

Draft Minutes Detroit Board of Police Commissioners

Date of Meeting: August 3, 2017 – 3:00 PM

Location: Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third Street, Detroit, MI 48226

Chairperson Lisa Carter called the BOPC meeting to order at 3:00 PM (August 3, 2017)

Detroit Police Commission Membership / Attendance	Attend	Not-Attend
Lisa Carter, Chairperson	Yes	
Eva Dewaelsche, Vice Chairperson	Yes	
Willie Bell	Yes	
Elizabeth Brooks	Excused	
Willie E. Burton (3:04 PM)	Yes	
Reginald Crawford	Yes	
Conrad Mallett	Excused	
Derrick Sanders (3:06 PM)	Yes	
Richard Shelby	Yes	
Bishop Edgar Vann (3:09 PM)	Yes	
Vacant	N/A	
Quorum (Yes)	8	

The Board acted in accordance with its rules approved the Agenda for August 3, 2017.

The Board acted in accordance with its rules approved the following Board Minutes:
Thursday, July 27, 2017

BOPC Officers Report(s): After welcome and opening remarks **Chairperson Lisa Carter** asked Willie E. Bell to provide the invocation. **Chairperson Carter** asked the Commissioners in attendance to introduce themselves and add any comments to the record. Other elected officials, representatives and VIPs were also asked to identify themselves or their organizational affiliations. BOPC staff in attendance were also introduced. Carter also welcomed Chief of Police James E. Craig to the meeting and invited him to introduce his staff.

Chair Report: **Chairperson Carter** reported on the Board’s concern with issues of officer safety. Carter indicated she was surprised to learn of another fallen officer, Sergeant Kyle Bryant, who passed away on July 30, 2017. Carter continued, “Our thoughts are with the family and friends of Sergeant Bryant.” The Chair indicated the agenda has a resolution in honor of Sergeant Kyle Bryant. Carter continued with the Chair’s report, the BOPC would like to note our continuing concerns and support for our injured and fallen officers. On behalf of the Board, Carter said, “our support and gratitude goes out to the families of Officer Johnson, 2nd Precinct, who remains in critical condition, Officer Keith Baker who is still in recovery, and Officer Lindquist, also still in recovery. We are also reminded of the recent passing of Officer Raymoxley Berry, 12th Precinct. I would ask for all of us to take a moment to silently honor the contributions of these and other officers within the DPD family.”

Chairperson Carter also indicated that the DPD presentation on drug enforcement and narcotics would show some of the complexities of the issue and she asked staff to pull together a future community meeting to focus on drug enforcement. Carter explained, Drug enforcement is the type of issue that we need to continually remind the public that, as law enforcement professionals, we understand how critically important the issues is to our quality of life. We need to remain vigilant in our efforts to fight against illegal drugs and its impact on our community. My hope is to have another panel discussion like our discussion on less than lethal weapons by pulling from a wide range of professional perspectives on the challenges and opportunities in our fight against drug trafficking.

Chairperson Carter also indicated we (BOPC) will act on a proposed resolution today on the ill-advised rhetoric of President Trump. Carter informed the Board she had released a statement on this subject. The statement was e-mailed to all of the Commissioners on Tuesday.

Resolutions and Memorials: Vice Chairperson, Dewaelsche read into the record a resolution for Kyle Bryant (Posthumous).

BOARD RESOLUTION HONORING POLICE OFFICER KYLE BRYANT (POSTHUMOUSLY)

WHEREAS Mr. Kyle Bryant was appointed to the Detroit Police Department on December 14, 1998. Upon graduating from the Metropolitan Police Academy, Officer Bryant began his career at the Eleventh Precinct; and

WHEREAS Officer Bryant dutiful served the Eleventh Precinct for fifteen years. Promoted to rank of Sergeant on January 17, 2014, he continuing his career at the Twelfth Precinct, Northeastern District, Tactical Response Unit, reassigned to the Twelfth Precinct, and Force Investigations. On Sunday, July 30, 2017, after nineteen (19) years of service, Sergeant Kyle Bryant, Badge 0063 passed away; and

WHEREAS Sergeant Bryant was the deserving recipient of one (1) Chief Unit Award, four (4) Department Citations, a Major League Baseball All-Star Recognition Award, the Rosa Parks Funeral Recognition Award, the Super Bowl XL Recognition Award, and numerous letters of commendation from citizens and superiors; and

WHEREAS Sergeant Bryant tirelessly served the Detroit Police Department, the citizens of Detroit and its neighboring communities with unwavering devotion. His commitment to public service, integrity, and dedication were a credit to the Detroit Police Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking for the citizens of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department, award this resolution posthumously in recognition of Sergeant Kyle Bryant nineteen (19) years of dedicated and diligent public service. His professionalism, integrity, and standard of commitment to the city of Detroit and its citizens merit our highest regards.

DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Motion: Motion to Honor Sergeant Kyle Bryant (Posthumously) (**Dewaelsche**)

Second: (**Vann**)

Vote: Yes = 8 No = 0 Abst = 0 (Vacant = 1) **Action: Approved**

COP Police Report: Chief of Police James E. Craig reported that crime continued to trend downward. Chief Craig indicated his late arrival was due to a press conference announcing the charging of a suspect in the killing of Wayne State University PO Collin Ross and the shooting of two Detroit police officers. **Commissioner Bell** referenced a recent report on personnel suspended with pay and asked the Chief about the average time an officer may stay in this status. Bell highlight one officer who had been in this status for an extended amount of time. Several other officers will also be required to report to regular duty who have been on administrative leave or disciplinary review.

Presentation to the Board: (A) Human Resources Report, (B) Narcotics Section

(A) Human Resources Report:

Director Gail Oxendine gave her monthly human resources report for DPD employment and recruitment for the June statistical period (2017). HR **Director Gail Oxendine** highlighted the personnel associated with DPD as 3180 total positions, 2551 sworn positions filled, and 629 civilian positions. She also indicated last month the Department has made 61 hires, 30 (POs) and 25 (civilians) and 6 Police Assistant. Director Oxendine also gave demographic statistics descriptive of the force as of June, 2017. Detroit residency information as of 7/31/2017 as reported is for sworn officers 632 Detroiters and 1823 Non-Detroiters and for Civilian 327 Detroiters and Non-Detroiters 215. Sworn recruitment for 7/1/2017 – 7/31/2017 total is 523 with 166 in process and 30 hired. Temporary Disqualifications 94, Permanent Disqualifications 72. Academy graduates W/M = 12, W/F = 0, B/M = 5, B/F = 1, and Hispanic/F = 2. **Commissioner Vann** inquired about the training and other supplemental efforts used by the Department to orient non-Detroiters for work in Detroit. **Director Oxendine** responded there are several programs designed to orient officers to Detroit. **Chief Craig** also responded that he recognized that residency is sensitive and in his opinion it is not realistic to exclusively hire Detroit residents for police work. Craig indicated that at least one-half, if not more live outside of the

city. Chief Craig concluded by remarking the Department asks for superior service from officers if they live in the city or out of the city. Craig also highlighted the increase danger to officers given the amount of guns in the city. **Commissioner Crawford** also expanded on some of the training programs the Department provides its officers. **Commissioner Dewaelsche** indicated the Department is always actively recruiting in Detroit. **Commissioner Bell** suggested more in-service training including information highlighting the history of DPD and survey Detroiters on police related issues including residency. Bell concluded that several of the conditions that existed years ago in the Department are still an issue today specifically the average officer contact and knowledge of the immediate community that officers serve. **Chief Craig** indicated if residency law changed today, DPD recruitment will fall right to the bottom. The recruitment effort would change dramatically. **Commissioner Crawford** joined Bell's comments as it relates to educating officers about the history of the Department. **Commissioner Shelby** inquired about the effectiveness of the Department intern program and if it was a source for new recruits. Oxendine indicated about 10% of the interns seek information about becoming a police officer.

(B) Narcotics Section Report (Major Crimes): Lieutenant Johnathan Parnell

Lieutenant Johnathan Parnell provided a description of the Major Violations Unit's (MVU) and its operation. He indicated MVU, operates using four raid teams, several task forces, planning and analysis, 224-DOPE and prisoner processing unit. Parnell also compared 1st and 2nd quarter arrest statistics and 1st and 2nd quarter assets recovered or confiscated (March – June 2017). Parnell also reported on the Vice Enforcement Unit. **Commissioner Dewaelsche** acknowledged the Department vice and enforcement work in closing a facility in southwest Detroit (Victory Inn). **Commissioner Sanders** requested the Major Crimes section return in six months to update the Board on its work. **Commissioner Vann** inquired about narcotics overdoses and the impact the current strategy used by the Department related to narcotics enforcement. Specifically asking about the opioid impact in Detroit. Parnell indicated the opioid fentanyl traffic is devastating and is related to several other crimes. **Commissioner Vann** asked if the Department was looking at Pharmacies, doctors and boarder traffic. **Commissioner Shelby** inquired about the impact of 224-DOPE and prostitution enforcement. **Commissioner Bell** inquired about the conviction rate and was told it was at 82% largely due to the involvement of several federal taskforces. Bell also asked if the Department operated city-wide or precinct based raid units, he was told both. **Commissioners Shelby and Burton** inquiries about manpower needs and new equipment needed to enhance enforcement. Parnell indicted he had just become acquainted with a new tool called TruNarc Analyzer. The TruNarc Analyzer would allow for immediate results of drug analysis at the scene without officers needing to touch the actual drugs and running the risk of exposure to toxic drugs. **Commissioner Shelby** suggested that to purchase such a tool would be a legitimate purchase from the drug forfeiture fund. *(Note: Commissioners were provided with information about the TruNarc Analyzer via e-mail Friday, August 4, 2017).*

Report from the Board Secretary: Mr. Hicks reported on nine (9) communications received by the Board including item 8 Trump resolution.

BOPC Standing and Ad hoc Committee Reports: Commissioner Sanders indicated he was continuing with his ride-along with DPD. No additional reports were made.

Old Business. Commissioner Bell requested that DC Bettison report on National Night Out and the Youth Power Fest. **DC Bettison** outlined the activities associated with the two events and invited Commissioners to the Field Day activities scheduled for Saturday, August 12th at Martin Luther King High School.

New Business: Trump Resolution

Chairperson Carter requested Ms. Blossom read into the record the proposed resolution on President Donald Trump.

Resolution condemning President Trump's call for mistreatment of suspects in police custody

Whereas, the President of the United States of America takes office by swearing to uphold the U.S. Constitution and all the nation's laws for the benefit of all its peoples and the advancement of a more perfect Democracy, and

Whereas, the U.S. Justice Department in modern history has been an instrument for the country to ensure that local communities adhere to practices that are Constitutional and result in a more level playing field in education, housing, employment, criminal justice and other arenas. This is especially true of police forces in towns, counties and cities where the Justice Department has ensured protections of all those accused of crime until they are proven guilty in a court of law, and has helped eliminate improper and systemic police practices through consent decrees and other measures, and

Whereas, the current President, Donald Trump, continues to voice beliefs and take action through policies that undermine the very tenets of our Constitution and that dishonor our highest elected office. On Friday, July 28, 2017, President Trump spoke before an audience of New York law enforcement and urged them to “rough” handle suspects in custody. His remarks, taken along with his actions through the Justice Department under Attorney General Jeff Sessions, continue to rollback police practices to a rudimentary era of physical abuse, unlawful confinement, and wholesale discrimination that endangers all of our human rights, and

Whereas, President Trump used an ethnic slur in his speech, a stark reminder of how ingrained discrimination has been in law enforcement and how some officials have used police powers systemically to intimidate people based on their skin color, religion, sexual orientation, or heritage, as Irish immigrants once experienced. It was especially disturbing that President Trump’s audience included Suffolk County police officers, whose former chief right now faces prison for beating a man and whose Police Department remains under federal oversight for years of abusive police practices that violated the Constitution and discriminated against Latinos and immigrants; and

Whereas, our Board and other oversight bodies have worked diligently to modernize law enforcement policies and procedures for greater effectiveness in identifying, arresting and securing the conviction of criminals. We cannot let one person, even the President of the United States, undo the progress stemming from the work and often sacrifice of countless police officers, community leaders, activists, and others who together ensure the profession of law enforcement is elevated to the highest excellence; therefore

Be It Resolved that the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners strongly condemns President Trump’s support of unlawful and abusive police tactics, and his ongoing efforts through the Justice Department and other parts of his Administration to dismantle modern professional police standards and proven criminal justice advancements. His approach to policing is antiquated and embodies a mindset that has no place among officers sworn to uphold the law, or frankly among any civilized society in the 21st Century. Our Board wants President Trump to know that he will not deter our mission to work with stakeholders at all levels towards the proven best practices that ensure safe neighborhoods and a thriving city.

Motion: Motion to adopt the resolution on President Trump’s call for mistreatment of suspects in police custody (Crawford)

Second: **(Vann)**

Vote: Yes = 8 No = 0 Abst = 0 (Vacant = 1) **Action: Approved**

Commissioner Vann asked about the distribution of the approved resolution.

Announcements:

Next Community Meeting, Thursday, August 10, 2017, @ 6:30 PM Kean’s Marina, 100 Meadowbrook (South of Jefferson & West of St. Jean, Detroit MI 48214

Next regular Meeting, Thursday, August 17, 2017 at Public Safety Headquarters at 3:00 PM.

Next Community Meeting: Thursday, September 21, 2017, at the Operating Engineers Local 324, 1550 Howard St., Detroit, MI. 48216

Oral Communications from the Audience / Public Comments:

William Davis indicated he was pleased to see the Board take action on the Trump Resolution and commented on National Night Out at the 6th, 8th and 2nd police precincts. **Ms. Harper Lee** expressed concerns for the elderly in the community and reported the conduct of a few cops (8 to 10 officers) who have mistreated her and her husband. Chief Craig referred to Commander Bliss to report out on investigations. Bliss indicated they have two open investigations along with OCI investigation.

Bell and Vann acknowledge Captain Jackson, Bishop Harris and the Cease Fire program and the work of the re-entry program.

Motion to adjourn. Accepted by Chairperson Carter.

Adjournment.