



June 2022

COB Executive Director's Monthly Report

Executive Summary

MNCO Office—The COB office is open to the public Monday thru Friday from 8:00-4:30 PM. Citizens have the option of meeting with staff in-person, by telephone or virtually. Complaints can be made online at: CommunityOversightBoardComplaints@nashville.gov and public comments can be left at Community@nashville.gov.

MNCO Personnel Update—We are working with HR to get the results of the Research Analyst II vacancy complete and determine next steps for hiring.

Community Oversight Board Committee Meetings—The Executive and Nominations Committee met on June 15th. Three Executive Committee and Nominations Committee members were present. MNCO staff were also present.

MNCO Trainings—Director Fitchard continues to promote training and professional growth for staff members. Staff members are encouraged to attend trainings each month.

- Staff members attended a NACOLE Webinar training, “Understanding Brady and Giglio: Civilian Oversight’s Role.”
- Staff members attended training with Nashville Conflict Resolution Center regarding Mediation.
- Director Fitchard and Inv. Williams successfully completed the program requirements to become a Certified Practitioner of Oversight (CPO). The three-year recertification period expires December 31, 2024.

Executive Director Meetings—

- Salt Wagon Clinic, Meharry Medical
- Metro Director of Public Property, Abe Westcott
- Justice Integration Systems (JIS) Operations Chair, JIS ED and Mayor’s office Kristin Wilson
- Budget Discussion with CM Zulfat Suara, MNPD and Community Stakeholders
- Metro ITS KRONOS Team
- Year-End Closing Meeting
- Pearl Amanfu, Program Manager, Metro ITS
- Metro ITS Security, Keith Durbin

Community Outreach—Our new Community Liaison Demica Robinson wasted no time with reaching out to over 25 organizations. She sent out an introduction letter and requested meetings to discuss how the MNCO could be of service to the organization’s mission. CL Robinson and ED Fitchard attended multiple community events over the past four weeks, including, MNP’s Recruitment Day, TN’s Black Caucus State Senate Tour, School Board and State Senate Candidate Forum, Council Member Zulfat Suara’s Public Safety Budget Discussion, Metro City Council Meeting, and Juneteenth Celebrations on Buchanan Street and Ft. Negley. We will share information with the community at the Nashville Pridefest on Saturday and Sunday, June 25th and 26th. CL Robinson spoke to and met with Community Partners to discuss potential collaboration and/or participation. CL Robinson participated in multiple trainings this month hosted by Metro HR, Nashville Conflict Resolution Center and NACOLE.

MNCO Legal Resources—Legal Resource Advisor Yoon reports he has drafted reports and memos, attended continuing legal education and webinars, communicated with attorneys at Metro Legal, the District Attorney’s Office, the Public Defender’s Office, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Vanderbilt’s Office of General Counsel, Metro Development and Housing Authority, Metro Parks, and the Metro Clerk’s Office, as well as responding to various requests from Board Members and MNCO staff, including daily check-ins with the Executive Director. Atty. Yoon attended multiple trainings this month with MNCO staff hosted by NCRC and NACOLE.

MNCO Research—Research Analyst Gavin Crowell-Williamson reports he worked on multiple MNCO policy projects; Use of Force Report, Body Worn Camera Audit and others, as well as, met with the Sycamore Institute regarding fees & fines. He attended several trainings this month through the SAMSHA Gains Expert Speaker webinars. RA Crowell-Williamson attended multiple webinars, “Integrating Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Data, Effective Strategies for Law Enforcement and Community Partners in Responding to Homelessness and Using Propensity Score Modeling to Create Equal Comparison Groups.”

MNCO Investigations—The investigations team is making progress in clearing out the backlog of cases from previous years while continuing to move forward on 2022 complaints.

Complaints—The MNCO continues to receive calls from the public to initiate complaints of alleged misconduct by MNP’s officers. The MNCO received a total of 3 investigative complaints since the last Board meeting in May. MNCO received a total of 12 non-complaint/contact calls for service and issued 3 dispositions related to MNP’s misconduct in June.

Mediation—Two cases were referred for mediation and are currently waiting for dates.

MNP’s Records Update—The MNCO investigators submitted 5 requests for MNP’s records and reported no issues.

Proposed Resolution Reports—Director Fitchard will present one report for consideration at the May meeting. Proposed Resolution Reports can be found on the COB webpage at Nashville.gov.:

- **MNCO CC2021-005**

MNPD Police Shooting—On Thursday, June 2, 2022, at 8:39 PM, Director Fitchard was alerted of a police shooting and made contact with Commander Lara to get more information. Fitchard made contact with her investigative staff and headed to the scene. While headed to 701 Division Street, the location of Frugal McDoogal’s, she was briefed by Commander Lara who could only provide a brief update on the circumstances at that time and was not on the scene. Once on the scene ED Fitchard was briefed by CID Captain Brian Anderson. She was told that a store security guard was deceased, killed by an unknown black male who retreated into the beverage store and three MNPD officers went into the store to make contact with him. ED Fitchard was told that the unknown black male had a firearm and that two of the three officers and the unknown black male had fired their weapons. The unknown black male was shot, injured, and taken by ambulance to the hospital. The security guard was pronounced deceased at the hospital. No officers were injured during this incident. ED Fitchard and two MNCO Investigators were not briefed by TBI Agent-In-Charge possibly due to the circumstances of this incident and the many witnesses still on the scene. However, ED Fitchard asked Commander Lara to pass along a message to the agent that she wanted to view the scene inside the store where the shooting took place. Her request was denied because of the on-going investigation by TBI. The MNCO staff was told they could view the BWC footage at MNPD HQ’s and they headed to that location to view the incident. Capt. Blaine Whitted showed them BWC footage of the incident and a TBI agent was present during this interaction. The following day, Commander Lara contacted ED Fitchard and told her she would be able to view the interior scene and that Capt. Brian Anderson and the TBI Asst. Agent-In-Charge were waiting at Frugal McDoogal’s. ED Fitchard and Inv. April Williams went to the location and was escorted through the crime scene. ED Fitchard has initiated an investigation, however, because of the nature of the incident there is the understanding that this is an on-going open criminal homicide investigation in the death of the store security guard.

MOU—ED Fitchard was informed at the scene of the shooting on June 4th that a new MOU agreement had been signed between MNPD Chief John Drake, TBI Director David Rausch and the District Attorney General Glenn Funk on May 23rd. ED Fitchard was not made aware of this agreement and asked that COB Legal Advisor Daniel Yoon request a copy for our review. After reviewing the MOU agreement between those parties, ED Fitchard requested that Attorney Yoon set up a meeting with the TBI Director to discuss how this new agreement will affect the MNCO’s access to crime scenes and to discuss the possibility of MNCO and TBI having an agreement on file.

Force Review Update—As we continue to receive and review cases regarding deadly police shootings the MNCO staff continue to discuss, monitor, and find ways to complete those very important cases with limited investigative staff. We are researching and seeking input from other peer agencies to determine best practices for auditing and investigating deadly shootings. We believe auditing those special case types will help with meeting the timelines the COB has set forth in its Rules & Bylaws regarding investigations.

Force Review Board—Director Fitchard, a voting member, attended a Force Review Board hearing on May 26th and will attend a Force Review Board hearing on Thursday, June 23, 2022.

MNPD Recruitment Event—ED Fitchard and Community Liaison Robinson received an invitation to MNPD’s recruitment event on June 4th. While at the event ED Fitchard made note of something that she felt was offensive and of grave concern. As she passed by the MNPD Gang Unit’s display booth, a display table had several hats, jewelry, a wooden plaque, a belt and what appeared to be marijuana, that was supposed to be indicative of gang affiliation. What caught her attention was a single white tee-shirt with 7 black men airbrushed on the front of the shirt with what appeared to be single nicknames or alias’ under each photo. One of the photos had two-names, which appeared to be a “first and last name.” The last

name attached to the photo was a well-recognized last name of the Nashville community. ED Fitchheard felt the photo was distasteful, exuded racial overtones, and overall was an inappropriate use of a photo display. An email to the recruiting host, Lt. Michael Vaughn, Commander of Recruitment David Newbern, Commander Carlos Lara and MNPD Chief John Drake was sent asking for answers on why that photo was displayed during a recruiting event and that action be taken immediately to address those responsible.

Metro Budget—Chair Hayes and Director Fitchheard attended a Public Safety Budget Discussion on June 4th that included a panel of speakers from MNPD, Mental Health Coop, RAPHA Institute, Violence Interruption Representative, Mayor’s Office Community Relations Representative, and ED Fitchheard. The meeting was hosted by Council Member Zulfat Suara.

Nashville Mayor included four staff positions for the COB in the FY23 budget: two investigators, an administrative manager, and a professional specialist. Metro Council has placed on their wish list an additional position and we hope the budget request for additional staff positions will be considered by the Metro City Council.

Department Head & Elected Officials Monthly Meeting—Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 26, 2022.

Justice Integration Systems—Director Fitchheard was contacted by JIS ED and asked to attend a meeting with the Chair of the JIS and Mayor’s Chief Operations Officer, Kristin Wilson who requested a security review to address concerns ED Fitchheard raised during the meeting regarding Metro ITS. The assessment is scheduled for Thursday, June 23rd. The JIS Committee Chair and JIS ED voiced their concerns and decided to wait on approving the move from Metro ITS to JIS until after the completion of the assessment.

COB Board Meetings—The COB’s July, August, September, and October meetings will be held in communities across the city. We will Kick Off in July at the Hartman Park Community Center in Bordeaux.

Survivor Resources—Director Fitchheard continues to pursue opportunities for complainants and the family of deceased individuals, who have been directly impacted by police violence and shooting deaths and believes the addition of a Social Worker to the MNCO staff would assist complainants by triaging their needs during the intake process. Nashville will be an example for best practices and on the forefront of police reform by addressing the social, emotional, and mental needs of complainants during the misconduct investigation process.

This concludes the June 2022 Executive Director’s Report.