



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

**MEETING #14-MARCH 18, 2024 @ 11:00 AM,**

**ROOM #118, HISTORIC COURTHOUSE AND VIA WEBEX**

### **Call to Order:**

- Chair Linda Shields (District 2) called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m.

### **Roll Call**

- Ralph Dennis (District 3), John Chambers (District 4), Renee Streib (District 5), and Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer (District 7), appeared in person. Kara White (At-Large) and Nigeria Rolling-Ford (At-Large) appeared via WebEx. Chair Linda Shields (District 2) appeared via WebEx for the beginning of the meeting, but arrived in person later.
- Peter Fitzpatrick (District 1) and Linda Shields (Chair-District 2) appeared in person, arriving after the beginning of the meeting.
- Henry Callegary and Kelly La Valley were in attendance from the Baltimore County Administrative Office.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

- Ralph Dennis (District 3) moved to adopt the minutes of the January 12, 2024 Police Accountability Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer (District 7).
- The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Administrative Updates:**

- Mr. Callegary provided administrative updates on the Equitable Policing Advisory Group (EPAG).
- The EPAG met in February for updates. The group includes Chief McCullough, members of the Baltimore County Police Department, members of the community and the Baltimore County Government. The EPAG's work has been focused

primarily on traffic stops and related data. The group had its first open meeting engaging members of the public.

- Mr. Callegary gave an update on the status of legislative bill introduced in the Maryland General Assembly. Several bills have been introduced that would impact the Baltimore County Police Accountability Board, including legislation that would allow the PAB to investigate reports of law enforcement misconduct. A bill was introduced that would extend the timeline for the Administrative Charging Committee to charge officers in cases where there is a criminal investigation or case running concurrently, a bill that would allow officers to request a show cause order if they believe that their rights have been violated in the investigatory process, and a bill was introduced that would allow officers to accept summary punishment in cases which are deemed to be low level offenses have all been introduced.

### **New Business:**

- Chief Robert McCullough of the Baltimore County Police Department discussed the Equitable Policing Advisory Group. The EPAG has been studying traffic stop data, policy issues and research. One of the main concerns is post-stop engagement. There is research on what happens once the officer walks up to the vehicle, speaks to the person and how decisions are made on citations or additional actions. EPAG is working on implementing improvements, especially on the topic of data collection. The examination of working with the Maryland State Police to gather additional data that will help to further understand and make better determinations on traffic stops.
- Chief McCullough spoke on accountability in the Baltimore County Police Department. It is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the BCPD. There is continued work on BCPD's collective consciousness as an agency and continues examining use of force. There is continuing de-escalation training, exploring types of tactics and techniques. More police vehicles will be present in communities.
- Chief McCullough spoke about the State of Maryland's matrix for discipline and stated that there are some concerns. The matrix needs improvement and should be re-visited.
- Deputy Chief Jim Black of the Baltimore County Sheriff's Office spoke about the duties of the Sheriff's Department. The primary functions are security, specifically for the Circuit Court. The Sheriff's Office performs service and court process, evictions, summonses, transportation of incarcerated individuals from the Baltimore County Detention Center to courthouses throughout the state, and institution transports. There is an arrest warrant division, which serves a variety of warrants, with the primary function being child support non-compliance. The Sheriff's Office attends the same entry level training academy that BCPD attends. The Sheriff's Office have patrol dogs used in apprehending suspects as well as gun and bomb dogs. There is a Professional Standards Bureau which is responsible for recruitment, applications for improvement and serve as the Internal Affairs Unit. The current Undersheriff was a Colonel in the Baltimore City Police Department, Indianapolis

Police Department Chief of Police, and Indianapolis head of Department and Public Safety.

**Updates on the Administrative Charging Committee by Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer (District 7-ACC Designee):**

- The Administrative Charging Committee meet on January 5, 2024, February 2, 2024, March 1, 2024 and March 8, 2024.
- 75 cases have been reviewed and deliberated.
- 74 opinions have been rendered, with one opinion being deferred pending information requested from Internal Affairs.
- Of the 74 opinions, 18 have involved use of force complaints.
- The ACC has issued opinions in the following case categories:
  - 22 departmental accidents. 20 officers were administratively charged. Two officers not administratively charged.
  - 2 discrimination complaints, not administratively charged.
  - 1 rude and discourteous conduct, failure to offer medical assistance, not administratively charged.
  - 3 rude and discourteous behavior, one officer was administratively charged, 2 not administratively charged.
  - 1 failure to write a report and improperly threatening arrest, not administratively charged.
  - 1 failure to take necessary police action, not administratively charged.
  - 1 failure to conduct an investigation in a timely fashion, failure to preserve evidence and failure to conduct an interview, not administratively charged.
  - 3 unnecessary use of force, not administratively charged.
  - 10 excessive force, not administratively charged.
  - 1 sexual assault and excessive force, not administratively charged.
  - 8 unprofessional execution of a search warrant, not administratively charged.
  - 2 serving an inactive warrant, not administratively charged.
  - 1 unlawful search, not administratively charged.
  - 1 illegal search, not administratively charged.
  - 1 failure to resolve a parking complaint, not administratively charged.
  - 1 failure to resolve a call for service, not administratively charged.
  - 1 unprofessional conduct, not administratively charged.
  - 2 racial profiling, not administratively charged.
  - 1 theft of a gun, failure to report gun theft, not administratively charged.
  - 3 unprofessional conduct, failure to de-escalate, improper threat of arrest, not administratively charged,
  - 1 excessive force, racial profiling, violating constitutional rights, discourteous conduct, not administratively charged.
  - 3 excessive force and improper handling of personal property, not administratively charged.

- 1 sexual assault and body worn camera violation, not administratively charged for sexual assault, administratively charged for violating body worn camera policy
- 1 improper tow and unprofessional handling of a call for an accident, not administratively charged.
- 1 improper traffic stop and failure to identify a supervisor, not administratively charged.
- 1 unfair treatment, failure to provide accurate information about the law, not administratively charged.
- Next meeting of the Administrative Charging Committee will be held on April 5, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse and via Webex.

**Appointment of Trial Board Members:**

- Ralph Dennis (District 3) moved to appoint Bernadette White to serve as the civilian member of the April 8, 2024 Trial Board for the Maryland Transit Authority Police. The motion was seconded by John Chambers (District 4).
- This motion was approved unanimously.
- Ralph Dennis (District 3) moved to appoint J. Hollis Albert to serve as the civilian member of the April 26, 2024 Trial Board for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Police. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer (District 7).
- This motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Linda Shields (District 1) announced that she will not seek another term as the Chair of the Baltimore County Police Accountability Board or as the Police Accountability Board member for District 2.

**Public Comment:**

- A member of the public commented that she appreciated all the questions being asked at the Administrative Charging Committee’s meeting and getting clarification on the Baltimore County Police Department’s disciplinary process.

**Adjournment and Next Meeting:**

- Linda Shields (Chair-District 2) reminded members of the Baltimore County Police Accountability Board meeting on June 24, 2024, which will be held in Room #118, of the Baltimore County Historic Courthouse at 12:00 p.m. and via WebEx.
- At 12:07 p.m., Ralph Dennis (District 3) moved that the Baltimore County Police Accountability Board adjourn until June 24, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. John Chambers (District 4) seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved unanimously.