



## **BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**MEETING #18-SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 @ 12:00 PM,**

**MEZZANINE CONFERENCE ROOM, HISTORIC COURTHOUSE AND VIA WEBEX**

### **Call to Order:**

- Chair Ralph Dennis (District 3) called the meeting to order at 12:11 p.m.

### **Roll Call**

- Chair Ralph Dennis (District 3), Karynlyne Williams (District 2) and Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer (District 7), appeared in person. Renee Streib (District 5) and Scott Richman (District 6) 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:**

- Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer moved to adopt the minutes of the June 24, 2024 Baltimore County Police Accountability Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Scott Richman.
- The motion was approved unanimously.

### **New Business:**

- **Introduction of the Police Accountability Board New Chair, Chair Ralph Dennis (District 3):**
  - As this is his first meeting as Chair of the Police Accountability Board (PAB), Chair Ralph Dennis introduced himself. He has spent approximately 30 years in corporate America and has been a pastor for 35 years. Chair Dennis has been in church leadership as a bishop for 30 years and

oversees 125 churches. He is married and has three sons and has a bachelor's degree in mathematics, and a master's degree and doctorate in theology.

➤ **Introduction of new Police Accountability Board member Karynlyne Williams (District 2):**

- Welcome to the PAB's newest member, Karynlyne Williams. She is the community president of the Huntington Community and a retired business owner. Ms. Williams was a salon business owner for over 20 years. Currently she is working at Anthropologie part time and has a degree in social science.

➤ **New Business:**

- Scott Richman reached out to the members of the PAB to encourage and identify some community speakers, including members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to speak at a PAB meeting and no one has responded yet, but we are hoping to have them speak at the November 18, 2024 or December 16, 2024 meeting.
- Karynlyne Williams asked who the contact is for the NAACP. Mr. Callegary stated that it is Roland Patterson, who is the vice-president of the Baltimore County Chapter of the NAACP.

➤ **Remarks and presentation by Major Matt Gorman (Baltimore County Police Department Internal Affairs):**

- Major Gorman remarked that Baltimore County Police Department (BCPD) Internal Affairs (IA) works hand-in-hand with the Administrative Charging Committee (ACC). IA and the ACC communicate regularly in regards to the sending out of new cases to the ACC and answering any questions that may arise during investigations. Great care is taken by both IA and the ACC to ensure that cases are handled in the allotted time frame and with the proper proceedings. Case statistics are tracked regularly. There are approximately 48% more ACC cases as of this date than there were on this date last year. IA is working on new avenues in which the public can lodge complaints. All public complaints are handled by IA, made into a case and are assembled to go to the ACC. In the last year approximately 68% more cases have been closed to date compared to the same time last year.
- Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer asked what is the current number of outstanding open cases that have not yet been forwarded to the ACC? Major Gorman answered of the 218 cases that have come in in 2024, there are approximately 147-150 that are open.

➤ **Remarks and presentation by Deputy Chief Sheriff Black (Baltimore County Sheriff's Office):**

- The Baltimore County Sheriff's Office does not have any ongoing citizen-initiated allegations or complaints against the deputies or staff.
- Chair Ralph Dennis asked that Deputy Chief Sheriff Black state the responsibilities of the Sheriff's Department.
- The Baltimore County Sheriff's Office has a memorandum of understanding with the BCPD, with respect to specific responsibilities of each agency. The BCPD has primary 911 response responsibility, in addition to investigating and enforcing criminal and traffic issues. While the Sheriff's Office does respond to calls and assists the BCPD with law enforcement related actions,

such as traffic control and suspect searches, the Sheriff's Office's primary responsibilities are security of the Circuit Court House and the courtrooms, transportation of incarcerated persons to and from the Baltimore County Detention Center, to court and institutions throughout the state, process service i.e. court summons, subpoenas, evictions and protective orders that are issued from the Circuit Court. The Warrant Unit is responsible for civil warrants that are issued from the Circuit Court. The Sheriff's Office can and do serve criminal warrants, but it not their primary responsibility. The Sheriff's Office essentially acts in an assistance capacity to the BCPD.

- Scott Richman asked what does the Sheriff's Office do as far as traffic enforcement? Deputy Chief Sheriff Black stated that no enforcement is done related to traffic. If a serious traffic issue is observed, the vehicles do have emergency sirens and all are certified police officers, sworn and have arrest powers, however they are not issued traffic citation books and are not part of the RMS system, where traffic citations are issued through departmental laptops. If the Sheriff's Office observes a serious traffic issue, they can stop the vehicle and thereafter act as witnesses and notify the correct law enforcement agency for enforcement related action, to include the Maryland State Police.

➤ **Nomination of Tamesha Peterson to the Administrative Charging Committee:**

- Interviews were conducted for the vacancy of Tiffany Justice's ACC position by Chair Ralph Dennis, Nigeria Rolling-Ford and Peter Fitzpatrick and the decision was made to nominate Tamesha Peterson.
- Mr. Callegary stated that Ms. Peterson will attend ACC training in October. She will not be present for the October 18, 2024 ACC meeting. Upon completion of the training, she will start attending meetings at the November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting or any earlier November 2024 meetings that may be called.
- Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer motioned that the Baltimore County Police Accountability Board appoint Tamesha Peterson to serve as a member of the Baltimore County Administrative Charging Committee. The motion was seconded by Karynlynne Williams.
- The motion is approved unanimously.

➤ **Review and recap of Administrative Charging Committee proceedings:**

- See attachment below for break-down of third quarter ACC cases.
- Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer stated third quarter case statistics were from meetings that were held on July 12, 2024, August 2, 2024, August 16, 2024 and September 13, 2024. 104 cases were reviewed and deliberated and rendered 104 opinions. Of the 104 cases resolved, all officers in question were members of the BCPD.

➤ **Review of the duties of the Administrative Charging Committee and the disciplinary actions rendered and officer requests for a Trial Board hearing:**

- Mr. Callegary explained that anytime there is a complaint involving a member of the public and a law enforcement officer, the matter goes before the ACC for review. Regardless of whether that law enforcement agency believes or not that there is a violation, the ACC makes the final decision on whether or not there is a violation. The ACC then recommends discipline if a violation is found, using the law enforcement

matrix. Thereafter, the opinion and the recommended discipline are delivered to the appropriate law enforcement agency, which to date have all been BCPD officers. The Chief of Police will make the decision regarding discipline. The Chief of Police cannot go below the discipline that the ACC has recommended, but can exceed the recommended discipline rendered by the ACC in conjunction with the discipline matrix.

- An officer can request a Trial Board if they do not agree with the recommended discipline of the ACC. The Trial Board is made up of three members, including an officer of equal rank to the disciplined officer within that agency or department, a member of the public who has received training from the Maryland Police Standards and Training Commission and an administrative law judge, who chairs the Trial Board. All three members are given an equal vote in deliberation and making a decision in the matter. It is reflective of a courtroom trial, in that there are attorneys to represent both sides, witnesses and rules of evidence. After arguments are heard there is deliberation of the panel and a decision is reached to charge or not charge the officer and decide on recommended discipline.
- The next Baltimore County Police Department Trial Board will be held on October 22, 2024 and October 23, 2024.

➤ **Updates on the 2024 Annual Report for the PAB and ACC:**

- The 2022 and 2023 Annual Reports are available on the Baltimore County Website.
- The 2024 Annual Report Drafting Committee will include Chair Ralph Dennis, Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer and Kara White.
- Because of the limited time that the PAB and ACC had met in 2023, the Annual Report for 2023 had a nominal number of cases that could be reported on. This report contained each individual case listed with its outcome. In the 2024 Annual Report there will be an in-depth visual breakdown of the number of cases, their outcomes and what categories that they fit in to. This should provide a good breakdown for the public, any member of this board, and anybody who reads that report to get a sense of what most complaints are, their outcomes, and also specifically the use of force cases. Other sections of the report will include a discussion of trends that can be identified from the ACC. Arguably the most significant portion of the report is recommendations by the PAB, i.e., any policy or statute changes. One recommendation that the PAB made in 2023 was to extend the statute of limitations in cases where there is a criminal investigation running simultaneously, due to those cases taking much longer time to get to trial, thus endangering the year and a day deadline that the ACC has to make a decision on the case, which creates evidentiary issues for the ACC to review a full case file during the simultaneous criminal investigation. This legislation was proposed in both the House and Senate and it was passed in both, but had slight differences in language and neither bill passed the opposite chamber. The data that Mrs. Dishon-Feuer provided for the ACC stats will be included in the minutes and is available on the Baltimore County Police Accountability Website.

- The PAB has added additional meetings on November 18, 2024 and December 16, 2024 for the purpose of providing context to the recommendations section and making policy recommendations based on the board's experiences both as members and representatives of the community.
- Chair Ralph Dennis asked what is the Annual Report deadline. Mr. Callegary stated that it is December 31, 2024.

**Public Comment:**

- A member of the public (Peta Richkus) who resides in West Towson has been an advocate of the PAB for many years. Ms. Richkus has been involved in lobbying for state legislation, as well as working with Baltimore County, the County Executive and the County Council to help the County stand up for the PAB. Ms. Richkus, as well as the other advocates want to see the success of the PAB, and lobby hard to the County Council for the betterment of the PAB. For example, the advocates lobbied that the PAB be paid, for which there was strong opposition from the County Council. Ms. Richkus congratulated the PAB for the strength of its organization and its administration. Ms. Richkus asked if Mr. Callegary would elaborate on what the notification for the ACC vacancy included? Mr. Callegary stated that the initial process was posting the information on the Baltimore County website and circulating the information amongst the PAB members to encourage members of their community to apply for the vacancy. The notice was also posted on the PAB website, social media i.e., Facebook for outreach for any vacancies. Ms. Richkus stated that she had some difficulty finding the vacancy on the appropriate informational platforms and wanted to suggest considering reaching out to some groups that may be interested in the vacancy. Ms. Richkus stated that John Chambers position on the PAB was greatly appreciated and it did not go unnoticed that he appeared at the last PAB meeting virtually in his police uniform. Ms. Richkus asked if the Trial Board would be linked to the PAB website? Mr. Callegary stated that it is linked through the Baltimore County Police Departments website. <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/police/internal-affairs>. Ms. Richkus asked if it would be possible to put a link on the PAB website to the Trial Board page? Mr. Callegary stated that he will look into that. Ms. Richkus stated that it is appreciated that the PAB reached out the NAACP and the ACLU. It was suggested that a member from the Public Defender's Office would be another good source of information for the PAB. Ms. Richkus asked if the advocates could be any help in forwarding relevant information to the PAB, as there are often articles etc. that pertain to either police conduct, use of force or suggestions for possible legislation? Mr. Callegary stated that it is appropriate to bring them to the PAB meetings. Ms. Dishon-Feuer asked if it was appropriate for a PAB member to reach out to an advocate to have them forward any additional information they may see fit to obtain? Mr. Callegary stated that is appropriate. Ms. Richkus stated that there is a current case that is related to pepper spraying a detainee, who was shackled in the back of a police car that has gotten a lot of new coverage, which involved Baltimore County Police Officers. Ms. Richkus stated that the reason that she is mentioning this is because there was an article in the Sun stating that the ACC mostly sided with police on complaints except in minor vehicle incidents. Is it for the PAB to speak out about the former? Ms. Dishon-Feuer stated that as a member of the ACC she is disappointed in how the committee's work is portrayed. Without having the confidential context of each case or as a whole, the big picture is missing, which is a flawed part of the process. Ms. Richkus stated that at the recent Town Hall on the operation of the PAB, many community members expressed that there doesn't

seem to be a lot of police accountability in conjunction with the PAB. Members of the public are frustrated and would like to see the PAB stand up for our citizens who may not be getting fair treatment from the police. The community wants to see PAB comments or concerns on current events surrounding the Baltimore County Police Department.

- A member of the public (Cindy Farquhar) thanked the PAB and welcomed Ms. Williams to the PAB. Ms. Farquhar stated even though she appreciates that there is a lot about the cases that the ACC cannot share and take a big part in the decision that are made on each case, this is underwriting of the reason that the PAB was created. The PAB was created so the community could feel safer around the police. Ms. Farquhar stated that in the process of formulating the PAB Annual Report, it would be appreciated if the PAB would make a statement. Ms. Farquhar stated that it is of concern that there is no process or discussion during the PAB meetings so that the community might know more pertinent information, then perhaps more of the community would be interested in attending the PAB meetings. She stated that she believes that the more the community feels that it can have a positive experience working with the police, more will feel comfortable to go to them with a concern and the more the community will be comfortable with interacting with the police.
- Mr. Callegary stated that there will be a Towson University Trial Board on September 25, 2024 through September 27, 2024.

#### **Adjournment and Next Meeting:**

- Chair Ralph Dennis reminded members of the Baltimore County Police Accountability Board meeting on November 18, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. which will be held in Room #118, of the Baltimore County Historic Courthouse and via WebEx.
- At 1:17 p.m., Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer moved that the Baltimore County Police Accountability Board adjourn until November 18, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.. Scott Richman seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved unanimously.

## **ACC Meetings 07/12/24, 08/02/24, 08/16/24, 09/13/24**

Reviewed & deliberated 104 cases

Rendered 104 opinions

Of the 104 cases resolved (all BCPD)

Total 13 UoF cases for this reporting cycle

\*21 DA (17 charged & 4 not charged)

\*1 responding to a call for service with a conflict of interest (not charged)

\*1 rude & discourteous conduct (charged) & unlawful arrest (not charged)

\*1 failure to take required police action (not charged) & BWC violation (charged)

\*1 making inappropriate comments and misuse of equipment (not charged)

\*1 harassment & stalking & sexual assault (not charged)

\*2 failure to make required arrest (2 not charged)

\*1 entering a home without permission & unauthorized background check (not charged)

\*2 harassment (2 not charged)

\*2 failure to provide name & ID (2 not charged)

\*2 rude & discourteous conduct & failure to provide name & ID (2 not charged)

\*7 violation of investigation procedures (7 not charged)

\*1 rude & discourteous conduct & racial disparity (not charged)

\*1 violation of investigation procedures & failure to take required police action (not charged)

\*1 unlawful collection of evidence (not charged)

\*2 UoF policy violation (2 not charged) & BWC violation (1 charged, 1 not charged)

\*1 UoF policy violation & rude & discourteous conduct (not charged)

\*2 rude & discourteous conduct (2 not charged) & BWC violation (2 charged)

\*1 improper tow (not charged)

\*1 profiling (not charged)

\*1 failure to provide accurate information about the law (not charged)

\*1 failure to provide name & ID, failure to respond to call for service in a timely manner,  
violation of investigation procedure (not charged)



- \*1 UoF policy violation (charged), rude & discourteous conduct (charged), conduct unbecoming of a BCPD officer (charged), failure to offer medical treatment (not charged)
  
- \*2 failure to intervene in a UoF incident (2 not charged)
  
- \*1 failure to intervene in a UoF incident (not charged) & BWC violation (charged)
  
- \*1 failure to take necessary police action on a violent mental disorder call (charged)
  
- \*1 UoF policy violation, BWC violation, making false stmt in charging documents (not charged)
  
- \*1 violation of investigation procedures (not charged) & BWC violation (charged)
  
- \*1 UoF policy violation & making inappropriate comments (not charged)
  
- \*3 failure to take required police action (3 not charged)
  
- \*1 improper arrest (not charged)
  
- \*1 improper entry & arrest (not charged)
  
- \*1 failure to offer medical treatment (not charged)
  
- \*2 improper arrest & preferential treatment (2 not charged)
  
- \*1 racial profiling (not charged)

\*1 racial bias (not charged)

\*1 preferential treatment, violation of 1st amendment rights, & failure to take required police action (not charged)

\*1 violation of 1st amendment rights (not charged)

\*1 conducting an improper interview (not charged)

\*1 assault (not charged)

\*3 theft (3 not charged)

\*1 UoF policy violation, using profane/obscene language & gestures, & failure to notify supervisor of UoF incident (charged on all)

\*18 rude & discourteous conduct (1 charged & 17 not charged)

\*6 UoF policy violations (not charged)