



## August 2022

# COB Executive Director's Monthly Report

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### 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](mailto:CommunityOversightBoardComplaints@nashville.gov) and public comments can be left at [Community@nashville.gov](mailto:Community@nashville.gov).

**MNCO Personnel Update**—We have posted two investigator and one social worker positions on the Metro.gov website. We will soon post the Assistant Director, Research Analyst I and newly budgeted Digital Evidence & Data Technician positions in the coming weeks. Congratulations to Gavin Crowell-Williamson for being selected as the new MNCO Research Analyst II.

**Community Oversight Board Committee Meetings**—The Executive Committee had a special called meeting on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, to discuss next steps regarding the editing of Body Worn Camera video footage by MNPD employees. The Executive and Nominations Committee met on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

- Staff and Board members attended a NACOLE Webinar training, “Policing Regulation and Oversight: Trends, Problems and Solutions.”
- Director Fitchard attended the Partner’s in Care (PIC) 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter meeting hosted by the Metro Public Health Department, MNPD and Mental Health Cooperative.

#### Meetings—

- Jennifer Rasmussen-Sagan (Mayor’s Chief of Staff) John Buntin (Mayor’s Policy Director) and MNPD’s Acting Chief, Mike Hagar.
- Metropolitan Council Public Health and Safety Committee Special Called Meeting regarding ECC response times & staffing. (Gavin Crowell-Williamson and Demica Robinson in attendance).
- Captain Christopher Gilder and Commander Carlos Lara (Gavin Crowell-Williamson led this meeting regarding Policy recommendation tracking).

**Community Outreach**—MNCO attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual “Silence The Violence” Event hosted by KEVA, INC. We shared our services with the Nashville community at Hadley Park on August 6, 2022. ED Fitchard and CL Robinson met with the organization, Mother’s Over Murder (M.O.M) to hear from a mother who lost a child to gun violence.

**COB Board Meetings**—MNCO’s Community Liaison has scheduled the next four Board meetings in the Community. The meeting dates & locations are:

- August 24<sup>th</sup> Southeast Community Center, Antioch
- September 28<sup>th</sup> Pruitt Library, Napier Gardens
- October 26<sup>th</sup> Coleman Community Center, Nolensville Rd.

**MNCO Research**—Research Analyst Gavin Crowell-Williamson reports he worked on a BWC policy advisory proposal and an informational report regarding MNPDP’s response times. He attended several meetings with SAMSHA GAINS related to Partner’s in Care. He met with Metro Public Health Epidemiologists to discuss PIC data and departmental collaboration and will attend the Sycamore’s Institute Fee’s & Fine’s Network.

**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 MNPDP officers. The MNCO received a total of investigative complaints since the last Board meeting in July. MNCO received a total of 22 non-complaint/contact calls for service and issued 1 disposition related to MNPDP misconduct in July.

**MNPDP Records Update**—The MNCO investigators submitted 1 request for MNPDP records and reported no issues receiving the information.

**BWC Update**—ED Fitchard met with representatives from the mayor’s office and MNPDP to have a discussion related to the Body Worn Camera Video editing issue. The conversation centered around the COB’s reaction to the editing, the OPA investigation, MNPDP’s reaction, and next steps moving forward.

**NAACP**—The Tennessee State Conference of the NAACP (also called the Tennessee NAACP) is calling for an investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice into the potential misconduct of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department. A recent inquiry into police officer misconduct by the Nashville Community Oversight Board discovered that MNPDP handed over altered video footage that may have been critical to the COB’s investigation. (see attached letter).

**MOU**—The MOU Committee will meet in September to discuss next steps.

**Force Review Board**—The Force Review Board hearing is scheduled for August 25<sup>th</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup>. MNCO Investigator Vernon Johnson will attend the hearing in ED Fitchard’s absence.

**Department Head & Elected Officials Monthly Meeting**—Meeting is scheduled on Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Citizen’s Police Academy**—The Citizens Police Academy (CPA) will have a fall session from September 13 to November 15, 2022. All COB members who have not previously attended must register for this mandatory training. Applications are being accepted presently.

**Survivor Resources**—Director Fitchard 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 August 2022 Executive Director’s Report.*