

**Community Oversight Board Meeting**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, August 25, 2021 – 4:00 PM**  
Howard Office Building – Sonny West Room  
700 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S, Nashville, TN 37210

**1. Call to Order**

- **Andrés Martinez (*Chair*)**, called the meeting to order.
- **Board Members in Attendance:** *Andrés Martinez, Joe Brown, Drew Goddard, Arnold Hayes, Walter Holloway, Makayla McCree, Shawn Whitsell, Jamel Campbell-Gooch, Phyllis Hildreth, and Mark Wynn.*
- **Others in Attendance:** *Chris Clausi (Community Oversight Board Assistant Executive Director), Lora Fox (Metro Legal), Alex Dickerson (Metro Legal), Daniel Yoon (COB Legal Advisor), several Community Oversight Staff members, and members of the public.*
- **Absent:** *Jill Fitchard (Community Oversight Board Executive Director)*

**2. Establish Quorum and Reading of Appeals Statement**

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

**4. Approval of the Minutes**

- Arnold Hayes moved to approve the July 28, 2021 minutes with any necessary corrections, Walter Holloway seconded. The motion passed without objection.

**5. Chair Remarks**

- Chair Martinez noted that Board members received an email from a former employee stating concerns the employee had regarding Executive Director Fitchard. Chair Martinez described the concerns as falling in two categories:
  1. Director's management style: Prior to the meeting, Chair Martinez had contacted Metro HR, which said they investigated these same concerns when raised by this by former employee earlier with HR, and they found no wrongdoing.
  2. Performance of duties with respect to Proposed Resolution Reports (PRRs): The Board has been updated regularly regarding the PRRs and the reasons why there is a backlog in the PRR process, and we need to clear the backlog.

- Chair Martinez proposed the formation of a committee to review the PRR process to ensure that everything is moving as quickly as possible and suggest potential ways to clear the backlog. He asked for volunteers, appointed Jamel Campbell-Gooch, Arnold Hayes, Phyllis Hildreth, Makayla McCree, and Shawn Whitsell to the PRR Committee, and Makayla McCree agreed to be responsible for scheduling the first meeting.

## **7. Executive Director's Report**

- Director Fitchard being on vacation, Assistant Director Clausi discussed Executive Director Fitchard's written report to the Board and additional matters, including:
  - Masks in the office policy
  - MNCO liaison applications closed, will set up interviews next week
  - Onboarding recently hired investigator, research analyst, and legal advisor, who were introduced to the Board:
    1. Amy Simmons, Investigator
    2. Gavin Crowell-Williamson, Research Analyst
    3. Daniel Yoon, Legal Advisor
  - Will post job vacancy for the administrative assistant position
  - NACOLE training ongoing
  - Assistant Director Clausi attended an HR conference
  - The next Citizen's Police Academy will be 9/27 – 12/13, 9/10 is the deadline to apply
  - Director Fitchard, Lead Research Analyst Peter Vielehr and Investigator Vernon Johnson attended a Training Class at the Metro Police Academy and provided the class with a presentation
  - Director Fitchard met with Vanderbilt Chief of Police August Washington. COB member Walter Holloway requested an invitation Chief Washington to attend a COB meeting
  - MNPD has updated its policy manual so that daily activity log (Form 253) will be eliminated, and activity will instead be tracked in computer aided dispatch(CAD) reports
  - Two recent officer involved shootings, the sixth and seventh of the year
  - 1320 of 1346 police officers and 740 vehicles have been equipped with body cameras. Only specialized units do not have cameras, and they are scheduled to receive them in September
  - Director Fitchard met with John Buntin from the Mayor's office to discuss current public safety initiatives and talked about obtaining counseling resources for Complainant's who have experienced the violent death of a loved during a police encounter
  - The vacant COB Board seat will be filled by Metro Council on September 7, to complete a term which expires on January 1, 2024.
  - The number of complaints being received by COB staff has declined.
  - Director Fitchard anticipated presenting at least three PRRs at the next Board meeting
  - Member Joe Brown requested a report from the Executive Director on every case that is delayed more than 6 months.
  - Member Whitsell asked if there is there a pattern of body cameras being turned off, and Assistant Director said there does not appear to be a pattern.

## **8. Board Discussion:**

- **License Plate Readers** – Peter Vielehr, Lead Research Analyst, led a discussion of License Plate Readers (LPRs) and two bills pending in Metro Council relating to LPRs. The discussion included the following:
  - Dr. Vielehr presented a point-by point comparison of the two LPR bills currently pending in Metro Council. This included a 10-day retention period under Bill 582 and a 24-hour retention period under Bill 841, each with exceptions for criminal investigations, versus a 90-day data maximum retention period under State law.
  - Member Holloway commented that we need more, not less LPRs, public will have to adjust, it's a good thing if used right
  - Dr. Vielehr said that summaries of both bills are being put online
  - First Vice Chair Campbell-Gooch expressed concern that this is opening Pandora's box which is incredibly dangerous, and questioned how LPRs would be paid for?
  - Member McCree asked how much is it costing if it is not solving crime, and where is the evidence that they work?
  - Member Brown commented that it seems out of our lane for the COB to comment on LPRs legislation pending before Metro Council
  - Member Holloway commented that the community wants us to represent them and express our views
  - Member Hayes commented that we need to put the posted reports on these bills in language that people understand, not technical terms
  - Officer Lara stated that MNPd supports LPR technology but MNPS will not purchase or use LPRs if one of the bills is not passed.
  - Member Wynn asked what is MNPd's opinion of this LPR technology? Officer Lara replied that MNPd supports the technology but wants to protect people's privacy with the right policies
- **Policy Proposal on Hiring Practices** – Peter Vielehr, Lead Research Analyst
  - Member Hildreth noted that MNPd is not present to comment on the rejections/partial acceptances on the Policy Proposal? Can they be present for the next meeting to explain their responses to the COB Policy Proposal? And can we make that a part of the standard procedure, that every time MNPd has a rejection or partial acceptance of a policy proposal then one of their representatives be requested to be on hand at the next board meeting to specifically address it in-person with the Board.  
**Motion:** Member Hildreth made a motion to that effect, Member Brown seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.
  - Member Campbell-Gooch recommended that this Policy Proposal be opened for public comment when next considered by The Board, and the NAACP be invited to attend and comment
- **Use of Force Proposed Policy Revision** – copies are available online

## **9. Public Comment**

- Erica Perry, attorney, commented including the following:

- More diversity in MNPD does not mitigate the harm of policing.
- Transparency in the law does not address the injustice of the law.
- A decision not to make a choice to comment on the two LPR proposals is still a choice. LPRs will increase the encounters of residents with police and the possibility of harm by the police. She encouraged the COB to look for other solutions to address LPRs.

#### **10. New Business / Announcements**

- Chair Martinez – Next meeting will be on September 29, 2021

#### **11. Adjourn**

Member Brown moved to adjourn the meeting, Member McCree seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.