntin to voice this concern along with other issues. The Chair thanked the MNCO for its press releases, engagement, and their overall hard work pertaining to the body-worn camera issue.
- Chair Davis also advised that she had a lunch meeting with John Buntin and explained to him that the Board and MNCO are separate related entities. He was invited to attend tonight's Board meeting. Chair Davis further stated that she is pleased with how the MNCO office is being led.

5. Executive Director Report

- Executive Director Jill Fitchard explained that she completed an immediate-needs assessment of the Executive Director position of any internal or organizational issues that needed attention and monitoring. The most significant external finding is how the Executive Director connects with the community. Director Fitchard summarized her findings in the Executive Directors Report.
- Eight applications are being reviewed for the Assistant Director position, and the selection process will begin the first of the year.
- An invitation by MNPD was extended to Director Fitchard to attend the Use of Force Review Board meeting being held on January 27, 2020. Executive Director Jill Fitchard will be in attendance.
- Board meeting minutes will be completed within five days of a meeting and within three days to review for corrections and edits.
- On December 9th, Executive Director Jill Fitchard sent an email announcing her appointment as Executive Director to Chief Anderson and President Smallwood of the FOP. President Smallwood responded with congratulations in her new role.
- Brenda Ross raised a concern about the MNCO holding an open house on Martin Luther King Day due to the city's activities on that day. She also asked if a discussion was held with Parks and Recreation regarding having meetings at community centers. Executive Director Jill Fitchard stated she would speak with Parks and Recreation. Walter Holloway said he thought afternoon open house on MLK day would be fine as there are multiple events going on throughout town.

- Director Fitchard advised that the COB's annual report would be ready for Board Review by February 1. Matt Sweeney asked whether the report was due to the legislature by February 1. The February 1 due date was confirmed. The draft report will be presented to the Board for review at the January meeting.

6. MOU Negotiation Taskforce

- Phyllis Hildreth explained that five negotiation sessions had taken place with herself, Deputy Chief Mike Haggar (Police Department), John Buntin (Mayor's Office), and Bob Cooper (Head of the Metro Legal Department). The contents of the discussions remain confidential. Before and after each negotiation meeting, Dr. Hildreth and Director Fitchard meet to review the discussions. Another session is scheduled for December 20th with another on December 23rd. The remaining conversation was deferred until Mr. Buntin's arrival at the Board meeting.
- Chair Davis inquired about the tone and tenure of the negotiation meetings, per Phyllis Hildreth each session has been productive.
- Upon the arrival of John Buntin, MOU discussions continued. Buntin stated the negotiation process has been positive and successful, with progress being made between the police department and the Board. The Mayor and all involved with the MOU negotiation are optimistic and look forward to the completion of an MOU by the end of the calendar year.
- Walter Holloway thanked the Mayor for the opportunity to bring the MNP and COB together. Brenda Ross made a statement regarding randomly selected police officers wearing body cameras. Walter Holloway further stated that incidents could be corrected with the body cameras.
- John Buntin stated he can come back and speak about body worn cameras at another time. Chair Davis extended an invitation to John Buntin for the next COB meeting. Phyllis Hildreth gave praise and thanks to John Buntin and the Mayor's office, further stating she feels the department is supported and respected through the process.

7. Policy Advisory Report: Examining Local Law Enforcement Policies & Local Immigration

- Liz Orozco explained that this report was requested by Andres Martinez (Vice-Chair). The Policy Advisory Report is a draft and will be released to the public immediately, once it is reviewed and approved as a discussion draft by the Board. Liz Orozco further explained how the information was compiled for this thorough report. There are 12 policy recommendations for the Board to review, with recommendations 1, 2, and 12 highlighted in the meeting.
- Andres Martinez (Vice-Chair) thanked the MNCO's research analysts for their work on this report and expressed his concern about the findings, with hopes that MNP will examine their future policies in light of the report.

- Jamal Campbell- Gooch raised a question about the 287(g) program and how it informs secured communities, which were restored in 2017. Liz Orozco explained that it was not included in the policy; however, when citizens are booked, the information should be shared with the Federal Government. Jamal Campbell- Gooch inquired about ICE agents announcing themselves when they call 911, which should make a searchable record. Liz Orozco explained that is correct information based on her assessment of the CAD report.
- Matt Sweeney complimented the draft report but asked a question about the process the Board should follow in reviewing draft report. He also asked what process the proposal should follow before it is presented to the Board? Matt Sweeney recommended a formal protocol or SOP be in place for establishing how a policy goes from request to presentation to the Board. Director Fitchard advised that the MNCO will develop an internal process for draft policy review. Once the draft proposal is approved by the Board it will be sent to other Metro agencies for review.
- Brenda Ross expressed concern regarding those involved in the interviewing process for the draft and questioned community relationship building with MNPd. Liz Orozco explained her interview process and who participated. She also discussed the functions of El Protector in the Latinx community.
- After extended discussion on how to move forward with the report Matt Sweeney moved that the policy be sent out to the prior 27 community organizations, FOP, MNPd, and a date be set for a public hearing to receive community feedback. Also, a policy committee be established to review the draft after community feedback, which will then be presented to the Board. The motion was amended by Chair Davis to include Andres Martinez as the policy committee leader. Dr. Hildreth seconded the motion. All Board members were in favor, and the motion was approved. A community feedback meeting on the draft will take place the week of January 6th.

8. Body- Worn Camera Policy Recommendation

- Peter Vieler provided an overview of the Body-Worn Camera Policy Recommendation in light of the Mayor's announcement of a very limited rollout in March of 2020, with an additional small addition in May of 2020. Peter Vieler discussed the known and suspected cost issues related to a full BWC deployment over 5 years. The benefits of having the body cameras were explained in detail, focusing on the fact that citizens have been demanding the body cameras and they will assist in investigating complaints, protecting police officers and citizens.
- Additional conversation centered on cost effectiveness, the type of cameras being used, the number of police that will be wearing the cameras and speaking with other departments that currently use body cameras.
- Jamal Campbell- Gooch moved to approve the Body-Worn Camera Policy Recommendation as a discussion draft. Andres Martinez provided a second on the motion and the draft was

unanimously approved for public discussion. The Body Worn Camera Policy Recommendation draft will be made public. Chair Davis appointed Jamel Campbell-Gooch to the role of policy committee leader. A community feedback meeting will take during the week of January 6.

9. 2020 COB Vacancies & Procedures

- Todd Pinckley provided the Metro Council set deadlines for Board vacancy announcements, which can be found online. Dates and expectations are outlined in the online announcement Todd Pinckley urged Board members to reach out to those citizens that may have an interest in applying.
- Chair Davis led a discussion about expiring Board member terms and their eligibility to be reelected to serve an additional term on the COB.

10. Public Comment

- Katherine “Katie” Briefs thanked the Board and Executive Director Jill Fitchard for their hard work. With documents being presented to community organizations, she urged that an audit process be in place as community organizations are established and as they change in leadership, to assure that the MNCO has the most current information about who should receive notices.
- Ms. Briefs also expressed concern about the MOU revisions in the future and how that should be handled. She also stated her concern about the BWCs and how important it is to the community that the rollout be randomized.
- Cathy Carrillo representing The Mix Nashville provided additional information about the three incidents identified in the Immigration Policy Advisory Report. She voiced her concern about the use of police resources in support of ICE. She thanked the Board/MNCO for its thoughtfulness but expressed the need for urgency in addressing these issues.

11. New Business / Announcements

- Jamal Campbell- Gooch moved to hold the February Board Meeting at the Rose Park Community Center. Andres Martinez provided a second on the motion. Todd Pinckley explained that there are restrictions in place regarding where Board meetings can be held. Meetings are to be held in public buildings owed by Metro Government with the necessary connectivity/ bandwidth requirements needed to live stream these meetings.

- Jamal Campbell- Gooch amended this motion asking that the February Board meeting be held at a community center. Andres Martinez provided a second on the amended motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Executive Director Jill Fitchard thanked the Board, Staff, Community Members, Mayor's office, and the Metro Police Department for their encouragement and continued support and wished everyone a happy holiday.

12. Adjourn

- Chair Davis moved to adjourned with Phyllis Hildreth providing a second. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

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

/s/ Matt Sweeney 1/28/20
Secretary