

# COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY

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December 12, 2023

The Honorable County Council of Dorchester County  
Dorchester County Office Building  
501 Court Lane, Room 110  
Cambridge, Maryland 21613

RE: Police Accountability Board Annual Report

Dear Council Members:

This letter is regarding the report the Dorchester County Police Accountability Board (the "PAB") is required to submit annually on or before December 31<sup>st</sup> to the County Council of Dorchester County (the "County Council") as required by § 3-102(a)(4)(ii) of the Public Safety Article of the Md. Code Ann.

Pursuant to the foregoing, the report shall identify any trends in the disciplinary process of police officers in Dorchester County. The report shall also make recommendations on changes to policy that would improve police accountability in Dorchester County.

The PAB has held several meetings and begun general discussions with local Law Enforcement Agencies ("LEA"). Since several members of the Administrative Charging Committee (the "ACC") only recently received training, they have not reviewed the limited number of complaints received by the local LEAs. Subsequently, the PAB is not able to provide a report on trends and/or recommendations on policy as required.

However, we can share the following pertinent information with you on administrative milestones:

### 2023 PAB Activities

In 2023, the PAB adopted procedures and met with Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) representatives at its July 10, 2023 and October 16, 2023 meetings.

- At its July 10, 2023 meeting, the PAB spoke to the LEAs regarding the number of complaints they have received. At that time, the Sheriff's Office had two complaints against Deputies for which the investigations were complete and ready to send to the ACC.

- At the October 16, 2023 meeting, the topics the PAB discussed with the LEA representatives were: illegal guns, recruitment, the City of Cambridge's curfew, juvenile crime and prior State law amendments. Additionally, they received an update on the amount of complaints received by each LEA. The City of Cambridge Police Department and Hurlock Police Department have not received any additional complaints whereas the Sheriff's Office had one additional complaint.

#### Administrative Charging Committee

At its August 29, 2023 meeting, after conducting interviews, the PAB appointed Stephen Aaron and Zia Ashraf to the ACC as its appointees. Paul Riordan PAB Chair, at the PAB's October 16, 2023 meeting, appointed Derek Sampson to serve as the Chair of the ACC. The following Administrative Charging Committee Members have received training: Mr. Griffin, Zia Ashraf and Vaughn Evans. Steve Aaron and Bernie Sampson will be scheduled for training at a later date. Patrick Thomas, Esquire, who will be the attorney for the Administrative Charging Committee, confirmed that Mr. Aaron and Mr. Sampson cannot participate in meetings until they have been trained as it is a precondition to serving. A meeting is in the process of being scheduled between Mr. Thomas, Mr. Griffin, ACC Chairman, and myself with the goal of scheduling an ACC organizational meeting.

We look forward to a continued cooperative relationship with the local LEAs and encourage you to attend one of our quarterly meetings held the second Monday of the month at 4:00 p.m. in the County Council meeting room, the next of which will be January 8, 2024.

The PAB looks forward to providing annual reports to the County Council commencing in 2024.

Sincerely,



Paul Riordan  
Chairman