



BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MEETING #20-DECEMBER 16, 2024 @ 12:00 PM,

ROOM #118, BALTIMORE COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE AND VIA WEBEX

Call to Order:

- Chair Ralph Dennis (District 3) called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

Roll Call

- Chair Ralph Dennis (District 3) appeared in person. Peter Fitzpatrick (District 1), Karen Williams (District 2), Renee Streib (District 5), Scott Richman (District 6), Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer (District 7) and Nigeria Rolling-Ford (At-Large) appeared via Webex. Senior Coordination Manager for Public Safety and Accountability Henry Callegary and Executive Secretary Kelly La Valley were in attendance from the Baltimore County Administrative Office.
- Alek Stathakis was in attendance from the Baltimore County Office of Law via Webex.
- Chief Robert McCullough, Major Matthew Gorman, and Ernie Reitz from the Baltimore County Police Department attended in-person.

Approval of Minutes:

- Peter Fitzpatrick (District 1), moved to adopt the minutes of the November 18, 2024 Baltimore County Police Accountability Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Scott Richman (District 6).
- The motion was approved unanimously.

New Business:

- **Remarks by Chief Robert McCullough, Baltimore County Police Department, Ernie Reitz, Baltimore County Office of Law and Major Matthew Gorman, Internal Affairs Division, Baltimore County Police Department:**

- Chief McCullough thanked the PAB members for the continued dedication and commitment to the citizens of Baltimore County, the Baltimore County Police Department and all public safety. Chief McCullough thanked Major Gorman and his team for the continued work and efforts on addressing the numerous complaints that come in on a daily bases, treating them with equity. The Internal Affairs unit will be moving outside of police headquarters to 305 Washington Avenue, Towson, MD in March 2025. Baltimore County citizens will have a place that they can go to make a complaint or be interviewed that is outside of any police facility in Baltimore County. This also provides a place for officers to be interviewed. This is consistent with the concept of modernizing law enforcement.
 - Mr. Reitz updated the PAB concerning improving the overall process with the ACC and legislative changes. Mr. Reitz is primarily responsible for the prosecution for the Police Trial Board Hearings. Mr. Reitz is also an advisor of the statewide police legal advisors' group that meets monthly to discuss legislative initiatives. The group is in the process of compiling a list of legislative priorities i.e., removing departmental accidents from the statewide disciplinary matrix, which would free up the ACC to focus on true misconduct cases, cleaning up the Police Accountability Act, and the year and a day rule (which requires an officer be charged administratively within a year and day of the BCPD's awareness of the charges).
- **Review and recap of Administrative Charging Committee proceedings:**
- See attachment below for break-down of the December 13, 2024 ACC cases.
 - Next meeting January 3, 2025.
- **Updates on Trial Boards:**
- Mr. Callegary provided an update on the Trial Boards. On January 7, 2025, a Trial Board will be held for an officer charged by the ACC for Failure to Take Unnecessary Action on a Call with a Violent Mental Disorder. On January 21, 2025 a Trial Board will be held for Cheating on an Exam. This is an administrative case, not an ACC case.
 - Trial Boards exist principally when the ACC charges an officer and recommends discipline. The officer may accept the discipline offered or may request a Trial Board, which is made-up of an administrative law judge, member of the Baltimore County Police Department with equal rank of the officer charged, and a member of the public.
- **Approval of the 2024 Annual Report:**
- Review of the 2024 Annual Report:
 - Mr. Richman mentioned that for the 2025 Annual Report in the categories where there are more charged than not charged, for the purpose of making recommendations in the future, could the PAB could get more information (excluding any confidential information) as to the ACC opinions? Mrs. Dishon-Feuer opined that the ACC does flag things for potential feedback to BCPD and Baltimore County government without breaking confidentiality, i.e., if there is a gap in a policy.
 - Scott Richman (District 6), moved to approve the 2024 Annual Report of the Police Accountability Board. The motion was seconded by Renee Streib (District 5).

- The motion was approved unanimously.

➤ Public Comment:

- Mr. Callegary commented that in the November 18, 2024 PAB meeting there was a question from a member of the public in reference as to the PAB's ability to review complaints received by the PAB. This issue has been referred to the Baltimore County Office of Law which is currently reviewing and preparing additional guidance on this matter.
- Chair Ralph Dennis (District 3) reviewed the guidelines for the public comment period.
- A member of the public (Peta Richkus) stated that she appreciates the efforts of the PAB and its members. Members of the Baltimore County Police Accountability Coalition have worked hard to make sure the PAB has the support that is needed. Ms. Richkus appreciated that members of the NAACP chapters were invited to participate in the November 18, 2024 meeting. There is always room for improvement. Ms. Richkus commended the PAB's openness to hearing public comment and receiving suggestions.
- A member of the Public (Claire Landers) commented that she would like to thank the PAB for looking into its ability to review complaints.

Adjournment and Next Meeting:

- Chair Ralph Dennis (District 3) reminded members of the Baltimore County Police Accountability Board meeting on February 10, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. which will be held in Room #118, of the Baltimore County Historic Courthouse and via WebEx.
- At 12:43 p.m., Scott Richman (District 6) moved that the Baltimore County Police Accountability Board adjourn until February 10, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. Renee Streib (District 5) seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved unanimously.

ACC Meeting 12/13/24

Reviewed & deliberated 39 cases

Rendered 39 opinions

All cases involved BCPD members

Total UoF cases: 7

*12 DA (charged)

*2 failure to take necessary police action (1 charged, 1 not charged)

*1 conducting improper search (not charged)

*1 UoF policy violation & false arrest (not charged for both)

*5 UoF policy violation (5 not charged)

*1 committing a traffic violation while on duty & issuing improper traffic citation (not charged for both)

*1 demonstrating conduct unbecoming of a BC police officer while off duty & improper use of private media (not charged for both)

*2 rude/discourteous/unprofessional behavior/conduct (2 not charged)

*2 violation of investigation procedures (2 not charged)

- *1 UoF policy violation (not charged) & rude/discourteous/unprofessional behavior/conduct (charged)
- *1 damage to personal property (not charged) & rude/discourteous/unprofessional behavior/conduct (charged)
- *1 violation of search/seizure/entries procedures (not charged) & BWC policy violation (charged)
- *2 violation of search/seizure/entries procedures (2 not charged)
- *1 racial bias/discrimination/profiling (not charged)
- *1 filing false reports & harassment (not charged for both)
- *1 failure to make required arrest (not charged)
- *1 failure to take necessary police action & BWC policy violation (charged for both)
- *1 failure to take necessary police action (charged), BWC policy violation (charged), rude/discourteous/unprofessional behavior/conduct (not charged, & racial bias/discrimination/profiling (not charged)
- *1 assisting in altering a court document (not charged)
- *1 altering a court document, misrepresenting facts on a dept form, completing a false entry to a document, lying to a complainant/victim/witness, prisoner restraint policy violation, prisoner guarding policy violation, dress/uniform policy violation, misrepresenting facts to a superior, misrepresenting facts to Internal Affairs (charged for all)