

Community Oversight Board Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, December 16, 2020 – 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM
WebEx Meeting

1. Call to Order

- Andres Martinez (Chair), called the meeting to order at 4:00 .m.
- Board Members in Attendance: Andrew Goddard, Jamel Campbell-Gooch, Phyllis Hildreth, Walter Holloway, Timothy Hughes, Adele Lewis, Brenda Ross, Matthew Sweeney, and Shawn Whitsell.
- Board Members Absent: Ashlee Davis
- Others in Attendance: Jill Fitchard (Community Oversight Board Executive Director), Chris Clausi (Community Oversight Board Assistant Executive Director), R. Todd Pinckley (Community Oversight Legal Advisor), Arnold Hayes (Community Member), Joy Styles (District 32 Council Member), Capt. Carlos Lara, MNPD Liaison, Community Oversight Staff. The meeting was publicly broadcast contemporaneously.

2. Establish Quorum and Reading of Appeals Statement

- A quorum was established for the meeting and Chair Andres Martinez read the appeals statement.

3. Electronic Meetings Statement

- Todd Pinckley explained that due to the occurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic, a vote was needed pursuant to Governor Lee’s Executive Order 65 to conduct the following Community Oversight Board (“COB”) meeting electronically.
- Timothy Hughes moved to approve the electronic meeting. Matthew Sweeney provided a second on the motion. The electronic meeting was unanimously approved.

4. Approval of the Minutes

- Phyllis Hildreth moved to approve the November 18, 2020 minutes. Brenda Ross provided a second on the motion. The November 18th minutes were unanimously approved.

5. Chair Remarks

- Chair Martinez stated that this would be the last Board meeting of the year and thanked the Board members for their participation. A special thanks was given to Member Hildreth and Director Fitchard for their work on the MOU negotiation. He advised that the Executive Committee approved the MNPD MOU, which he signed and has been filed with the Metro Clerk’s Office.
- The Executive Committee discussed proposed legislation regarding the use of license plate readers by MNPD and the policy recommendations from the Policing Policy Commission. Those will be discussed further at this meeting.

- Chair Martinez looks forward to entering the Board's third year and seeing the MOU in action. The Chair also believes that the COB should also take a more active role in policy issues involving law enforcement within the community.

6. Executive Directors Report

- Director Fitchard provided highlights from her written report to the Board.
 - Staff members are continuing to work from home.
 - Video cameras for complaint investigation interviews have been installed at MNCO with training to be conducted in the future.
 - The hiring freeze is still in place, the Lead Investigator position therefore remains vacant.
 - Staff training is ongoing.
 - One investigative complaint was received and the staff also assisted with various non-complaint calls since the last Board meeting.
 - Holiday cards created by the Community Liaison Brensey Thompson will be sent out in the mail.
 - Assistant Director Clausi proposed that holiday cards be sent to each department at Nashville General Hospital, for their hard work and dedication to the community during the pandemic.
 - The MNCO has continued its community outreach by informing the community of MNCO's services and processes. Currently creating documentation to provide to the Police Department explaining MNCO's complaint process.
 - MNCO Data Analysts are working on the report initiated by NAACP regarding MNPDP's hiring procedures.
 - The December 3, 2020 MNPDP in-custody death timeline was discussed. MNCO was timely notified and properly engaged by both the MNPDP and the TBI.
 - The MNPDP MOU which was approved by the Executive Committee and signed by Chair Martinez was filed with the Metro Clerk's office on December 14, 2020. Director Fitchard expressed her appreciation for Member Hildreth's work in negotiating the MOU. Director Fitchard also thanked the MNCO staff for assisting with the language in the draft with a special thank you to Assistant Director Clausi and Legal Advisor Pinckley. A special thank you was provided to the Board members for their time and dedication, and to the community members for their support.
 - Walter Holloway asked questions about the MNPDP police being short-staffed by some 200 officers. Director Fitchard stated a MNPDP recruit class is nearing the completion of training or is in the training process.

- Member Holloway asked MNPD liaison Capt. Lara when will the police department would reflect the diversity of the community, specifically the inclusion of minorities. Capt. Lara stated that Chief Drake is making changes in upper leadership and has plans in place to increase diversity by implementing changes in recruiting.
- Member Campbell-Gooch asked Director Fitchard to describe the non-complaint calls the MNCO has received since our last meeting. She responded that the calls involved matters requiring attention from other departments.
- Member Campbell-Gooch asked Director Fitchard whether the pamphlets being created for the police department will be made available to citizens in the form of a mailer. Director Fitchard stated materials will be in the MNCO office and can be mailed out to community members.
- Member Lewis stated that autopsy results regarding the December 3, 2020 MNPD in-custody death are public record and should be available in 10-16 weeks. She expressed her pleasure regarding how this investigation was handled verses past investigations.

7. Guest Speakers Ms. Joy Styles, District 32 Council Member & Mr. Arnold Hayes, Community Member

- Ms. Joy Styles, District 32 Council Member, presented her Bill BL2020494, which was created to target drag racing and reckless driving through license plate readers. If a driver is going in excess of seventy miles per hour, the license plate reader will be activated to determine whether the plate or vehicle is stolen.
- Ms. Styles proposed a six-month pilot for the License Plate readers and in the fifth month a review would be completed to see the effectiveness and to audit monitoring. Non-offender data is only held for thirty days and then deleted.
- Ms. Styles addressed and answered questions and concerns from Board members regarding her proposed bill and funding, placement/use, access to data, written policies and procedures for use, and COB input, which she invited.
- Mr. Arnold Hayes, a community member, was invited to speak about his opinions on policy policies and the COB in general.
- Mr. Hayes read a statement regarding the importance of the COB in Nashville. His statement addressed police misconduct, the Policing Policy Commission, and systemic problems of racism and sexism within MNPd.
- Mr. Hayes stated that he is pleased with the Board and has a lot of respect for the efforts that have been made, but is concerned that the Policing Policy Commission did not address systemic MNPd problems and presented merely a top-down proposal, where to be effective, such proposals need to be grass roots oriented and initiated.

8. Public Comments

- Nora Curran, Executive Director of Walk Life Nashville stated the importance of addressing speeding in the city and considering other solutions outside of Council Member Styles' bill. Ms.

Curran expressed her concern about drag racing and adding speed bumps as a cheaper and more permanent solution that does not require surveillance.

- Ms. Curran referenced New York stating that license plate readers are managed by the Transportation Department and not the Police Department and that she would like to be involved with the conversation on the readers.

9. New Business / Announcements

- Member Sweeney announced that his term was concluding in January and that he was not seeking reelection as he will retire from his law practice next year. He expressed his appreciation to the Board Members and MNCO staff and stated that he was proud to have served on the Board.
- Chair Martinez thanked Member Sweeney for his dedicated work with the Board.
- Community Oversight Legal Advisor Todd Pinckley stated the announcement for the upcoming COB vacancies has not been finalized for new Board members. The vacancies will be announced at the next Metro Council meeting on January 5th, 2021. Under the proposed timeline, elections for new Board members will be held mid to late February. The exact dates will be determined by the Vice Mayor and included in the announcement when it is finalized. The information will be added to the COB webpage once finalized. Under the Metro Code, current Board members can stay on the Board up to sixty days past the end of their term or until their replacements have been named.
- Community Oversight Legal Advisor Todd Pinckley stated under COB Rules Section 13, an annual review of the board's rules is required, and this should happen sometime in January. This should also include reviewing the Bylaws to look for areas of improvement. Chair Martinez asked that the Rule Committee meet, review the Rules and Bylaws and report to the Board at its next meeting.

10. Adjourn

Member Whitsell moved to adjourn the meeting with Member Hughes providing a second. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm.

Approved by the Board at its meeting on January 27, 2021

/s/ Matthew Sweeney 2/2/21