

**CIVILIAN APPEAL BOARD MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 21, 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  
Sophia Brewer  
Reginald Howard

Member(s): Absent: Michelle Williams

Non-Members Present: Brandon Davis, Director of Oversight and Public  
Accountability (*Board Liaison*)  
Philip Strom, Deputy City Attorney  
Claudette Henry, OPA Exec. Asst. (*Board Secretary*)  
Mehraan Keval, Bloomberg Harvard Fellow

**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 September 21, 2022, in the Commission Chambers at City Hall by Chairperson Olmsted. Chairperson Olmsted 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 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 or absent 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 June 15, 2022.

- Moved by Sophia Brewer and Seconded by Reginald Howard.
- Motion carried.

## **BOARD LIAISON REPORT**

- **Reimagining CAB Process: Introduction**

Mr. Davis introduced Mehraan Keval who is a Bloomberg Harvard Fellow currently working in the Office of Oversight and Public Accountability. Mr. Keval will be the lead on the reimagining project of the Civilian Appeal Board, and will occasionally attend meetings to observe and gather information about the Board's current procedures and processes. Mr. Keval offered to meet with members of the Board to learn their thoughts about what has or has not been functioning well or has not been successful on the Board.

- **New Appeal Case**

Mr. Davis informed Board Members that the OPA has received an appeal request, and is working on scheduling a hearing for November 16, 2022.

- **CAB Training**

Mr. Davis stated that there may be new members appointed to the Board over the next couple of months and that he anticipates new members to be present at the next meeting in October. Mr. Davis explained that the OPA wanted to conduct the onboarding for new members and refresher training for existing members together with the Grand Rapids Police Department and the City Attorney's Office before any appeal hearing to ensure the Board is prepared and able to make decisions about policies. Mr. Davis proposed the following dates for training:

- Use of Force – Wednesday, October 12, 2022, 5:30-9:30 PM, at the GRPD Training Center
- Legal Update and Overview of Civilian Oversight – Wednesday, October 19, 2022, 4:00 PM, at City Hall – includes legal issues and standards, constitutional law, public employees of a government body, and parliamentary procedures.

- **Officer Election**

Mr. Davis informed the Board that Bryndan Arnold has resigned from the Board and has accepted the position of Lead Oversight Specialist in the OPA and that the vice-chair position previously held by Mr. Arnold is open for election. Mr. Davis proposed that a new vice chair be elected at the next meeting in October.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Status on Reimaging CAB Process**

Mr. Davis stated that the OPA is in the information-gathering phase, getting up to date on what occurred on the Board, rules, operations, and other factors. Mr. Davis also mentioned that some members of the OPA Staff, including Mr. Keval, attended the NACOLE Annual Conference to receive training on law enforcement and learn about the processes of other law enforcement agencies across the country.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

### **Upcoming Appeal Case**

- A Board member asked if Board Members will receive the appeal case packet on November 16<sup>th</sup> or if they will review the documents on that date. Mr. Davis said the Board will be reviewing the case on November 16<sup>th</sup>, and that he anticipates delivering the appeal case packet to members by the next meeting in October.
- A Board member expressed concern about new members being overwhelmed with the legal training on October 19<sup>th</sup> and getting a case for review so soon after and suggested that the OPA send out any documents/presentation information ahead of time, so the members could review them and prepare any questions they might have. Mr. Davis stated that the Board was not limited to those dates and that if the Board needs more time for additional training, wishes to have a special meeting for any reason, or to push the appeal hearing back, the Board has that discretion, and any matter would be open for discussion.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at 4:00 PM.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 PM by Chairperson Russell.