

CIVILIAN APPEAL BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 17, 2021

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: 4:02 PM – Virtual Meeting

Members: Present: Huemartin Robinson II (*Chairperson*)
John Weiss (*Vice Chairperson*)
Sophia Brewer
Briana Trudell
Michelle Williams
Russell Olmsted

Non-Members Present: Brandon Davis, Director of Oversight and Public
Accountability (*Board Liaison*)
Christin M. Johnson, OPA Specialist
Philip Strom, Deputy City Attorney
Andrew Lukas, Assistant City Attorney
Nathan Mead, GRPD Internal Affairs
Geoffrey Collard, GRPCOA
Chad McKersie, GRPD Training Unit
Andrew Bingle, GRPOA
Kevin Curiel-Vazquez, OPA Administrative Aide
Claudette Henry, OPA Exec. Asst. (*Board Secretary*)
Becky Jo Glover, Customer Service Director/311
Travis Scott, Cable TV Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Civilian Appeal Board (CAB) of the City of Grand Rapids was called to order at 4:02 PM on February 17, 2021 virtually by Chairperson Huemartin Robinson. Chairperson Robinson welcomed everyone and explained the purpose of the CAB. Chairperson Robinson stated that the purpose of the CAB is to act as a review body pursuant to City Commission Policy #800-02 for finding fact made by the Grand Rapids Police Department (GRPD) with respect to 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

Roll call was conducted. The members who were present are listed above.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Chairperson Robinson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board on October 21, 2020.

- Motion by Russell Olmsted, seconded by Sophia Brewer.
- Motion carried: Unanimously.

CAB ANNUAL MEETING DATES

Brandon Davis asked Board Members to set meeting dates for the remainder of the year. Motion by Chairperson Robinson for the Board to meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 4:00 PM.

- Motion by John Weiss, seconded by Briana Trudell.
- Motion carried: Unanimously.

Chairperson Robinson asked if there were any discussions. A member of the Board asked how much of a backlog of cases the Board had, and if the Board had figured out how the cases could be heard in a virtual environment. Brandon Davis stated that there were three pending cases. As to the second part of the question regarding virtual hearings, Mr. Davis communicated that he would provide a detailed explanation in his liaison report.

BOARD LIAISON REPORT

A. Virtual Hearing Update

Mr. Davis reported that toward the end of last year, the Board attempted to host a virtual hearing, but was unsuccessful. There were concerns that were conveyed to the Board by the law department, based on the legalities, rules and regulations, and union contract issues associated with Section 8 materials and other related factors. Mr. Davis indicated that based on discussions he had with Labor Relations, it is his understanding that the GRPOA and GRPCOA declined to entertain virtual hearing options. Based on this understanding, the Board is unable to hear cases virtually.

Captain Geoffrey Collard informed the Board that neither union (GRPCOA/GRPOA) was approached by Labor Relations about holding virtual hearings, and that it is something both unions would like to discuss with Labor Relations.

Mr. Davis said he would follow up with Labor Relations to find out if there is any new information related to hearing cases virtually and provide an update at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Davis further stated that the Board has other work to do, including training of Board Members on various subjects. Mr. Davis said that at least one of those trainings will be an in-person training.

B. Update on Appeal Case (CR 19-171)

Mr. Davis informed Board Members that this case was given to Labor Relations, including the questions provided by Board Members regarding the case. Mr. Davis further stated that representatives from Labor Relations will provide an update at the next Board meeting.

C. GRPD Training: Use of Force/Decision Making

Mr. Davis recounted that this training was scheduled to be offered to Board Members by GRPD on December 9, 2020 but was postponed due to COVID-19. The course will be rescheduled when the pandemic is more controlled.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Virtual Hearing

Board Members expressed concern regarding the inability to have virtual hearings and dissatisfaction with the lack of resolution on this matter. Mr. Davis indicated that City Staff is working to find solutions to this issue.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ROLL CALL VOTE FOR CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Chairperson Robinson to enter into closed session, pursuant to the Open Meetings Act 15.268, Subsection 8(h), to consider a written legal opinion.

Motion by Russell Olmsted, seconded by Sophia Brewer.

Vote:

Yes

Huemartin Robinson II
John Weiss
Sophia Brewer
Briana Trudell
Russell Olmsted
Michelle Williams

Motion passed unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION REGARDING LEGAL OPINION

A closed session was held to discuss a legal opinion. The session started at 4:52 PM and ended at 6:53 PM. The open meeting resumed at 6:55 PM.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Board will be at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, March 17, 2021. A notification will be sent out informing all as to whether the meeting will be held virtually or in-person.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 PM by Chairperson Robinson.