

**Minutes for November 9, 2017**  
**Civilian Law Enforcement Review Board**  
**City of Memphis**

**Call to Order**

The meeting of the Civilian Law Enforcement Review board was formally called to order by Chairman Ralph White at 4:10p.m.

**Board Members Present:**

Ralph White, Chair	Sandeep Pednekar
Casey Bryant	David Acey
Dwan Gilliom	June Chinn-Jointer
Marie Finney	John Marek

**Board Members Absent:**

CM Worth Morgan  
Florida Jackson  
Alfredo Pena

**Approval of Agenda and Minutes:**

No motion was made to approve the October 12<sup>th</sup> minutes due to a delay with the company providing the transcript for the minutes.

**Items of Discussion**

**Old Business**

- a) Chairman Ralph White greeted the board, and introduced and welcomed Marie Finney, new board member. Ms. Finney stated she was delighted to be there and eager to serve. Chairman White described CLERB as a good group that wants to make sure that citizens are treated well by looking at the facts that are presented and bringing some resolve to them.
  
- b) Investigator Arthur Robinson stated that old business would be presented by board member John Marek in reference to Case # I2016-032/Likisha Clark. Mr. Marek stated that the letter was mostly finished and asked for suggestions from the Board.

- c) Chairman White expressed his disappointment at the response letters from Memphis Police Director Michael Rallings in regard to several cases. The director maintained his original rulings on the cases of Ms. Claudette Taylor/ ISB # I2012-090 and Mr. James Bolden/ ISB #1080-11. Chairman White mentioned to the board that City Councilman Worth Morgan has been absent for ten consecutive meetings or more. Chairman White suggested drafting a letter to the chairman of city council regarding Mr. Morgan's absence. Mr. Marek expressed his concern for this possibly rendering the board ineffective and suggested the possibility of a new ordinance that grants binding decisions. Ms. June Chinn-Jointer agreed, as well as Chairman White. Ms. Chinn-Jointer also expressed concern that Director Rallings' responses are being directed to the attention of Ms. Virginia Wilson, Board Administrator, instead of Chairman White, who agreed. Mr. Marek agreed to draft the letter to city council and to the board for review.
  
- d) Mr. Marek inquired about the December board meeting. The board had previously discussed tabling the December meeting as it would be close to the holidays. Chairman White said they may cancel the December meeting and reconvene in January 2018.
  
- e) Chairman White expressed his displeasure at citizens still being threatened by police and pressured by excessive force, feeling ineffective. Ms. Bryant suggested being more detailed in responses to Director Rallings. Chairman White reiterated that the Board is asking for additional training for the officers. He also suggested that Mayor Strickland be copied on the letter to council once finished.
  
- f) Ms. Bryant suggested bringing media attention to the cases. Mr. Robinson reminded the board that he sends a press release to the media prior to every board meeting. Mr. Marek suggested copying the press on the letter to the council and stated that the board does not always side against the officer in these cases. He also mentioned that a motion can be made to send their results to the press after the letter is finalized.
  
- g) Chairman White mentioned the Neely Agency who created the board's website and announced that the website is live at [clerbmemo.org](http://clerbmemo.org). He also requested that Board members continue to submit their bios to the Neely Agency. Mr. Johnson, a representative of the Neely Agency, stated that the letters from the Director were not posted yet on the website. Mr. Pednekar said the letters should be posted, and Mr. Marek agreed, and suggested looking into redactions that may need to be made before posting. Mr. Marek asked Ms. Grambergs to check on the redaction system, and she agreed.

- h) Chairman White asked Mr. Robinson about the status of the annual report. Mr. Robinson said that his portion of the report is complete and Ms. Wilson, who was out, is still working on her portion. Chairman White asked for it to be available by the January meeting so the board can vote on it.
  
- i) Mr. Robinson discussed the cases that the board had not gotten to yet. Chairman White suggested that for cases that have been sustained, for which a substantial amount of punishment was brought, that they table it as is. Chairman White asked for a motion to sustain. Ms. Bryant moved that the board not take a vote on sustained cases. Mr. Gilliom and Mr. Acey seconded. Board members voted yes, except for a friendly nay from Mr. Marek.
  
- j) Mr. Marek advised that he withdraw from Maurren Spain's case in a future meeting because he represented Ms. Spain as her attorney in that case. Mr. Pednekar agreed, but suggested Mr. Marek still contribute to the discussion of the case. Mr. Marek agreed that he would contribute to the Board's discussion.
  
- k) Chairman White stated the February CLERB meeting will be held at the Benjamin L. Hooks Library on Poplar Avenue, with subsequent meetings taking place in different neighborhoods, libraries, and community centers throughout the next year to increase citizen participation. January's meeting will be held in City Hall as usual.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by John Marek and seconded by Casey Bryant. The meeting was formally adjourned by Chairman White at 5:13 pm.