

## Board, public get first annual report on facial recognition

In September 2019, the Board approved a policy directive to govern DPD's use of facial recognition technology. Since the policy took effect, the Board gets weekly reports.

For 2020, DPD compiled an annual report that showed:



While news coverage often cites two arrests involving mistaken identity based on facial recognition, both cases occurred before the Board approved a policy. Also, neither case met the criteria for serious crimes required for the use of facial recognition.



### Board of Police Commissioners

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1301 Third Street Suite 767  
Detroit, Michigan 48226  
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(313) 596-2499 OCI Complaint Hotline  
bopc@detroitmi.gov  
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#### Inside This Issue:

- Board Leads Search for New Police Chief
- Why Filing Complaints Against the Police Is Important
- Policy you need to know: Detroit and No Knock Warrants



## New public safety billboard touts community

"Love Where You Live! Together Building Safer Neighborhoods." This important message from Crime Stoppers, Operating Engineers 324, Community United for Progress, and several local businesses greeted motorists and pedestrians along Eight Mile and Orleans.

"Love Where You Live is a theme for how we can come together with each other and with the police to have safe neighborhoods," said District 3 Police Commissioner Shirley Burch. Founder of CUP, she organized the collaboration to design and put up two billboards in the area.

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## Detroit Board of Police Commissioners

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Accountability Through Civilian Oversight Since 1974



### FROM THE CHAIR



## Reflection on Detroit Protests, Panels, & Future for COLE

Detroit can be proud of how the community, the Board of Police Commissioners, and the Police Department work together. We listen to each other, even when we do not agree. We try our best, even as our efforts show that, as humans and organizations, we are not perfect.

Other people and communities look to Detroit to learn about effective civilian oversight and community policing because we do a lot of things right, and often in pioneering fashion.

It is easy to take what we have for granted because we have had it for so long.

Detroit started civilian oversight and community-determination over the police department in 1974. Forty-seven years is a long time. Even 2012 – the year the current Charter expanded the Board from five to 11 members and added elected seats – is a long, long time ago in a culture where technology brings a new model every year, and the next new thing every week.

However, our city's ability to work together on policing is as much a jewel as any park or museum. We must not take it for granted because it still works, and it works effectively.

Detroit, with civilian oversight, has the advantage of an existing infrastructure that makes change on a routine, ongoing basis.

As other cities grappled with what to do as protests mounted over the murder of George Floyd, Detroit acted and banned the kind of force that Minneapolis police used to kill him. We added new policy to require other officers intervene instead of watching while people die in police custody. We established new links to the six pillars in President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing report. We engaged in dynamic panels on police and reforms, one held during the weekly meeting and the other sponsored by Wayne State University's Levin and Damon Keith Centers.

The changes keep coming. Detroit's civilian oversight helped influence DPD programs for procedural justice and mental health. It is making impact by using its Charter powers in the hiring process for the next police chief.

Change does not always get headlines, nor does it need to. The important thing is that change is always possible – to improve the police department and make our neighborhoods safer.

*Willie Bell, a retired Detroit Police Lieutenant, has served as the Police Commissioner for District 4 since 2012. He has served four times as BOPC Chair and is a National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement board member.*

## BOPC Leads National Search for New Police Chief

Chief James Craig's retirement announcement kicked off a mandate Detroiters added in the 2012 Charter. That new mandate put the Board of Police Commissioners at the top of the search for a new police chief for the first time since the Board started in 1974.

Craig became chief in 2013 when state emergency management stripped Detroit's home rule powers in the 2012 Charter, including the Board's mandated role to conduct a national search and submit three final candidates to the Mayor.

Now, the Board has approved a Detroit-based national executive search firm and begins reviewing candidates soon. The public can attend BOPC meetings to view the process and get updates.

Until a new chief is hired, the Mayor appointed interim police chief James White, a DPD veteran who served as assistant chief for many years before becoming executive director at the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.



After eight years, Chief James Craig announced his retirement effective June 1, 2021.

"We congratulate Chief Craig for his remarkable career, knowing that he got the best start possible by attending and graduating from Detroit Public Schools and our elite Detroit Police Academy. We thank him for his service and remain forever grateful that he started and will end his police career in his hometown," Chair Willie Bell stated.

He added: "Mayor Duggan's appointment of Interim Police Chief James White ensures the department will continue to have very steady and capable leadership during the time that it takes the Board and the City to go through the Charter-mandated process for hiring a new police chief."

## BOPC Roundtable on Violent Crime points to solutions

As the pandemic caused a surge in homicide and non-fatal shootings in 2020, the Board of Police Commissioners expressed the desire to help focus the community on preventing violence and, far too often, the senseless waste of life.

A Roundtable of experts helped provide important information for the Board and the community at the Board's weekly March 14, 2021 meeting. Panelists were Police Chief James Craig, Sheriff Raphael Washington, Prosecuting Attorney Kym Worthy, Third Circuit Court Judge Timothy Kenny, Youth Leader Toson Knight, and Pastors Louis Forsythe and Daryl Harris, who served as moderator.

In addition to underscoring the need for education, economic opportunity, and a strong public safety net, the Board and public learned:

- There is almost a yearlong backlog of criminal cases caused by closures related to COVID-19 public health orders and Constitutional requirements for due process, and many offenders are free pending their day in court.
- The new plan proposed to start the week of March 22, 2021 to begin action on court cases for persons charged with carrying a gun illegally.
- A reminder of the 2018 study that found driving without a license was the offense for most jail inmates, leaving most jail space unavailable for violent offenders.

(continued inside)

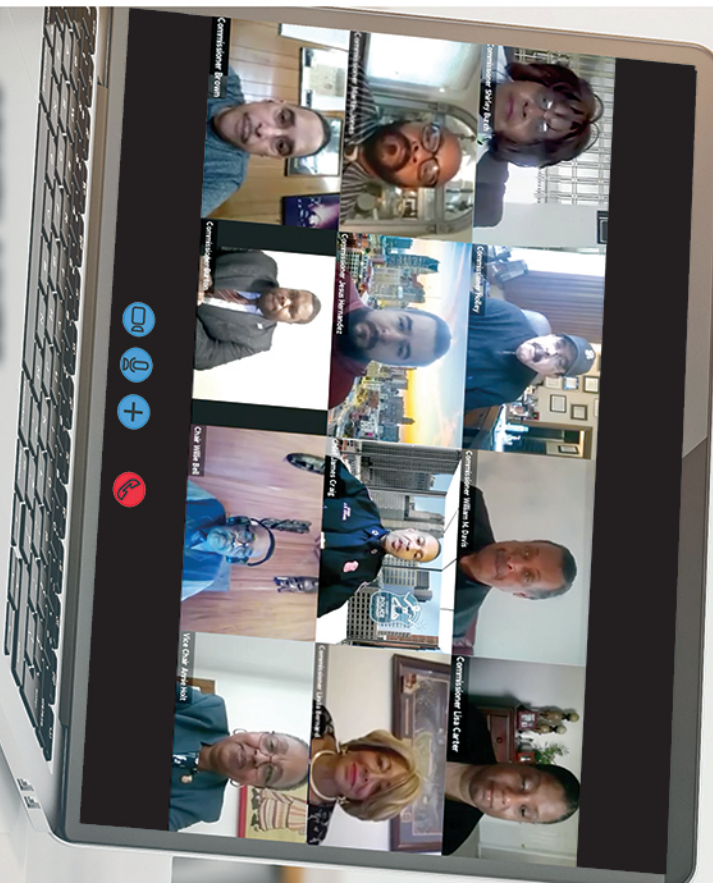
# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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### 2021 UPDATES



Board of Police Commissioners





# POLICY YOU NEED TO KNOW

## Board ensures civil protections with new gunfire monitoring and detection system

In 2021, the Detroit Police Department launched ShotSpotter, a system that detects audible gunfire outdoors and helps pinpoint the exact location through acoustic sensors. The Board of Police Commissioners reviewed and approved in February a new policy directive for gunshot detection systems like ShotSpotter.

The public was able to view the proposed policy directive at [detroitmi.gov/bopc](http://detroitmi.gov/bopc). The BOPC website posts all policies under review by the Board.

DPD launched ShotSpotter in the 8th and 9th Precincts in March.

Privacy and public safeguards in the Gunshot Detection System policy directive include:

- Establishes best practices for gunshot detection systems, including investigative procedures for confirmed gunshots.
- Prohibits DPD access to live audio sensors.
- Allows DPD to only access audio recorded from confirmed gunshot incidents and that access is limited to such a recording when it is pertinent to an investigation.
- Emphasizes that DPD cannot use the technology as a sole basis of arrest.
- Makes clear that a ShotSpotter alert is not legal authority for any officer to enter private property or places.

## Detroit and No Knock Warrants

Before Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Detroit had Aiyana Stanley-Jones. Aiyana was seven years old in 2010, when a Detroit police officer shot and killed her during a raid involving a special tactical team, flash grenades, and a cable TV crew. The tragedy made national news and caused protests. America's Congressman John Conyers called for the Obama Administration to investigate.

Just as the 1967 uprising led to the 1974 City Charter and sweeping police reforms, Aiyana's tragic shooting by police also brought changes – through Justice Dept. Consent Decrees, a revised 2012 Charter, a revamped Board of Police Commissioners, and new DPD leaders.

In 2019, the city settled the Aiyana Stanley-Jones family lawsuit for \$8.25 million.

Current Search Warrant Policy: Requirements before submission to a prosecutor and judge

- A Deputy Chief must approve all narcotics search warrants
- A lieutenant or higher shall be on scene for all executions of Search Warrants
- A Commander can be on the scene depending on Risk Assessment Score
- Search Warrants with children present can only be approved by the Chief or his designee
- No Knock Warrants will only be conducted in the instance of imminent threat of loss of life, serious injury or a national security threat.
- Any No Knock Warrants must be approved by the Chief or his designee.

# DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS DISTRICTS & PRECINCTS

**Accountability Through Civilian Oversight**

**DISTRICT BOUNDARIES**

**PRECINCTS**

- 2nd PRECINCT
- 3rd PRECINCT
- 4th PRECINCT
- 5th PRECINCT
- 6th PRECINCT
- 7th PRECINCT
- 8th PRECINCT
- 9th PRECINCT
- 10th PRECINCT
- 11th PRECINCT
- 12th PRECINCT
- DOWNTOWN SERVICES

**Commissioners:**

- Darryl D. Brown (District 1)
- Linda Bernard (District 2)
- Shirley A. Burch (District 3)
- Willie E. Bell (District 4)
- Willie E. Burton (District 5)
- Lisa Carter (District 6)
- William M. Davis (District 7)

**At-Large Members:**

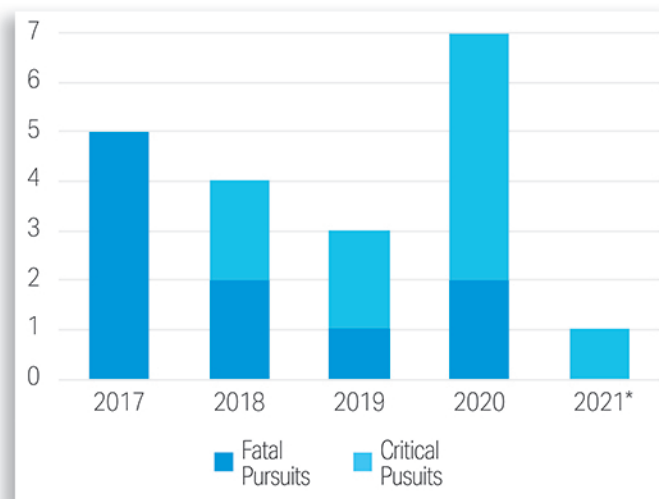
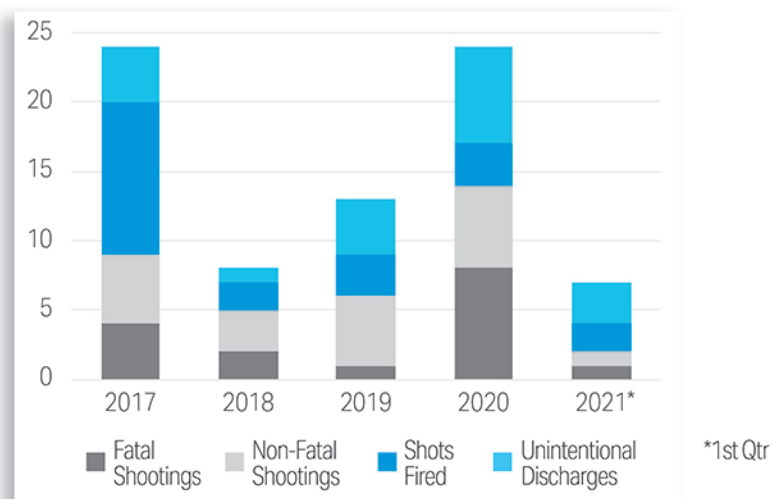
- Jesus Hernandez
- Jim Holley
- Annie Holt
- Martin Jones

## BOPC Roundtable on Violent Crime points to solutions

(cont.)

- New criteria was implemented February 18, 2021 to prohibit COVID-19/administrative releases to inmates charged in serious violent crimes, including capital offenses, manslaughter, criminal sexual conduct, serious assaults, home invasions, felonies involving gunfire, domestic violence, and drag racing. While the new criteria helps keep those in violent cases locked up, records show that the 205 inmates released due to COVID-19 had only three commit new crimes. Those crimes were non-violent.
- The projection that victims will drop out of most domestic abuse cases at a time when COVID-19 has isolated victims with abusers.
- Church and community programs remain open to youth who need recreation, mentoring, and other positive engagement during the pandemic.

## DPD Reports Increase in Use of Force



For 2020 and the first quarter of 2021, Detroit Police reports an increase in incidents involving the use of force. Detroit police uses of force increased 23% in 2020 from the previous year, with a 41% jump in Category 1 force instances, which involve fatalities, broken bones or hospitalization. During the first quarter, DPD reported a 70% increase in Category 1 based on 17 uses of force compared to 10 in 2020. Category 2 uses declined 43%, from 91 to 52. For more information, see the full reports or meeting videos at [detroitmi.gov/bopc](http://detroitmi.gov/bopc).

## SPOTLIGHT

### Why Filing Complaints Against the Police Is Important

A couple years ago, DPD invited people who had filed complaints about police encounters to sessions with open, frank dialogue around procedural justice, trust, and police legitimacy. The sessions were possible due to the City Charter-mandate for the BOPC to collect and investigate non-criminal complaints. The Department used data from the BOPC's objective fact-finding arm, the Office of the Chief Investigator, to reach out to people. Just recently, the Department opened a new Office of External and Internal Relations that will expand efforts for procedural justice.

Like in the private sector, complaints are important tools for improving services, quality controls, and organizational culture. A complaint:

- Creates documentation
- Can point to gaps in training or implementation of policy or procedures
- Can reveal inappropriate or illegal behavior
- Equips DPD, the Board, and community with information to make decisions
- Serves as information for transparency and accountability

If you have a concern about performance of any DPD employee, you have the right to file a complaint:

- In-person at the BOPC's Office of the Chief Investigator 900 Merrill Plaisance, Detroit, MI 48203
- At any Detroit Police precinct
- Complaint Hotline: (313) 596-2499
- Online: [www.detroitmi.gov/bopc](http://www.detroitmi.gov/bopc)
- Fax: (313) 596-2482
- Complaint Forms available at Detroit Public Libraries and Detroit Police Department precincts.

## Three Ways to Get Involved with BOPC

### 1. Stay Active and Informed



- View meetings, proposals and other information anytime, and subscribe to BOPC news and alerts at: [Detroitmi.gov/bopc](http://Detroitmi.gov/bopc)

### 2. Share Your Voice



- Attend the weekly meeting each Thursday
- File complaints against police misconduct with BOPC investigators
- Share comments on policies and procedures under BOPC review

### 3. Enhance Police-Community Relations



- Know your precinct and Police Commissioner (see map above)
- Join your Precinct Police-Community Relations Council or block club
- Host a BOPC meeting at your organization

## BOPC Pandemic Meeting Schedule

The BOPC is holding remote or virtual meetings each Thursday at 3 p.m. during the public health precautions against the coronavirus COVID-19. The Board also reminds the public to observe social distancing rules by using the telephone hotline 313-596-2499 or online form for complaints against DPD officers and other employees. Go to [detroitmi.gov/bopc](http://detroitmi.gov/bopc) for information on how to call or log in to meetings on ZOOM and for updates about returning to in-person meetings.