
CITY OF KALAMAZOO
Citizens Public Safety Review & Appeal Board
Tuesday, August 10, 2021 – 6:00 p.m. • CC & CPSRAB Joint Zoom Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Luis Garcia, Curtis Gardner, Daniel Hamilton (joined late at 6:09pm), Oliver Howell, Barbara Miller, Vernon Payne, Jacquis Robertson, Susan Stapleton, Larry Tolbert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Christopher Caldwell

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Shelly Dusek (Human Resources Director); City Manager Jim Ritsema; Deputy City Manager Jeff Chamberlain; Chief Vernon Coakley; Assistant Chief Victor Green; Patricia Vargas (Executive Assistant)

OIR GROUP PRESENT: Michael Gennaco, Stephen Connolly, Teresa Magula, Julie Ruhlin, Jody Stiger

The City Commission (CC) and Citizens Public Safety Review and Appeal Board (CPSRAB) Joint Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Anderson.

Mayor Anderson thanked board members and attendees for participating and reminded board members and the public that tonight's meeting is one step in the process (not the end but a continuation of), providing a specific opportunity for the OIR Group to present an executive summary of the 111-page report with opportunity for questions by the body.

Public Comments: Recorded and available for viewing via the City of Kalamazoo's FaceBook Page and YouTube Channel (minutes 7:06-16:31 of the meeting), from the following five residents:

- Charlae Chambers, Kalamazoo City
- T.C Custard, Kalamazoo City Limits
- Zachery Lasseter, Kalamazoo City
- Jacob Johnson, Kalamazoo City
- Will Baker, Kalamazoo City

Discussion Items: City Manager (CM) Ritsema thanked everyone for their time, expressed appreciation for the work completed by OIR, recognized the opportunity to learn and do better for our community. CM Ritsema reiterated that the purpose of tonight's meeting is for OIR to present the report, allow time for questions and answers and determine next steps.

Chair Payne echoed sentiments and provided a brief background on the work completed by himself, Vice-Chair Howell and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Director Dorla Bonner in the evaluation and selection process of the OIR Group.

Prior to turning to the OIR Group for their presentation, Chair Payne cautioned and encouraged members and the public to read (and re-read) every detail of the 111-page report.

The OIR Group, led by Michael Gennaco, introduced, and presented an overview of the Independent Review of Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety in Two 2020 Critical Incidents: Comparison, Analysis, and Recommendations.

CPSRAB Questions & Comments: Mayor Anderson thanked the OIR Group, Director Bonner, Chair Payne and Vice-Chair Howell for the meaningful work.

Chair Payne acknowledged the frustration that some of our citizens voiced (which was also captured in the report) and noted the importance of the written documentation of these incidents.

Mr. Tolbert commented that the report questions were answered, and information included was unbiased. He encouraged readers to take time to read every detail of the report and take time to digest all the information. Mr. Tolbert stated that it is important not to forget the past but move forward, in the right direction.

Ms. Robertson requested clarification on the evaluation process for KDPS' policies and procedures. Chief Coakley provided detail on the live (daily) as well as annual evaluation of KDPS policies and procedures.

Mr. Gardener concurred with Mr. Tolbert, commended the OIR Group for a great job with the creation of an unbiased report, and asked that we (the community, KDPS, board members) move forward with the recommendations.

Chair Payne, in concert with board members, reiterated the importance of data collection, transparency and publicly sharing information to progress and create much needed change.

City Commission Questions & Comments: The meeting was turned over to City Commission.

Next Steps:

- Administration to provide
 - Translation of OIR Report to Spanish, at minimum but not limited to
 - Summary Report with response to questions raised during tonight's joint CC & CPSRAB meeting
 - Timeline with milestones to track OIR Report progress
 - Including the 40 recommendations and results of each
 - Sub-Committee, made up of CC and CPSRAB members, to take lead with collaborative work
 - Presentation to the Committee of the Whole

Next Meetings: September 14, 2021
October 12, 2021

ADJOURNMENT: 9:00 p.m.

Patricia Vargas, Recording Secretary
Shelly Dusek, Staff Liaison
Vernon Payne, Chair