
CITY OF KALAMAZOO
Citizens Public Safety Review & Appeal Board
Tuesday, September 22, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. • Zoom Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sara Buchanan Nathan Dannison, Luis Garcia, Curtis Gardner, Daniel Hamilton, Oliver Howell, Kim Hinds-Lepsy, Vernon Payne, Jacquis Robertson, Larry Tolbert

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Patsy Moore (Deputy City Manager); Chief Karianne Thomas; Dorla Bonner (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director); Patricia Vargas (Executive Assistant)

The Citizens Public Safety Review and Appeal Board (CPSRAB) Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chair Payne.

Opening Remarks: DCM Moore welcomed members, staff and public to the September 22nd CPSRAB meeting, provided notice of closed caption option on all recorded meetings and reiterated the call in and leave a voice mail message process for public comment.

Special thanks to CPSRAB members stepping down: Tami Rey and Nathan Dannison

Vice-Chair Dannison and Chair Payne Remarks: Although saddened to step down from CPSRAB, Mr. Dannison applauded the boards dedication and exemplary work. Mr. Dannison encouraged members to continue their community advocacy and asked that members and staff alike, strive to make the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety the finest police force in the country. Chair Payne thanked Mr. Dannison and expressed that he will be sorely missed.

Minutes: CPSRAB members motioned and supported to approve the minutes from July 14, 2020, with applicable corrections, and August 11, 2020. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Chief Thomas Remarks: Chief Thomas thanked members, staff and everyone for the years and quality of work together. KDPS is committed to the Kalamazoo Community. CPSRAB members voiced their support and expressed their appreciation.

Sub-Committee Report: Ms. Bonner reported that with the help of CPSRAB members the Independent Investigation Request for Proposals (RFP) was successfully put out for bid with a submission deadline of September 29, 2020. Evaluation of RFPs are scheduled and will be conducted by members of the sub-committee.

Proposed Changes to Operations: DCM Moore presented the collaborative work completed with Chair Payne on the Proposed Changes to CPSRAB Operations document ([Ctrl + Click to follow link](#)).

Members collectively acknowledged the good work and discussed community perspectives, CPSRAB's duties, the importance of transparent communication and gave consent to proceed with the addition of two new items to the Proposed Changes to CPSRAB Operations.

Community Listening Sessions: Ms. Bonner summarized the intent of the Community Listening Sessions and CPSRAB's responsibilities to include but not limited to:

- Determine audience of inaugural Community Listening Session
- Schedule dates (ideally before month end)
- Define CPSRAB's obligation to the community
- Partner with ALTAC to determine community objectives
- Provide community with available CPSRAB tools and resources
 - Website (www.kalamazoo.org/cpsrab)
 - Member business cards, with CPSRAB logo

Ms. Bonner will investigate environmental restrictions (due to the current pandemic) and determine venue accordingly.

Vice Chair Recommendation:

Pastor Dannison made a recommendation to the Board to forward a recommendation to the City Manager to appoint Ms. Jacquis Robertson as vice chair of the Board. There was a consensus from Board members.

Meeting Schedule:

DCM Moore commented that the Board will need to assess and, if applicable, submit a recommendation for additional, recurring CPSRAB meetings. City Administration will only ask for a once a month commitment.

Proposed Changes to Recommended Changes

Board members requested the addition of a Community Survey and consideration of additional resources.

Next Steps:

- Determine Sub-Committee Connecting Resources meeting date
 - Dannison, Hamilton, Payne
- Increase communication with City Commission and City Administration by providing annual CPSRAB report, including feedback and appeal information
- Create CPSRAB logo and business cards for outreach and information sharing
- Consider CPSRAB door hangers and brochures (similar to the "[View from the Curb](#)" waste and recycling communication)
- Chair Payne will provide the list of pending requests from CPSRAB and members will submit a reviewed/ approved list to City Administration.
- The Office of Professional Standards will be asked to provide information pertaining to a filed complaint, specifically
 - What is the power of a citizen complaint(s) as it pertains to the performance evaluation of KDPS officers/staff?
 - What happens to a complaint as it relates to a specific officer/officers?
- The recommendation to have Ms. Jacquis Robertson serve as Vice Chair will be forwarded to the City Manager for his consideration.

Citizen Comments:

Resident Zachary Lassiter commented on a FOIA request for which he paid a \$900 deposit and has yet to receive acknowledgment of the deposit payment. Mr. Lassiter wanted to call CPSRAB's attention to the unfulfilled FOIA request.

Resident John, lived in Kzoo for 25 years. Paying close attention to KDPS, courts and local government. Resident is terrified by KPDS. Expressed sincere disappointment that Vernon Coakley will be the new Chief.

Closing Comments:

DCM Moore reassured that the City appropriately and legally handles all FOIA requests. Policies are in place regarding the retention policy. Once an inquiry is made, the retention policy timeline freezes and is adjusted according to the FOIA request.

DCM Moore reiterated that promotions and disciplinary actions are governed by the bargaining units.

Next Meetings: October 13, 2020
November 10, 2020

ADJOURNMENT: 7:14 p.m.

Patricia Vargas, Recording Secretary
Patsy Moore, Staff Liaison
Vernon Payne, Chair