



BALTIMORE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING #17 – JULY 12, 2024 @ 12:00 PM, HISTORIC COURTHOUSE AND VIA WEBEX

Call to Order and Roll Call:

- Chair Joan Harris called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.
- Chair Joan Harris, Co-Chair Christopher Tsui, and Sharon Knecht Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer, appeared in person, Tiffany Justice appeared via WebEx.
- Henry Callegary and Kelly La Valley were present from the Baltimore County Administrative Office.
- Alek Stathakis was present (via WebEx) from the Baltimore County Office of Law.
- Major Matthew Gorman was present from the Baltimore County Police Department.

Approval of June 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

- Co-Chair Christopher Tsui moved to adopt the minutes of the June 7, 2024 Baltimore County Administrative Charging Committee meeting. Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved unanimously.

New Business:

- Major Matthew Gorman (Baltimore County Police Department Internal Affairs Division) answered questions from the ACC on determining what constitutes “Rude and/or Discourteous Conduct” by an officer, i.e., in terms of training officers and their language and conduct? What does BCPD view as Rude and Discourteous Conduct? Major Gorman stated there are scenarios where language would be inappropriate, i.e., School Resource Officers (SRO), community meetings, professional business environments, or ceremonies. On the street or on calls for service, often there are dynamics that are emotionally charged and may warrant using adult language. The Administrative Manual addresses integrity, fairness, service etc.,

and speaks about using appropriate language, which is a subjective term. When an officer responds to a call for service, language sets the tone for who is in charge of the situation. For instance, in a call for service for a bar fight, saying “everybody please calm down” doesn’t command attention that maybe a profane word or two would. In totality, the aforementioned must be weighed out according to the situation, and use of profane language often may be needed to deescalate some situations. BCPD needs to work to structure the policy as written to better articulate the policy. Major Gorman holds a line, for example, between using profane language towards an individual’s characteristics (name calling) and using the same language to show assertiveness and creates dominance to deescalate certain circumstances. Chair Joan Harris commented that the ACC has seen examples where profanity did help to deescalate a situation. Sometimes it is considered not rude and discourteous conduct, but unprofessional in nature, where the ACC struggles to find the difference. Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer stated that she believes the complaints are based on issues on the officer’s tone or how the situation is handled and the communication style, i.e., unprofessional rather than language.

Police Accountability Board Update: Presented by Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer

- The Baltimore County Police Accountability Board met on June 24, 2024, and a second quarter ACC update was given.
- As of June 24, 2024 there were 104 complaints open from BCPD.
- Bishop Ralph Dennis (District #3) was appointed to as Chair of the PAB by the Baltimore County Executive.
- Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer was re-appointed to the PAB for a new three-year term by the Baltimore County Council on July 1, 2024.
- Four Trial Boards are to be held on, July 15, 2024, July 29, 2024, July 30, 2024, August 13, 2024, September 17, 2024 and September 18, 2024.
- Henry Callegary commented on a forum that was held by the Governor’s Office on Crime Prevention and Victims’ Services regarding the implementation of the Maryland Police Accountability Act (MPAA). The goal of the forum was to identify challenges that local jurisdictions were running into regarding the MPAA. Major Gorman also attended the forum, which was in Annapolis. A report was issued, and Baltimore County remains in a strong position regarding implementation of the MPAA. The report will be shared with the group.
- Alek Stathakis is the Office of Law attorney that has been assigned to the ACC and PAB.
- Chair Joan Harris asked how other jurisdictions treat complaints which are withdrawn by the Complainant. Are they still investigated? Mr. Callegary answered that not all jurisdictions follow-through with investigations and opinions when the complaint is withdrawn, but the recommendation of the Attorney General’s Office is to take the

- complaint to completion, even if it has been withdrawn. The only exception would be if the officer is no longer a member of the department.
- Co-Chair Christopher Tsui moved that the Baltimore County Administrative Charging Committee approve re-scheduling the ACC meetings to the following dates: August 16, 2024, September 13, 2024 and October 18, 24 starting at 12:00 p.m., Room #118, Historic Courthouse and via Webex.
 - Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer seconded the motion.
 - The motion to approve re-scheduling the ACC meetings to the following dates: August 16, 2024, September 13, 2024 and October 18, 24 starting at 12:00 p.m., Room #118, Historic Courthouse and via Webex was approved unanimously.

Move to closed session:

- At 12:35 p.m. Co-Chair Christopher Tsui moved that the Baltimore County Administrative Charging Committee meet in closed session for the purposes of reviewing Baltimore County Police Department investigatory files and making determinations as to whether to administratively charge and recommend discipline against accused law officers per §3-3-2806 of the Baltimore County Code, and COMAR 12.04.09.05(D)(1). Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer seconded the motion.
- The motion to move into closed session was approved unanimously.
- During the closed session, members reviewed investigatory files and made determinations as to whether to administratively charge, and recommend discipline towards, law enforcement officers, as well as producing written opinions on these matters.

Return to open session:

- At 3:47 p.m. Co-Chair Christopher Tsui moved that the Baltimore County Administrative Charging Committee return to open session. Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer seconded the motion.
- The motion to return to open session was approved unanimously.
- At 3:48 p.m. the Board re-entered open session.

Adjournment and Next Meeting:

- At 3:48 p.m., Co-Chair Christopher Tsui moved that the Baltimore County Administrative Charging Committee adjourn until August 16, 2024 at 12:00 p.m., when it will meet in Room #118 of the Historic Courthouse and via WebEx. Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved unanimously.