

**Draft Minutes Detroit Board of Police Commissioners**  
**Date of Meeting: Thursday, April 11, 2024 – 6:30 PM**  
**Location: Ford Resource and Engagement Center, 15491 Maddelein St., Detroit, Michigan 48205**

- I. **Chairperson QuanTez Pressley called the BOPC Board Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.**
- II. **Invocation.** Chaplain Kirk Goodlow provided the invocation.
- III. **Announcements.**

**Acting Board Secretary Robert Brown** announced the following:

**Next Board Meeting:** Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 3:00 p.m., Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third St., Detroit, Michigan 48226

**Next Community Meeting:** Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., hosted by the 8th Precinct, Location Forthcoming.

**Monthly Committee Meeting Scheduled for April 2024**

Policy Committee Meeting	Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
Citizen Complaints Committee Meeting	Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
Policy Committee Meeting	Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

All Committee Meeting are held at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters.

- IV. **Report from Acting Board Secretary Robert Brown / Communications Submitted to BOPC as incoming information:**
  - A. ALWOP PO Brandon Jordan
  - B. OCI WeeklyInventoryReport\_03 30 2024\_04 05 2024
- V. **Introduction of Police Commissioners. A roll call was held, and a quorum was declared.**

Detroit Board of Police Commissioners' Membership / Attendance		
	In Attendance	Not-In Attendance
QuanTez Pressley, Chairperson	Yes	
Tamara Liberty Smith	Yes	
Linda D. Bernard, Esq.		Excused
Cedric Banks	Yes	
Willie E. Bell		Excused
Willie E. Burton	Yes	
Lisa Carter	Yes	
Ricardo Moore		Excused
Jesus Hernandez		Excused
Rory Gamble		Excused
Darryl Woods	Yes	
Quorum (Yes)	6	

- VI. **Chairperson Pressley** requested the approval of the Agenda for Thursday, April 11, 2024. The motion was accepted and adopted.
- VII. **Chairperson Pressley** requested the approval of the Meeting Minutes for April 4, 2024, with any corrections. The minutes were adopted as presented.

**VIII. Introductions of Board administrative and investigative staff, the Chief of Police, Elected Officials or Representatives and Community Leaders.**

**IX. Chair's Report.**

- A.** Certificates were presented to the following individuals:  
Ms. Amy Childers, Mr. Thomas Degenhart, Mr. James Emon, Mr. Timothy Mark, Ms. Audrey Smith, Mr. James Stevens, Ms. Jeamia Wilson, Ms. Yolanda Ruiz-McCleary, and Sgt. Kimberly Wilson.
- B.** Certificates were present the NPO of the Ninth Precinct.  
NPO Aaron Kraszewski, NPO Odessa Mitchell, NPO Lester Johnson, NPO Kyra Fair, NPO Jalynda Wolanin, NPO Dallas Garner, NPO Brittany Burks, and NPO Aubrey Wade.
- C.** Resolutions were presented to following individuals:  
Mr. George Preston, Mr. Russ Bellant, and Mr. Phillip Sample.

**Commissioner Banks** read the resolution honoring Mr. George Preston.

**RESOLUTION HONORING  
MR. GEORGE PRESTON**

**WHEREAS** Originally from Boissezain, Virginia, Mr. George Preston moved to Detroit at the age of 12 and graduated from Southeastern High School. Following high school, Mr. Preston attended Wayne County Community College and earned an associate's degree; and

**WHEREAS** Mr. Preston has spent his life in law enforcement, having served on the Detroit Police Force for 28 years and is a former military police officer. He retired from Metro Parks after 10 years as a Parks Officer. His law enforcement background has given Mr. Preston the leadership expertise needed to excel in all that he endeavors to do in his community; and

**WHEREAS** Mr. Preston is currently serving as President of the Mohican Regent Home Owner's Association since 2010. During his term as President, Mr. Preston has implemented a vision of impacting blight and crime, and has put into effect several community initiatives, which include a community newsletter, neighborhood picnic, community clean-ups, and a neighborhood watch. Additionally, he has implemented more youth activities that promote the importance of education and imparts sound advice to the youth; and

**WHEREAS** In his leisure time, Mr. Preston is an avid baseball fan and was inducted into the Detroit Softball Negro League Hall of Fame in 2013. Additionally, Mr. Preston enjoys officiating high school baseball games and is the President of the Tuesday Night Mixer Bowling Leagues at Bonanza Bowl.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking on behalf of the citizens of the great City of Detroit, recognizes and honors the lifelong contributions and commitment to excellence in public service of Mr. George Preston. His display of unwavering community spirit has improved the quality of life for the citizens of Detroit.

We thank and congratulate you.

**Commissioner Woods** motioned, "that the Board of Police Commissioners adopt this resolution into our archives." The motion was adopted.

**Commissioner Banks** read the resolution honoring Mr. Russ Bellant.

**RESOLUTION HONORING  
MR. RUSS BELLANT**

**WHEREAS** Mr. Russ Bellant was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1948 and he has an extensive background in community service. Mr. Bellant served 12 years as a Detroit Library Commissioner in all officer titles, he is currently

serving 15 years as neighborhood block club president, and he rehabilitated houses for eleven years. He also served 10 years as President/VP of the neighborhood association 'We Care About Van Dyke/7 Mile'. Mr. Bellant is currently the Treasurer for the Ninth Precinct Police Community Relations Council since 2016. Additionally, Mr. Bellant is a former Treasurer of the Michigan Apprenticeship Steering Committee, which is a US Dept. of Labor advisory group and he also served as an advocate for Detroit Public Schools; and

**WHEREAS** Mr. Bellant attended Henry Ford Community College as well as Wayne State University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in History. Mr. Bellant served two years as student government president and a year as editor of the university newspaper. He organized antiapartheid work, authored several books, and taught a university course; and

**WHEREAS** Mr. Bellant worked at Great Lakes Steel. He worked in furnace labor and became a heavy equipment mechanic. Periodically, Mr. Bellant worked on ore docks, coke ovens and blast furnace labor gangs and held the position of Safety Committeeman in the mechanical shop. Mr. Bellant was inducted into the US Army and was a Sergeant in the Airborne Artillery. His achievements with the Army include being part of a seven-man team that represented the US Army at the 25th anniversary of D-Day at Normandy Beach, France in June 1969 and he also received an army commendation medal; and

**WHEREAS** Mr. Bellant has a rich employment history, serving in various roles and capacities over the years. He worked as a free-lance writer and researcher, newspaper editor, and research intern for UAW and also worked as a roofer. After serving in these roles, Mr. Bellant was employed with the City of Detroit, beginning his career in the Water Utility Department as a water plant operator and plant union steward. Additionally, Mr. Bellant directed the apprenticeship program, training electricians, plumbers, and millwrights. For several years, Mr. Bellant was the Director of Education for the International Union of Operating Engineers for Stationary Engineering in Michigan and directed that apprenticeship program as well. He also served as Chief of Staff for a state legislator.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking on behalf of the citizens of the great City of Detroit, recognizes and honors the lifelong contributions and commitment to excellence in public service of Mr. Russ Bellant. His display of unwavering community spirit has improved the quality of life for the citizens of Detroit.

We thank and congratulate you.

**Commissioner Carter** motioned, "that the Board of Police Commissioners adopt this resolution into our archives." The motion was adopted.

**Commissioner Woods** read the resolution recognizing Ninth Precinct Police Community Relations Leader Phillip Sample.

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NINTH PRECINCT POLICE-  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS LEADER PHILLIP SAMPLE**

**WHEREAS,** Mr. Phillip Sample is the founder and executive director of Response Able Hands and Minds Inc., a non-profit organization known as RAHAM. Both Mr. Sample and RAHAM are noted for extensive outreach to help achieve safer and stronger neighborhoods throughout the Ninth Precinct and other Detroit communities; and

**WHEREAS,** Mr. Sample took on his current mission with RAHAM after transforming himself and his life. Through his books, poetry and music, he frequently shares how his single mother raised him around gangs, drugs, and violence in poor neighborhoods in both Detroit and Chicago and how he became a gang member at age 11, a gang leader at 14, and a Michigan prison inmate at 18. During 15 years of incarceration, he began working to make amends and participated in efforts to help prevent youth involvement in crime and gang violence; and

**WHEREAS,** Since 2017, his work has focused on rebuilding community bonds that help youth, families, and neighborhoods thrive. He is a former outreach specialist with CeaseFire Detroit, the violence and gang prevention coalition with representatives from law enforcement, criminal justice, social services, and the clergy. As a resident of the Ninth Precinct, he frequently supports the Police-Community Relations Council its outreach programs and activities. Through RAHAM and its base at the Samaritan Center, he also collaborates with numerous other eastside groups that help bring residents together to improve public safety. As an author,

Mr. Sample touches even more people with messages about the power of positive change and community action.

**THEREFORE, BE IT  
RESOLVED**

The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking on behalf of the residents of the City of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department, recognizes and commends Mr. Phillip Sample for his dedicated leadership and contributions to improving public safety and police-community relations in the Ninth Precinct.

**Commissioner Carter** motioned, "that the Board of Police Commissioners adopt this resolution into our archives." The motion was adopted.

**X. Community Impact Report**

**Chief Investigator Jerome Warfield, Chief Investigator Office** informed the Board the status of the Investigator position has one more day to remain posted. The cases that were returned back from the Office of the Inspector General, our three new investigators have been working on those cases. The three of them in three weeks have resolved and close over 40 cases in just 3 weeks, and so I hats off to our new investigators and to the person is overseeing them Senior Investigator Jessica Hunter, who is their trainer. In addition to that, we have sent out letters to all of our recipients of our backlog cases. And those responses, are coming back in, we are making sure that we have one on one contact through those letters which each person who is in that backlog category from the OIG office. I want to thank Ms. Jasmin Taylor for her work, and our administrative staff at OCI Ms. Angela Cox and Ms. Stephanie Phillips have been just monumentally getting that work done for us. I want to thank Ms. Mary Barber who is just such an excellent resource for the Board of Police Commissioners and for our office, and I thank her just for all of her help that she gives me, and making sure there are numbers correct. Ending the month of March 2024, we had 1,753 cases open, of those 1,753 cases, 344 of those cases are from the 0 to 90 day period, and 1,409 of those cases are backlog, and though those 1,409 cases, 700 of those cases are the cases that came back from the office of the Inspector General. This gives us an indication of the trend that we're receiving, from January, February, and March we are outpacing the number of Citizen Complaint Reports that we're receiving in our office. As you know, in 2023, it was somewhat of a record year for us, as relates to our citizen complaints. And you'll see the number of cases that we've closed to date 143 cases have been closed to date, 420 citizen complaint complaints have come into our office for the first three months of 2024. If we compare this to the 2023, there are 322 complaint CCR's that came in 2023, and we had close 252 cases. The month of March, 44 cases that are close from all three teams and when you look at the cases that are close versus the cases that are still in review you're looking at a total production of a 116 cases for the month of March. So, considering the fact, we're still understaffed, we're still making great progress and making sure that we're doing the work of the people and answering and solving and resolving their citizen complaints. As relates to the allegations for the month of March 2024, we had a total of 377 allegations. About 70% of those allegations are broken out into a Procedure, Demeanor, and Service. Those allegations are broken out by the various command levels and the various precincts. We broke them out for the various Commissioner districts if they wish to follow up as well.

The following inquiries require responses from the BOPC and/or DPD:

**Chairperson Pressley** discussed the proposed hiring to fully staff OCI and the top three CCR's categories are for Procedure, Demeanor and Service.

**Commissioner Burton** asked when it comes to the backlog of a citizen's complaints of the 700 that was confiscated by the by the Inspector General's office. Have your office been notified about the outcome of that investigation?

**Chief Investigator Warfield** we have been informed. Actually, there was 1,400 cases that was taken out of our office by the Office of the Inspector General; all those were delivered back to our office about month and a half ago. 705 of those cases still needed to be investigated, although they were labeled as close. So we are in the process that our new investigators are going into those cases to complete those investigations and notify our citizens.

**XI. Chief of Police & 9th Precinct Report.**

**Deputy Chief Tiffany Stewart** reported on current CompStat Crime/Statistical Data for Violent Crime and Property and recent critical incidents impacting the DPD and the community.

**9th Precinct Presentation:** Commander Lawrence Purifoy provided crime stats, and initiatives to reduce crime in the 9th Precinct.

**XII. Oral Communications / Public Comments.**

Mr. Djuan Young, Ms. Ty Carnes, Ms. Jane Grant, CAC Scotty Boman, Mr. Chris Gilmer-Hill, caller with last three numbers 124, former commissioner William Davis provided public comments.

**XIII. Presentation to the Board – 9th Precinct Police Community Relation Council Ms. Sandra Turner-Handy.**

Ms. Sandra Turner-Handy President of the 9th Precinct Police Community Relation Council reported on changing the narrative in the community. The 9th precinct meets the first Thursday of each month, from 7 PM to 8:30 PM at the Heilmann Recreation Center, 19601 Brock Ave., Detroit, MI 48205. They meet January, February, and March meetings are virtual.

**XIV. Adjournment.**

**Chairperson Pressley** adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.