

CIVILIAN APPEAL BOARD MEETING
JUNE 21, 2023

These minutes are a summary of the discussions that took place during the last meeting of the Civilian Appeal Board. They are not a verbatim transcription of the remarks made by any individual.

CALL TO ORDER: 4:01 PM at City Hall Commission Chambers

Members Present: Russell Olmsted
Reginald Howard
Jason Osbourn
Sophia Brewer
Matthew Smith
Dean Pacific

Member(s) Absent Michelle Williams

Non-Members Present: Brandon Davis, Director of Oversight and Public
Accountability (*Board Liaison*)
Philip Strom, Deputy City Attorney
Kristen Rogers, Deputy Police Chief
Matthew Weibel, Police Chief of Staff
Lt. Jana Forner, GRPD Internal Affairs Unit
Bryndan Arnold, Lead Oversight Specialist

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Civilian Appeal Board (CAB) of the City of Grand Rapids was called to order at 4:01 PM on June 21, 2023, at City Hall Commission Chambers by Russell Olmsted. Chairperson Olmsted explained that the purpose of the CAB is to act as a reviewing body according to City Commission Policy #800-02 for finding facts made by the Grand Rapids Police Department (GRPD), concerning complaints made by individuals who believe that they have been mistreated by police officers through the use of excessive force, falsification/lying, civil rights violations; and/or conduct committed in a context of racial animosity or prejudice.

ROLL CALL

A roll call was conducted. Members who were present are listed above.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Chairperson Olmsted called a motion for approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board on December 21, 2022.

- Moved by Jason Osbourn and seconded by Reginald Howard.
- Motion carried.

BOARD LIAISON REPORT

- **New Board Members - Welcome**

Mr. Davis formally welcomed the Board's newest members, Matthew Smith and Dean Pacific. Mr. Smith and Mr. Pacific introduced themselves and spoke briefly about being residents of Grand Rapids and serving on the Board.

- **New Member Onboarding and Training**

Mr. Davis informed the Board that each year the OPA, City's Attorney's Office, and GRPD offer training to new members and that part of the training will be completed at the meeting, and supplemental training will be scheduled for a later date. Mr. Davis added that all members, except Mr. Pacific, have received use-of-force training and that the OPA will schedule training for Mr. Pacific.

- **Upcoming Appeal Case (CR22-075)**

Mr. Davis informed the Board that a hearing for this case is scheduled for next month [July 19, 2023]. Mr. Davis asked members to schedule a date with the City's Attorney's Office to review the video evidence and other materials associated with the case. Mr. Davis said that it is important that all Board members complete the full training before the hearing date.

- **Training Curriculum**

Mr. Davis informed the Board that training can be done outside of Board meetings and that training will begin at the conclusion of the agenda items. Mr. Davis said the training will cover the history of CAB and an introduction to Internal Affairs, and the supplemental training will include an introduction to OPA, OPA's Policy, and updates on Constitutional Law, and Labor and Employment Law. Mr. Davis suggested that the supplemental training be held virtually on July 10th at 4:00 PM.

Chairperson Olmsted asked for clarification as to why video evidence is no longer included in case packets. Attorney Strom explained that some video evidence has sensitive information that has to be redacted to meet statutory legal requirements and that it requires a lot more redactions when it is being made available to the public, which may remove information that could be important to a case, and that the change in the process allows for more information to be available for viewing.

Chairperson Olmsted said that in prior cases, it took multiple trips to review the materials and that this change makes it difficult to set aside travel time and time to review the materials. Chairperson Olmsted said if Board members received all of the materials together in the packet, it would ensure enough time for the review.

Attorney Strom said he will consider Chairperson Olmsted's statement and that he is open to collaborating with Mr. Davis, the Board, and the GRPD to see if there is a better way for the future.

ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Davis said that OPA has begun the process of writing the report and that there are parts of the report that need to be completed by the Board or a sub-committee of the Board. Mr. Arnold said that he is seeking input/collaboration from the Board, including a letter for the Chairperson. Chairperson Olmsted said that there was a sub-committee for the last annual report and a guideline was set to work with the OPA in forming some of the opinions and/or deliberations of Board members' experience and asked for volunteers for a new subcommittee. Members of the Board who volunteered to be part of the new Annual Report Sub-Committee are Chairperson Olmsted, Sophia Brewer, and Matthew Smith. The OPA will provide a draft of the report to the Sub-Committee for review and schedule a meeting to discuss the content.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

OPEN DISCUSSION

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at 4:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Olmsted adjourned the meeting at 4:20 PM.