

CHARLOTTESVILLE POLICE OVERSIGHT BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Date: November 9, 2023

Scheduled Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: City Space

Board Members Attending: William Mendez (Chair) Jeffrey Fracher (Vice Chair) George Dillard, Lakeshia Washington, Patricia Jones Turner (Remote), Charles Fleming (Remote), James Watson (Remote).

Board Members Not Attending: Susan Krischel

Guests: Sam Heath – Equal Justice USA – Charlottesville Area Justice Coalition

Pamela O’Berry, Esq. - Sands Anderson PC – Independent Counsel for the PCOB

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM

Announcements: Chair Mendez mentioned state-level election results were favorable to continued police oversight.

Vice-Chair Fracher advised Board members that he reached out to the Mayor and City Attorney to inquire if it was possible to extend Chair Mendez’s term in office if no other member expresses interest in running for the Chair’s position.

Approval of Agenda: Vice Chair Jeff Fracher moved to modify the agenda to include discussion on revising by laws to allow Chair Mendez to continue as Chair of the PCOB for an additional year. Chair Mendez seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes: Vice Chair Jeff Fracher moved to approve the October 12, 2023, Minutes without amendment, seconded by Member Lakeshia Washington. The motion passed. 5 Yes, 1 Abstention.

Guest Speaker Presentation: Sam Heath provided a presentation on Equal Justice USA: A National nonprofit working to repeal the death penalty and build community-centered public safety ecosystems. Sam also presented four ways in which Equal Justice USA can partner with the PCOB.

Public Comments (First): Courtney Brown – Home to Hope Peer Navigator – commented on Sam Heath’s presentation and expressed support for and interest in the programs he discussed.

Executive Director’s Report:

Administrative Activities: participated in several CPD operational meetings concerning the unhoused at Market Street Park, attended meetings as part of the City Manager’s Task Force on People Experiencing Homelessness, collaborating with Sivilco and other oversight professionals in creating an investigator’s toolkit that we are hoping can be utilized by oversight professionals throughout the country, attended WIIFM Workshops re: Microsoft Teams sponsored by our IT Department, met with City Attorney and his legal team to discuss the creation of a draft SOP for information sharing between the PCOB and the CPD.

Community Outreach: Served as a guest speaker for UVA Women in Policy's (originally incorrectly cited as the UVA Women in Policing) Hispanic Heritage Month. Attended Charlottesville Area Justice Coalition meetings (twice monthly), attended lecture with Vice-Chair Fracher at UVA's Equity Center given by retired Chief Nick Sensely, founder of The Institute for American Policing Reform.

Oversight Activities: Oversight activities have been suspended pending the development and approval of an information sharing SOP between the CPD and the PCOB.

Professional Standards Division

September 2023: 5 Complaints

October 2023: 2 Complaints

November 2023: 1 Complaint

PCOB Complaints: 0 since July 2023.

Review Requests: 0 Since July 2022.

Compliments: 0

Website Updates: None

Next Steps & Future Activities: Development of the information sharing SOP, discussions with the City Attorney's staff concerning proposed revisions to the current city ordinance, Executive Director to attend NACOLE Conference in Chicago November 12th through the 16th, Executive Director to forward CPD General Order on Professional Traffic Stops for their review and recommendations for improvement.

Chair Mendez provided comments on the CPD's proposed procedures concerning Flock. For more in-depth information please see the attachment that has been included as part of the PCOB's Meeting Agenda Packet.

Chair Mendez discussed the City Manager's mandate for city departments to create "work plans" for the remainder of the fiscal year. Chair Mendez provided Board members with his "draft work plan" and is requesting Board input.

Chair Mendez discussed the anticipated posting of the Management Analyst I – PCOB position.

Chair Mendez advised the Board that the Desk Book has been completed and is waiting for the City Attorney's approval.

Chair Mendez discussed his intent to arrange additional oversight-related training for Board members.

Vice-Chair Fracher initiated a discussion concerning extending the current Chair's term in office.

Public Comments (Second): No Public Comments.

Adjournment: Vice Chair Fracher moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Member Lakeshia Washington. Meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at approximately 7:51 PM.