

Minutes for August 10, 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 White at 4:40 pm.

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

CM Worth Morgan
Alfredo Pena
Florida Jackson

Approval of Minutes

The CLERB Board Meeting was officially called to order by Chairman Ralph White at 4:40p.m. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Dwan Gilliom and seconded by John Marek.

Items of Discussion

- a) The Board had a brief discussion about the letters that were compiled by Board Members Bruce Kramer, John Marek and Casey Bryant and sent to Director Rallings on July 14th and July 18th on behalf of complainants, Claudette Taylor, Reginald Johnson, and James Bolden.

Chairman White stated that the Board did not need a motion on the corrections made to the letters. The Board reviewed the letters at the July meeting and decided that it was ok for the letter writing committee (Bryant, Kramer, and Marek) to make the necessary changes.

- b) Chairman White discussed with the Board the possibility of changing venues for Board Meetings from City Hall to other city facilities, including community centers, the Ben Hooks Library, and other locations.

Marek stated that it would be great to change the meeting location as long as we can find a venue that would allow the meetings to be recorded. David Acey mentioned that Orange Mound would be a great venue.

Bryant suggested checking with Latino Memphis for future board meetings. Board Administrator Virginia Wilson requested that the Board forward their venue recommendations to her (Wilson) and she would compile a list of venue recommendations for the Board to review.

- c) Chairman White gave a brief overview of the website. The Chairman stated that the website was not where it should be and recommended a committee of three (Florida Jackson, June Chinn-Jointer, Dwan Gilliom) to work with the website designers (The Neely Agency) to assist with getting the website completed.
- d) Chairman White asked the Board for a recommendation on whether the Board should hear sustained cases, where discipline has already been imposed by MPD. Chairman White stated he (White) thinks the Board should not get involved in cases that are sustained.

Dwan Gilliom said no, absolutely not.

Chairman White stated that when a complaint has gone to Internal Affairs (IA), the Board should only get involved if IA did not act appropriately. However, in the cases that the Board is receiving, IA did address the cases appropriately and they are in compliance. Chairman White mentioned that the Board does not want to challenge the Director by going behind the Director and making decisions on cases on which judgment has been made. Chairman White further stated that the Board reviews what occurred and how the MPD responded and MPD responded appropriately.

John Marek stated his concerns in not handling sustained cases. In a case where MPD requests training or a slap on the wrist as a type of punishment but to the Board it looks egregious and the punishment appears to be too light for the Officer(s) for that particular incident, the Board will not be reviewing these types of cases to determine this outcome.

Chairman White suggested the Board review each case on a case by case basis with consideration of the reprimand by IA. Chairman White stated that he thinks IA has done a good job with the cases that come before them.

Chairman White advised there is a case that where the individual is looking for compensation and that type of case should not go before the Board, but should go to an attorney.

Chairman White asked for a motion that the Board would not hear sustained cases.

Board Member Bryant asked if there has been any interest or suggestions in readdressing sustained cases.

Wilson stated yes there have been questions from the complainants.

Marek suggested that the Board wait for more Board Members before voting on whether to hear sustained cases.

Gilliom agreed that the Board should delay the vote on hearing sustained cases.

Chairman White stated that while the Board is delaying the vote, the Board needs to seriously look into this matter.

e) Complainant Dale Robinson asked if he could address the CLERB Board.

Chairman White suggested that Investigator Arthur Robinson speak with Dale Robinson about his case for purposes of getting on the meeting agenda.

New Business

- Elvira Morales was sworn in by Chairman White with the assistance of Interpreter Mernan A Silva Zetina. Ms. Morales gave testimony to the Board.
- A motion was made by John Marek that the police officers be exonerated and attach some policy provisions with additional information added later.
- Marek's motion was seconded by Casey Bryant.

Adjournment

The meeting was formally adjourned by Chairman White at 6:23pm.