



BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MEETING #19-NOVEMBER 18, 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 12:06 p.m.

Roll Call

- Chair Ralph Dennis (District 3), Renee Streib (District 5), and Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer (District 7), appeared in person. Peter Fitzpatrick (District 1), Karen Williams (District 2), Scott Richman (District 6), Kara White (At-Large) 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.

Approval of Minutes:

- Renee Streib (District 5) moved to adopt the minutes of the September 16, 2024 Baltimore County Police Accountability Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer (District 7).
- The motion was approved unanimously.

New Business:

- **Presentations by Baltimore County NAACP Chapter President, Dr. Danita Tolson and First Vice President Roland Patterson, Jr.**
 - Dr. Tolson serves as the President of the Baltimore County Chapter of the NAACP and is on the Equitable Policing Work Group for Baltimore County. She works to ensure equity and promotion with minority groups in Baltimore County.

- Roland Patterson, First Vice President of the Baltimore County NAACP suggested that the members of the PAB pay special attention to escalatory conduct by police officers. Escalating conduct results in greater misconduct. The following cases are examples of the aforementioned escalatory behavior:
 - Case one involved an African American teen who went into the Woodlawn library after he had been banned. The teen was trespassing, and was allegedly physically assaulted by the responding officers. There were no indications that the teen assaulted the officers.
 - Case two involved a man who was validly arrested and taken to the Woodlawn Police Department, where he was housed in a holding cell. The man was vehemently objecting to his arrest and he attempted to damage the camera inside of the cell. Thereafter, an officer entered his cell and allegedly assaulted the man. The same officer was allegedly involved in an earlier offense of beating a man in his cell.
 - Case number three involved a man that was validly arrested and taken to Baltimore City for treatment. He then attempted to escape and there may have been physical contact with the officers and he was injured. After the hospital treatment was completed the man told the police officer(s) that he had asthma and he wanted the windows rolled down in the vehicle. The officer(s) did not comply with the request and the arrestee began to beat his head on the window and the officer pulled him from the car by his hair and pepper sprayed and kicked him. This officer was tried in Baltimore City and was acquitted.
- The three aforementioned cases are why the legislature created the PAB. It is necessary that the PAB looks for any conduct that could lead to these kinds of threats. The PAB's perspective should not be statistics driven.
- Officers that have misconduct issues should be rooted out and if necessary dismissed from the department.
- Ryan Coleman serves as the President of the Randallstown Chapter of the NAACP. President Coleman thanked the PAB for all the work it has done, which is very important for the community. African Americans are put in "boxes" where it is believed that the community can't "like" the police. There should be no "boxes" for people of any race, ethnicity etc. because when anyone is in trouble they call on the police. The key is fair treatment. Chief McCullough has been transparent by allowing Mr. Coleman's NAACP chapter to view the footage of the body-worn cameras upon request. It is important to have conversations with BCPD and impart a point of view to focus on diversity and addressing issues, such as bringing in more minorities to the BCPD. Mr. Coleman's chapter and the BCPD have a good relationship. In regards to the BCPD, are there alternatives to de-escalate behaviors versus physicality? BCPD is doing a great job policing the community, but should strive for 100%.
- **Questions and comments from the PAB for the presenters:**
 - Peter Fitzpatrick thanked the NAACP presenters for attending the meeting and offering their perspectives.
- **Updates on the 2024 Annual Report for the PAB and ACC:**
 - A copy of the 2024 Annual Report draft was shared, and is uploaded to the PAB Webpage.

- The Maryland Police Accountability Act and the corresponding Baltimore County code sections delegate specific authority to the PAB. The PAB does not directly handle cases of officer misconduct, as this is the responsibility of the ACC (Administrative Charging Committee) and Trial Boards. Mr. Callegary stated that the annual report is one of the most important responsibilities of the PAB. The PAB does have the ability to review outcomes and make recommendations to the County Executive, County Council and to whomever the Annual Report is shared with, and take actions as a result. 2024 is the first full year that the PAB can review the data from the ACC. The ACC began reviewing cases in July of 2023 for complaints filed or made after July 1, 2023. Thus, the 2023 annual report included a very abbreviated number of cases.
 - Scott Richman asked what the distinction is between page 12 and page 13 of the annual report? Mr. Callegary stated that page 12 includes every case heard by the ACC. Page 13 isolates it to those cases that fall into the departmental accident or Use of Force policy area.
- **Review and recap of Administrative Charging Committee proceedings:**
- See attachment below for break-down of the November 15, 2024 ACC cases.
- **Updates on Trial Boards:**
- Mr. Callegary provided an update on the Trial Boards. On November 25 and November 26, 2024, a Trial Board will be held involving an officer that was charged by the ACC for a departmental car crash. A Trial Board will meet on December 2, 2024 for a case on a Body-Worn Camera violation. On December 17, 2024 a Trial Board will convene for an officer charged with, Unnecessary Use of Force. 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.

Public Comment:

- A member of the public (Peta Richkus) stated that the PAB doesn't have an impact on police conduct, that is the job of the ACC and Trial Board members and asked what is the best way to get messages and concerns to the committee? Though, there is a link to file a complaint against the BCPD on the PAB website, the complaints aren't seen by the PAB members. The public should be made aware of the aforementioned. Should there be something written in the legislation on the ACC and the Trial Board receiving training on how to work with real data? Mr. Callegary stated that this is part of the reason that Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer is on both the ACC and PAB, so that she can report to the PAB on ACC outcomes. He stated that will look into providing clarifying language, so that no one is misinformed on the complaint process.
- A member of the Public (Claire Landers), who resides in District 2 stated that she was surprised hearing that the PAB members are not informed about the complaints that are filed. Ms. Landers was in disbelief when she learned that the PAB is a body to which the public can submit a complaint and review the outcomes of complaints, but it seems as though no one in the PAB is participating in reviewing the complaint. If there is a question of confidentiality, why can't identifiers be redacted? She is certain that the PAB was established to be a link with the public between the average County residents and everything that happens in the dark. Ms. Landers urged the PAB to think about advocating to review complaints, at least within each member's district, and examine what is occurring in other PAB's across the state.
- A member of the public (Cindy Farquhar) stated that she attended a public meeting of the City Consent Decree and she found that there is a document that states what the community can do issue a complaint about police conduct, but found that it did not include the PAB. Ms. Farquhar inquired and was told that

they needed to use up the literature they had before they print anymore. Will there be any recommendations to the BCPD in reference to policies or trends? Ms. Farquhar requested that a review of the complaints by the PAB be on the next meetings agenda? Mr. Callegary stated that the Office of Law's position is that the complaints themselves are covered under the statute by confidentiality provisions that apply to the ACC. Mrs. Dishon-Feuer requested that a member of the Baltimore County Office of Law be present at the next PAB meeting to address the review of files.

- Baltimore County Chapter NAACP President Danita Tolson commented that none of the officer's were charged for the complaints of racial discrimination. Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer noted that the numbers are accurate to the outcomes.
- Baltimore County Chapter NAACP First Vice President Roland Patterson, Jr. asked if there was anything that can be gleaned from those cases? Mrs. Dishon-Feuer stated that if there is, it is reported in the opinion. Mr. Callegary stated that once a case is completed a MPIA (Maryland Public Information Act) request can be made by contacting the custodian of records for the ACC.
- A member of the public (Lorena) stated that it is important to look at patterns and trends of police officers.

Adjournment and Next Meeting:

- Chair Ralph Dennis reminded members of the Baltimore County Police Accountability Board meeting on December 16, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. which will be held in Room #118, of the Baltimore County Historic Courthouse and via WebEx.
- At 1:32 p.m., Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer moved that the Baltimore County Police Accountability Board adjourn until December 16, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. Renee Streib seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved unanimously.

ACC Meeting 11/15/24

Reviewed & deliberated 30 cases

Rendered 28 opinions

2 opinions pending additional information from IAD

All cases involved BCPD members

Total UoF cases: 4

*1 Departmental Accident (not charged)

*6 rude & discourteous conduct (6 not charged)

*1 unlawful detention (not charged)

*1 rude & discourteous conduct and failure to provide name & ID (not charged)

*3 violation of investigation procedures (3 not charged)

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

*1 unprofessional conduct (not charged)

*1 violation of investigation procedures & unprofessional conduct (not charged)

*1 violation of investigation procedures & failure to make arrest (not charged)

*3 UoF policy violations (not charged)

*1 UoF policy violation, BWC policy violation, and rude & discourteous conduct (charged for BWC violation, not charged for UoF policy violation or rude & discourteous conduct)

*1 violation of investigation procedures, violation of evidence policy, and BWC policy violation (charged for all)

*1 demonstrating conduct unbecoming of a police officer while off-duty & wearing department uniform and failure to appear in court when summoned and required to do so (charged for both)

*1 failure to provide medical care to a person in need (not charged)

*1 harassment (not charged)

*1 improper threat to arrest (not charged)

*1 committing a minor traffic violation while off-duty in a non-agency vehicle (not charged)

*1 violation of investigation procedures & writing an inaccurate report (not charged)

*1 failure to provide name & ID (not charged)