



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Police Commissioners
FROM: Cedric Banks, Chairperson Citizen Complaints Committee
DATE: April 18, 2024
RE: Citizen Complaints Committee Meeting Memo

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Board of Police Commissioners Citizen Complaints Committee, please see the key updates from the committee meeting held on March 26, 2024:

Board Members: Committee Chairperson Cedric Banks, Commissioners Woods, Commissioner Smith

Attendees: Assistant Chief of Police Eric Ewing, Chief Investigator Jerome Warfield, Acting Board Secretary Robert Brown, Police Community Relations Coordinator Teresa Blossom, Administrative Assistant Candace Hayes, Lieutenant Starr Gonzales, Sergeant Carrie Moore

Guest Speakers/Public Commenters: Wayne State Law Fellow Molly Moening, Wayne State Law Professor Rebecca Robichaud, Andy O Breen

- **Report from Chief Investigator.** Chief Investigator Jerome Warfield provided the following updates:
 - **WingSwept Case Management System.** Chief Investigator stated that OCI is in the process of purchasing WingSwept software. An additional cost of \$18,000 for certain software capabilities was approved by City Council. Purchase is pending City Council approval at this time.
 - As it pertains to open cases with OCI, as of Friday, March 22, 2024, OCI has 1,753 open cases. The Office of the Inspector General returned 30 boxes to OCI containing approximately 1,152 cases; out of those cases, 705 of them need to be reinvestigated.
 - Three new investigators are currently working on the backlog of cases utilizing the new automated form that was recently approved by the Board.
 - The total number of closed cases for 2023 was 910, with 160 of those being sustained which is about 17.5%. In 2023, there were approximately 288 allegations, with 11.3% of those allegations being sustained.
- **Presentation on DPD Procedural Justice Workshops – Q&A with Committee and Wayne Law/ABA Fellows.** Teresa Blossom presented on DPD Procedural Justice Workshops history and current state. The following key points were made:

- In 2018, DPD requested from OCI to use data as it pertains to complaints against officers. As a result, some citizens were invited to attend workshops to garner feedback on their interaction with officers.
- In 2022, OCI and the Board were interested in how procedural justice or restorative practices could be of benefit to dissatisfied citizens. Open forums were held via Zoom with citizens who had filed complaints and had questions regarding the findings in those investigations. The goal behind having an open discussion with this demographic was to be sure that they were not only aware of the Board's role but to also continue finding ways to improve satisfaction along with community and police interaction.
- In 2023, Wayne Law and the ABA Fellows were looking at research on procedural justice. This collaboration between the Board, Wayne Law, and DPD, with the assistance of Assistant Chief Ewing, allowed Wayne Law to attend workshops as well as community summits to get information on what was occurring in the program. Attending these summits have allowed Wayne Law to get a wealth of information for their research. The new phase of the project is to take a deeper look into the OCI database and evaluate the data contained therein.

Questions raised by Commissioners

- **Commissioner Banks** – Commissioner Banks asked AC Ewing what kind of impact the procedural justice workshops are making on the citizens in the City of Detroit. AC Ewing stated that there was no hard percentage but the workshops seem to be helping based on what they are hearing from the residents and officers who have attended. Commissioner Banks also asked AC Ewing if the Department offers relationship building to its members to which AC Ewing responded that relationship building is part of training. Commissioner Banks asked AC Ewing what happens when it is discovered that an officer failed to use de-escalation techniques, to which AC Ewing stated that the matter is handled according to policy and in the event that it becomes an ongoing issue, the officer is then put into PEERS where they are monitored.
- **Commissioner Woods** – Commissioner Woods asked Ms. Blossom what are some of the best practices to restorative justice that she has seen throughout the project and requested a working document that outlines those best practices. Ms. Blossom stated that Wayne Law will be providing a White Paper that includes all their research and it will contain best practices to restorative justice.

The next Citizen Complaints Committee meeting will be Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 5PM.

Sincerely,

Cedric Banks
Chairperson, BOPC Citizen Complaints Committee