

Draft Minutes Detroit Board of Police Commissioners

Date of Meeting: May 10, 2018 – 6:30 PM

Location: Detroit Police Department, 8th Precinct Auditorium, 21555 W. McNichols, Detroit, MI 48219

Vice Chairperson Eva Dewaelsche called the BOPC meeting to order at 6:30 PM (May 10, 2018)

Detroit Police Commission Membership / Attendance	Attend	Not-Attend
Lisa Carter, Chairperson (7:13 PM)	Yes	
Eva Dewaelsche, Vice Chairperson	Yes	
Willie E. Bell	Yes	
Elizabeth Brooks	Yes	
Darryl D. Brown	Yes	
Shirley A. Burch	Yes	
Willie E. Burton	Yes	
William M. Davis	Yes	
Conrad Mallett, Jr.	Excused	
Jim Holley	Yes	
Vacant	N/A	
Quorum (Yes)	9	

The Board acting in accordance with its rules approved the Agenda for May 10, 2018.

**The Board acting in accordance with its rules approved the following Board Minutes:
Thursday, May 3, 2018**

BOPC Vice Chairperson Eva Dewaelsche said Welcome, Good Evening. I am Police Commissioner at Large, Eva Garza Dewaelsche, Vice Chairperson of the Board of Police Commissioners. Chairperson Lisa Carter will be joining us soon. On behalf of the Board, thank you for attending today's Board meeting. For people viewing this meeting on your government cable channel, thank you for viewing. We are in the 8th Police Precinct, and Commissioner Darryl Brown is the host of this evening's meeting. Commissioner Brown would you like to welcome attendees to the meeting and our Board to your community?

INVOCATION: for the invocation we have invited the Detroit Police Chaplin Corp, Chaplin Devan Myatt.

BOPC Officers Report: (Eva Dewaelsche for Lisa Carter)

On behalf of the Board, I want to express our concern and support for fallen and injured officers and their families. Our Board receives a weekly report from the Department listing injured officers. I would ask the Chief during his remarks to provide us with any additional information related to injured and fallen officers.

The Board of Police Commissioners meets every week except for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday periods. We meet at Police Headquarters in regular session, 3 weeks in the month on Thursdays at 3:00 PM. We also meet in the community every 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM. Today is our 5th community meeting in the current calendar year. The Board of Police Commissioners exist to provide civilian oversight for the work of the Detroit Police Department. As a Board, we receive and investigate non-criminal citizens' complaints, monitor the operations of the Department and work with the Mayor and the Chief of Police to make or modify police policy. Our objective is the same as the city of Detroit, to provide for the best use of your tax dollars to improve on the quality of life within our city. As a Board, we bring a unique perspective to policing, the eye and the viewpoint of civilians. The principle of civilian oversight is as old and as important as all of the founding principles in our democracy. Separation of powers between and within government allows for accountability, transparency, rights to appeal and citizen control. These principles are important nationally as well as locally.

At our May 3rd meeting, we discussed Police Authorized Towing. The City has a responsibility to provide for safe roadways and confiscate, if necessary, vehicles for evidentiary purposes. In advance of the May 3rd meeting the BOPC directed questions to the Department in an effort to obtain specific information on which companies are towing in the City under the Police Authorized Towing Program. The information that emerged from the meeting did not conclusively list or provide the Board with any new information about which companies are authorized to provide towing services.

Our meeting was on a Thursday. The following Monday the Detroit Inspector General James Heath issued a letter indicating that his review of the indictment and subsequent guilty pleas of Gasper Fiore and Celia Washington made several towing companies ineligible to preform towing services in Detroit. I want to note that the scope of the BOPC's questions at our May 3rd meeting was an attempt to secure from the Department the same information. This Board asked for information about eligible companies in the towing program. This Board asked if the corporate affiliates of Casper Fiore had been stripped from the tow list. The response to this Board was that our questions would be answered later via corporation counsel. Our Board is very concerned with the extra ordinary means that the Department is invoking to communicate with this Board. Our Board exists to provide oversight and supervisory control over the Police Department. To do this work, it requires cooperation and accurate information, not delays. A copy of the Inspector General's letter was transmitted to each Board member yesterday. For the public, a copy of the communications can be obtained by contacting Inspector General James Heath. I hope this is the last time that a third party steps in to do our work because of impediments from the Department.

This evening, we have 4 scheduled presentations. First, we have a presentation from Ms. Bridget LaMar, DPD Interim Personnel Director. She will provide us with her regular personnel report on recruitment, hiring and other associated personnel matters. Next, we will have a presentation from DC Todd Bettison and Mr. Reid Wilson. DC Bettison is accommodating a request from Commissioner Darryl Brown to show and navigate the public open data portal to locate CompStat information. For citizens to access this information it will improve our understanding of crime and help breakdown some of the mysteries of policing and the rationale behind the placement of police resources. Bettison's presentation will be followed by a presentation on the Department's Annual Improvement Plan. Under the Detroit City Charter, the Chief of Police is required to provide to the Board an annual plan for improvements of the Department. This plan had been originally scheduled for presentation at our March 22, 2018 meeting, but the Department requested to reschedule the presentation. As many of you who follow DPD know, in the past few years the Department has introduced several innovations in policing. With the help of the Board, the Department has introduced body worn cameras, electronically controlled weapons, and a wide array of computerized enhancements. One of the central reasons for an improvement plan is to advise and discuss how these new elements fold into a longer term plan of operations within the Department. Such a plan also telescopes future needs of the Department. From such a plan, the Department should be in a better position to deduce labor needs, acquisitions of property and construction requirements. The bottom line is that citizens in Detroit are paying for 98% of these innovations and therefore should be part of the dialogue in spending tax dollars. My hope is that the presentation will address these issues and provide the Board and Detroiters with a forward thinking view of the Detroit Police Department.

Later in the meeting, we will have committee reports and oral communications from the audience earlier. I remind you, if you would like to speak to the Board, please make sure you print your name on a speaker's card. Cards are located in the back on the table or can be obtained by seeing Ms. Teresa Blossom, and she needs your card before the beginning of public comments.

Resolution: Commissioner Darryl Brown read into the record a resolution honoring the work of **Ms. Alicia George**.

RESOLUTION HONORING MRS. ALICIA GEORGE

WHEREAS Mrs. Alicia George graduated from Pershing High School with honors, and attended Ohio State University where she majored in business; and

WHEREAS Mrs. George is a dedicated Community and Business Leader of the City of Detroit. As the owner of the Java House and co-founder of Blight Busters, she has been a true pillar to the advancement of her community. Her commitment to the overall well-being of her neighborhood does not only include her work with the Detroit Police Department, but also her efforts working along with the Detroit City Council and Mayor's Office; and

WHEREAS As the co-founder of Blight Busters, Mrs. George is relentless in improving the community. She has supported the boarding of vacant dwellings and cutting down of overgrown trees and bushes in the community; and

WHEREAS Mrs. George also has opened the doors of Java House to facilitate meetings for the Eighth Precinct, and numerous community groups. She provided monetary donations which has aided in many of the precinct's community events over the years; and

WHEREAS Mrs. George has received Community Service Awards from Detroit City Council, Wayne County Commission, and the New Economic Initiative. She prides herself in living by the motto “Dreams Come True”.

WHEREAS As a longtime supporter of the Eighth Precinct, she is committed to assisting in any way that she can. Her sincerity and devotion to the neighborhood have a positive impact. Mrs. George is an example of the type of citizen that most residents of this community would want as a next-door neighbor. She is a stand up citizen, always vigilant against lawlessness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners speaking for the citizens of the city of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department, acknowledge the dedicated, hardworking, committed support of Mrs. Alicia George. Her service and devotion to improving the quality of life for all citizens in her community and throughout the city of Detroit, merits our highest regards.

DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Brown moved the resolution honoring the work of **Ms. Alicia George**.

Second, **Commissioner Davis**.

VOTE: **Yes = 9** **No = 0** **Abst. = 0** **MOTION APPROVED**

COP Police Report: Assistant Chief of Police Arnold Williams reported that crime is continuing to trend downward. AC Williams reported on CompStat data for the reporting period ending May 6, 2018. Williams reported Homicides percentage change between 2016 and 2017, -19% decrease in Homicides, Sexual Assaults 35% increase, Robbery -17% decrease, Carjacking -4% decrease, Aggravated Assaults -3% decrease, non-fatal shootings -20% decrease, Burglary -26% decrease, Larceny -1% decrease, Stolen Vehicle -24% decrease and Part 1 offenses -15% decrease. AC Williams gave a report on injured and fallen officers. AC Williams took exception with the comments of the Chair and indicated the department understood the role of the Board and seeks to cooperate with the Board. **Commissioner Burch** inquired about a fire at a Greenlight location on 7 Mile Road and Conant Street. Burch asked if the video from the Greenlight provided any additional information about the suspicious nature of the fire and if the Greenlight location was given priority status. **Commissioner Bell** acknowledged the outstanding memorial services held on behalf of the Interfaith Memorial Day. Bell also reaffirmed the comments of the Chair in the lack of cooperation by the Police Department and Law Department on the issues of Police Authorized Towing.

Presentations to the Board: (A) **Human Resources Report, Ms. Bridget LaMar, Interim Director Police Personnel,**
(B) **COMPSTAT Website Crime Viewer, DC Todd Bettison and Reid Wilson,**
(C) **Detroit Police Department Annual Improvement Plan, Lieutenant Brandon Lewis**
(D) **8th Precinct Report.**

A. Human Resources Report, Interim DPD HR/Personnel Director Bridget LaMar. Interim Director LaMar provided statistical data for May 2018. She indicated that of the total positions (2550 Sworn) in the Department, DPD has 72 Vacant. Of the 630 (Civilian) positions in the Department, 42 are vacant. LaMar discussed recruitment and MCOLES processing indicating the Department has 98 recruits in process and from 7/1/2017 to 4/30/2018 the Department hired 223 individuals from 3,878 applicants. LaMar also provide residency data, attrition data and leaves of absence and restricted duty data. **Commissioner Davis** inquired if the non-residents employed by the Department as police officers live more than 20 miles outside of the city boundaries? Ms. LaMar indicated she did not this information at this time, but would prepare a report on this subject for the Board. **Commissioner Holley** inquired about the race and gender mix of employees in the Department and asked if there is anything that the Board/Department should be doing to increase the number of minority police officers including the development of a boot-camp that would help applicants in their job readiness skills and their ability to master the written examinations associated with entrance into the police academy. **Commissioner Dewaelsche** asked about the large number of disqualifications of individual applying to the Department. **Commissioner Burton** suggested that the City put money back into the hands of officers to retain them and stop the lost to neighboring police agencies.

(B) COMPSTAT Website Crime Viewer, DC Todd Bettison and Reid Wilson demonstrated the use of the Detroit OpenData Portal – Detroit Crime Viewer. The viewer is located at <https://data.detroitmi.gov/crime-viewer/index.html>. Mr. Wilson gave a brief history of the development of the web initiative ending in the launch of the viewer on 3/8/2018. Wilson discussed the project partners including the citizen’s feedback in the project. Wilson described the websites ability to isolate crime data by type and location by utilizing it many filters.

(C) Detroit Police Department Annual Improvement Plan, Lieutenant Brandon Lewis reported on the Department 2018 Police Improvement Goals. Lewis grouped his comments into three areas, Enforcement, Support Operations and Administration. In Enforcement, Lewis focused on crime reduction tools such as expansions to the Department’s current array of program

including Ceasefire and Project Green Light. Lewis also suggested the important role that morale plays in reducing crime. Lewis focused on support operations by listing the deployment of electronic control weapons, fleet modernization (increase vehicle availability by 25% as well as other managerial goals to increase crash accountability) and technological upgrades including the Real Time Crime Center. Lewis continued his remarks on Administrative efforts including recruitment, retention of officer, internal morale and peer support efforts and increase community partnerships. Lewis also discussed the Department Facilities Goals which included building improvement or renovations to Downtown Services facility, 3rd, 4th, 6th, and 10th Precincts. Additionally Lewis discussed recent improvement to the Harbormaster and Air Support Hanger and leased space at 2121 Fort Street.

Commissioner Dewaelsche inquired if the Improvement plan had an accompanying strategic plan to anticipate or increase revenues to support either wage increases or improvement in benefits. **Commissioner Bell** indicated that the Board would like to know if the Department is spending more time police deployment for patrol. Bell indicated that the heart of good police work was the amount of time and energy devoted to patrol. Bell further suggested that the soft-type police activities like visiting schools takes away from patrol time which is also the most visible and critical types of police time. Bell also indicated that as far as recruitment is concerned, the Department should show the new face of the Department younger, mixed minority officers including female officers. **Commissioner Burch** indicated the need for more officers walking and biking in the neighborhoods. Burch emphasized traffic enforcement and cleanliness within the city. Commissioner Burch also indicated the new Commander for the 11th Precinct was Constance Slappy. **Commissioner Holley** inquires if the DPD was still losing officers to neighboring municipalities and suggest that in addition to investments in equipment we should invest in more financial compensation for members of the Department. **Commissioner Burton** suggest an arrangement wherein the Department would provide scholarships for training. The Chair suggested that the Board has already gone on record to support HB 5540 by State Representative Santana which seeks to address repayment costs associated with municipalities that take officers from other Departments immediate after graduation from the police academy or within the first five years of work in cities like Detroit.

(D) 8th Precinct Report Commander Jacqueline Pritchett and Captain John Svec reported on crime in the 8th Police precinct and well as strategies to combat crime. Some of the strategies included were target enforcement, special traffic enforcement, Ceasefire activities and targeted roundups with the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC). **Commissioner Brown** inquired about the number of citizen complaints in the precinct and **Commander Pritchett** indicated that she had taken a hard approach in enforcement and discipline on citizen complaints related to demeanor, service and procedure. Her approach included repeated attendance at Roll Call emphasizing correct methods, look for repeat offenders and monitoring body worn camera footage within the precinct.

BOCP Standing Committee Reports: Commissioner Brooks reported on the work of the Recruitment Committee with a special focus on the need to employ recruitment tools like newspaper articles and advertisement, outreach programs to schools and churches, recruitment at all police sponsored activity. Commissioner Brooks also reported on a recent visit to the Detroit Police Academy with staff and four Commissioners.

Report from the Board Secretary. Mr. Hicks reported on three items listed on the agenda including 2018 D & E Graduation notice, and correspondence from Inspector General James Heath and Deputy Corporation Counsel Charles Raimi re: Police Authorized Towing and the removal from eligibility for several towing companies.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Announcements: The next meeting of the BOPC is Thursday, May 17, 2018 at Police Headquarters, 1301 Third Street, Detroit, MI at 3:00 PM and the next Community Meeting, scheduled for 6:30 PM is at Adams-Butzel Recreation Center, 10500 Lyndon Avenue, at 6:30 PM. Detroit, MI 48238.

Oral Communications from the Audience / Public Comments:

Anthony Thomas, B & G Towing complained about a notice withdrawing his company from the Police Authorized Towing program because of an alleged relationship with Joan Fiore. **Melvin Johnson** complained about the lack of progress in the murder of his son on May 20, 2017. Mr. Johnson indicated that the Department has not provided sufficient information on the case and that he witnessed the incident in front of his home. **Nasser Beydoun** addressed his concern about the lack of due process in the withdrawal of companies from the towing list and rotation process. **Nicholas Buchard** offered the Board a copy of the BOPC tow rules and suggested that due process be given to tow companies. Mr. Buchard also asked the Board who is the current tow monitor for the city. **Paul Ott** from Gene Towing asked to be returned to the towing program. **Joan Fiore** indicated

that she was removed from the tow list but still lease property to the city at 2121 Fort Street and has more than 1000 evidence vehicles left on her leased property. **Detroit City Councilmember Roy McCalister** indicated that the Police Department was critically important and that issues related to recruitment are important. McCalister also indicated he is the Chair of the Detroit City Council's Internal Operations Committee and is often asked to approve settlement and request for legal representation of officers. **Scotty Bowman** sought to clarify the comments from Commissioner Burton indicating that the scholarships are more effective than seeking reimbursements for the costs of training at that police academy. **Theo Bowden** announced that Saturday May 26, 2018 at Dabo Center her organization would sponsor a recruitment fair. She also described a hit and run of a woman on Linwood and Tireman indicating that the 8th precinct did not respond to the incident. Ms. Bowden also suggested the Board obtain more information on the 20 mile requirement for police residency. **Minister Bey** inquired what is it that the Board of Police Commissioners actually do in connection with the Police Department. Minister Bey suggested that if the Department had some good to offer the people then the people would come to the Department. **Tijuanna Morris** provided additional details on the traffic incident on Linwood and Tireman. She also indicated that several calls had been made to the Department, but she was placed on hold with 911.

Commissioner Bell moved that the Board of Police Commissioners meeting be adjourned.

Second, **Commissioner Davis Dewaelsche**.

VOTE: **Yes = 9** **No = 0** **Abst. = 0** **MOTION APPROVED**

Adjournment 9:25 PM.