

**Police Accountability Board Meeting
Regular Session
April 8, 2024**

The Police Accountability Board for Dorchester County convened into open session in Room 110 of the County Office Building at 4:40 p.m. on April 8, 2024. A roll call of the members was conducted. Present in Room 110 were: Paul Riordan, Chair; Derek Griffin, Vice Chair; ChanTay Nelson; Keith Adkins, and Bob Kirwan. Also present were Donna F. Lane, Clerk to Council/Police Accountability Board Liaison. Rebecca Guay, Legal Counsel, joined the meeting via telephone. Michael Larrimore, Sr. and Eddie James were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2024

The Police Accountability Board (PAB) Members approved the two sets of Regular Session Minutes for January 8, 2024. The PAB agreed to amend the Regular Session agenda for this meeting to remove the Closed Session meeting.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

Ms. Lane read the summaries for the January 8, 2024 Closed Session meetings as follows:

The Police Accountability Board convened into Regular Session on January 8, 2024 at 4:44 p.m. in Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge 21613 and motioned to adjourn into Closed Session pursuant to Title 3 of the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, pursuant to §3-305(b)(2) to protect the privacy or reputation of individuals with respect to a matter that is not related to public business. Present were: Paul Riordan, Chair; Mike Larrimore, Sr.; Derek Griffin; ChanTay Nelson; Keith Adkins, Eddie James and Bob Kirwan. Also present were Donna F. Lane, Clerk to Council/Police Accountability Board Liaison; and Rebecca Guay, Legal Counsel.

The Police Accountability Board convened into a Closed Session on January 8, 2024 at 4:46 p.m. in Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge 21613 to approve the Closed Session minutes for July 10, 2023 and August 29, 2023.

JANUARY 8 2024 CLOSED SESSION MINUTE APPROVAL

The PAB agreed to amend the agenda for this meeting to include the approval of the January 8, 2024 Closed Session minutes. The Board approved those minutes.

DISCUSSION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Pursuant to the request Paul Riordan, Chair, the following individuals introduced themselves: Major Jeff Biskach, Deputy Chief, Hurlock Police Department; Lieutenant Greg McCray, Administrative Lieutenant, City of Cambridge Police Department (CPD). Mr. Riordan asked them if they had anything to report to their attention. Major Biskach said he not have anything to bring to the PAB's attention. Lt. McCray advised that CPD had eight complaints that read ready to go before the Administrative Charging Committee.

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Chairman Riordan said he viewed a *Dorchester Star* article summarizing the Cambridge Police Department's (CPD) 2023 year-end report that highlighted that there were less homicides and certain crimes compared to 2022 which may be attributed to citizen involvement. In response to his question, Lieutenant Greg McCray said the community efforts policy emphasizes "patrolling with a purpose," increasing visibility, and spending a minimum two hours a day in an area that needs to be patrolled, which seems to be working. He advised that CPD has also made key arrests in recent months that attributed to their success.

In response to Chairman Riordan's questions, Major Biskach said he does not have a matter to bring to the attention of the PAB or the County Council. Lt. McCray, in response to inquiries from Chairman Riordan, said: 1) recruitment has increased; 2) there are two individuals currently in the Police Academy; 3) a CPD Officer went to the Sheriff's Office; and, 4) funding is a key component in law enforcement.

Lt. McCray said the Citizens Police Academy will be held every Wednesday night during the month of May 2024 will begin in May 2024. Derek Griffin, Vice Chair, pursuant to Chairman Riordan's question, said the classes will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. during which there will be presentations and either simulations or videos of traffic stops. He noted that the Educational Police Officer will also attend these classes. He encouraged participation in this Academy.

Mr. Griffin, Vice Chair, said at a Conference in Annapolis last month, one of the major topics was the lack of PAB training on police policy and procedure. He said he spoke to Justin Todd, Chief of Police, CPD, at this conference, who told him about this academy. He referenced the ACC guidelines in which it is encouraged or recommended that the members do ride alongs with police. He advised that he participated in a ride-along with Corporal Weber. He said he was impressed with the knowledge Mr. Weber had of the neighborhood they visited. He encouraged the PAB members to do a ride along.

Mr. Griffin provided an overview of the Administrative Charging Committee's first meeting, which was administrative in nature. He said Zia Ashraf was elected Vice Chair. He said he is looking forward to work with the Law Enforcement agencies, noting that the ACC has cases to review. Pursuant to a query from Mr. Griffin, Ms. Lane advised that the complaints are provided to her, which are placed in a locked cabinet to which she only has access. Mr. Griffin said the ACC is currently reviewing the written complaints and body camera footage at the County Office building. In response to a question from Lt. McCray, Mr. Griffin said he is hopeful that the ACC will begin reviewing cases at its next meeting. Based on a question posed by Mr. Riordan, Lt. McCray said they provide a flash drive for each investigation to the ACC.

OTHER BUSINESS

A discussion ensued regarding the need for the PAB and the County Council to make appointments to the ACC since Benjamin Sampson, the Council appointee and Stephen Aaron, the PAB appointee, have not been trained, nor have they responded to multiple emails. Ms. Lane advised that Mr. Sampson is the Council representative which the Council will address shortly.

The next PAB meeting will be held on October 14, 2024.

Pursuant to inquiries from Mr. Riordan, Ms. Guay said: 1) the ACC has been assigned a separate counsel and are required to meet every month but can cancel a meeting if no business needs to be discussed; and,

2) ACC meetings are subject to the Maryland Open Meetings Act requirements so they must meet in open before going into a closed session.


Mr. Griffin provided information on other jurisdictions, one of which has over 800 complaints, and how they are staffed. He noted that one County has a 16 member staff to support the ACC and some jurisdictions are paying their ACC members an annual salary.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

With no further business to discuss, Board adjourned into Closed Session.

ATTEST:



Donna F. Lane
Board Liaison

Irene Barnes

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD



Paul Riordan, Chair



Derek Griffin, Vice Chair

Absent

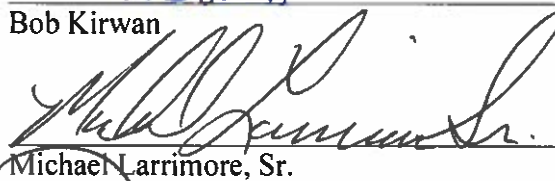
Keith Adkins



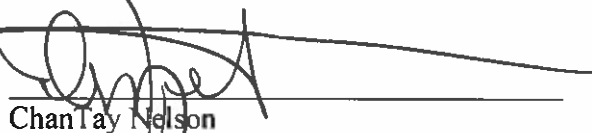
Eddie James

Absent

Bob Kirwan



Michael Larrimore, Sr.



ChanTay Nelson

Approved the 14 *October* day of ~~July~~ 8, 2024.