

CIVILIAN APPEAL BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 2022

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: 4:00 PM at City Hall Commission Chambers

Members Present:

Russell Olmsted
Reginald Howard
Sophia Brewer
Jason Osbourn
Michelle Williams

Non-Members Present:

Brandon Davis, Director of Oversight and Public
Accountability (*Board Liaison*)
Philip Strom, Deputy City Attorney
Bryndan Arnold, Lead Oversight Specialist
Claudette Henry, OPA Exec. Asst. (*Board Secretary*)

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Civilian Appeal Board (CAB) of the City of Grand Rapids was called to order at 4:00 PM on November 16, 2022, at City Hall Commission Chambers by Russell Olmsted. Chairperson Olmsted explained that the purpose of the CAB is to act as a review 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

Motion by Chairperson Olmsted to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board on October 19, 2022, with the following amendments:

- Under *New Board Member Welcome*, “formerly” was corrected to read “formally”

- Under *New Board Member Welcome*, “[A second person had joined the Board but withdrew, stating that it was too much responsibility.]” was changed to “[A second person was appointed to the Board, but subsequently resigned.]”
 - Motion by Michelle Williams and seconded by Jason Osbourn.
 - Motion carried: Unanimously.
 - Resolved: Minutes from the meeting on October 19, 2022, were approved as amended.

BOARD LIAISON REPORT

- **Appeal Case #CR22-036**

Documents for appeal case #CR22-036 were provided to Board Members for review. Mr. Davis informed Board Members that the case is scheduled to be heard at the next Board meeting on December 21st. Mr. Davis stated that Garrity statements were associated with the case and asked that Board Members schedule an appointment with the Deputy City Attorney to review the materials before the hearing. Mr. Davis stated that Garrity statements are not provided outside of City Hall and that it’s important that Board Members review the materials to fully understand the facts and circumstances of the case.

- **CAB Training: Civilian Oversight**

Mr. Davis gave a presentation covering the history and principles of civilian oversight, culture and concerns regarding law enforcement’s relationship with the community, and structures and oversight models. Mr. Davis also explained the complaint and appeal processes, Board procedures and governing policy regarding appeal cases, and expectations of the Board when deciding appeal cases.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

OPEN DISCUSSION

- Chairperson Olmsted commented that the presentation provided by Mr. Davis was excellent because it gave context to the mission and process of CAB.
- Chairperson Olmsted also commented that the Board does not do a very good job of engaging with the community, making sure the community understands what the Board is, how it operates, and its importance. Chairperson Olmsted added that he will share his ideas with members of the Board about improvements so that the community can learn more about CAB and build trust in the process.

- Chairperson Olmsted asked if there were any updates on CAB membership applications and reimagining CAB. Mr. Davis said that the Committee on Appointments is working diligently to fill vacancies on CAB and other boards, and asked Board Members to encourage anyone interested to apply. Mr. Davis said that there wasn't much update on the process of reimagining CAB and that the City is currently involved in collective bargaining, which impacts CAB. Mr. Davis said an update will be provided after the collective bargaining process.
- A Board member pointed out that the Board should be aware of the quorum when a meeting is scheduled. *The CAB's Bylaws state the rules for a quorum.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 21, 2022, at 4:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM by Chairperson Olmsted.