

MEETING MINUTES

Police Accountability Board (PAB)
Quarterly meetings with local Law Enforcement Agencies
Thursday, September 19, 2024
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

In-Person Location: 101 Monroe Street, 9th Floor Conference Room Rockville, MD 20850

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Virtual Option: Zoom Link

Attendees: Bishop Paul Walker (Chair), Ken Kellner (Vice Chair), George Lluberes (Parliamentarian), Alicia Hudson, Alvin "Greg" McCray, Katharine "Kate" Manning, Chuck Williams, Ronald Wright, Chris Zatratz, Shelly Brown (Special Legal Counsel) Forrest Gilman-Reilly (staff), Laura Byers (staff, Minute Taker)

Absent Members: Chuck Williams

of General Public (nonmember) Attendees: Approx 7 ppl between Virtual and In-person

1. Welcome and Introduction from the Police Accountability Board Members

Summary:

- The Chair and each member introduced themselves and what the Police Accountability Board was tasked to do under the legislation.
- 2. Welcome and Introduction of local Law Enforcement Agencies

Summary:

• The Chair recognized each local Law Enforcement Agency and their Chief or designee present (either virtual or in person)

3. Review/Approve of Agenda & Minutes:

- Request approval of the June 25 Quarterly Chiefs meeting and September 5 PAB meeting minutes. Approved. (7 Yes/0 No)
- Request approval of the September 19 agenda. Approved. (7 Yes/0 No)
- 4. Staff Report

Agencies representatives.

Summary:

- The staff had no information to report.
- 5. Unfinished Business
 Ad-hoc provided an update on the Complaints Workgroup meeting with Law Enforcement
- 6. Questions from the PAB to Local Law Enforcement Agencies

Summary:

- The PAB members asked the local Law Enforcement Agencies (either in person or virtually) the following questions regarding Police Accountability topics and feedback:
 - 1. We are in receipt of FC 710 describing the procedure for officers conducting consent searches; the PAB has heard resounding expressions of concern from residents and community stakeholders in support of the Freedom to Leave Act. What are any changes/adjustments that you perceive could be helpful in improving community trust regarding consent searches?
 - Answer: Discussed the outcome from the September 16th Public Safety meeting and plans to move forward with suggestions. A request was made for the PAB to share any suggestions.
 - Action Item To schedule a meeting to discuss the FC710 function codes with Montgomery County Department of Police.
 - 2. Is there a narrative/script for officers to state in order to ensure knowing and voluntary consent of persons before conducting the consent search?
 - a. Can you give an example of the statements given by the officer when requesting consent to search of a vehicle?
 - Answer: Police officers use the mandatory consent search forms and share the scripted language.
 - 3. Is there training regarding an officer's gestures and body stance when approaching persons and requesting a consent search?
 - a. Are officers instructed to approach stopped vehicles with their hands on their weapons?
 - Answer: No timeframe has been determined. If consent is not granted, a person should not be detained outside the time needed to issue a citation that warranted the traffic stop.
 - 4. Is the form given for the consent search available in translations of languages representative of Montgomery County residents?

a. What happens if the person states he/she does not understand what the officer is requesting?

Answer: Translation is available and currently using the Voiance language line which contains over 200 languages. A platform is available to assist people with disabilities.

5. How long is the person detained after he/she has declined consent?

Answer: No timeframe has been determined/assigned to regulate a stop from a police officer. If consent is not granted, a person should not be detained outside the time needed to issue a citation that warranted the traffic stop.

- 6. Regarding de-escalation training, what, if any, changes/adjustments have been made to improve officers (without MCOT) responding to calls where persons are in mental health crisis?
 - a. On average, how often is non-lethal force employed and in what type of instances may such force be used?

Answer: Continue to train officers in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) and less than 200 officers to be trained. Over 150 officers have completed training the Internet-Categorization of Attacks Toolkit (I-CAT).

Action Item - To reach out to youth groups to schedule a meet with the Listening Tour. (PAB Members)

- 7. What are the requirements for maintaining the body-worn camera turned on?
 - a. When and why may it be turned off during officers' responding to calls?
- 8. What measures have been implemented or are being considered regarding hiring and recruitment practices following the revelation that an officer hired by the MCPD was involved with the January 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol?

Answer: The officer in question was not employed with the Montgomery County Department of Police at the time of the incident. Extensive background checks were performed on social media, and interviews of peers and the public members.

- 9. Are there any discussions about improving the type of Body-Worn Cameras being utilized to improve the recording of information during interaction with citizens, and requiring them to be activated immediately when the officer is on shift and leaving their vehicle?
 - Changing to a camera that records 360 degrees when activated allows for recording of every activity around the officer front, back, left, and right.
 - It can be worn on either shoulder or on a hat/helmet depending on the type. The only thing it does not image is if the field of view is blocked.
 - a. If this is not under consideration, in an effort to be proactive can it become a consideration as a way to improve?

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Answer: The police department has and will continue to look into new technology for body-worn cameras for better advancement. The body-worn cameras are used to capture a recording of events and illustrate the vision of officers.

7. Questions from the Local Law Enforcement Agencies to the Police Accountability Board

Summary:

Inquired about meeting regarding training and academy.

Note: Not every question, comment, or concern is noted within these minutes.

8. Public Comments:

No public questions.

9. Adjournment

Bishop Paul Walker, Chair

Next **PAB** Meeting: December 19 (7 pm-9 pm) **In-Person Location:** 101 Monroe Street, 9th Fl Conference Room Rockville, MD 20850

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Virtual https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84683097750