



CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW BOARD

101 City Hall Plaza, Durham, NC 27701

Agenda Special Meeting - June 21, 2021

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Action on Agenda
4. Action on Minutes
5. Closed Session
 - a. Discussion of Determinations & Recommendations on Hearing Findings
6. Adjournment

Agenda

Special Meeting - June 21, 2021

1. Call to Order

The Chair will call the meeting to order upon the arrival of a quorum of the Board.

2. Roll Call

The Secretary will call the roll of the membership.

3. Action on Agenda

Pursuant to Civilian Police Review Board Procedures Manual, Section 3.3 Setting of Agenda, additions to the agenda may be proposed by any member and will be added to the agenda provided no objection is raised by any member.

If there is an objection, then a vote shall be taken on the addition and the item will be added to the agenda only if a majority approves of the addition.

Recommendation: The CPRB will review the agenda and make any additions and/or modifications followed by action on the agenda.

4. Action on Minutes

The CPRB will review and act on the minutes from the special meeting held on May 26, 2021.

For more information, refer to *Minutes - May 26, 2021*.

Recommendation: The Board will review the minutes from the special meeting held on May 26, 2021 to make any additions and/or modifications followed by action on the minutes.

5. Closed Session

The Board is required to adjourn to closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143.318.11(a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of information that is confidential and Civilian Police Review Board Procedures Manual, Section 4.5 Appeals Procedures, the CPRB, these hearings will be closed to the public and media.

Recommendation: The CPRB should adjourn to closed session to discuss and to conduct the hearing.

a. Discussion of Determinations & Recommendations on Hearing Findings

Pursuant to the Civilian Police Review Board Procedural Manual, Section 4.8, Written Recommendations; Findings; Transmittal and Filing, the

CPRB will determine whether the investigation conducted by the Police Department was deficient because of an abuse of its discretion and whether the findings of the investigation was deficient because of an abuse of discretion based on the testimony and evidence presented. The CPRB will develop, and issue written recommendations to the City Manager and the Chief of Police.

The recommendations may be approved at the same meeting, or at another meeting held within 45 days.

Recommendation: The CPRB will discuss the testimony and evidence to develop and issue written recommendations to the City Manager and the Chief of Police. The CPRB will act on the recommendations.

6. Adjournment

**CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2021
5:30 P.M.**

The Civilian Police Review Board held a virtual meeting on the above date and time with the following members present: Chair DeWarren Langley, Vice Chair Cassandra R. Johnson and Board Members: Cecile Bradshaw, Kelli Dugan, Kendra Pressley, Donald Salmon, David Smith, and Jeffrey Thomas. Excused Absence: Myra Griffin.

City Staff Present: City Manager Wanda Page, Assistant to the City Manager Karmisha Wallace (Staff Liaison), Assistant City Attorney Anna Davis (Legal Adviser), and Assistant City Clerk Tonette Amos (Secretary to Board).

Chair Langley called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

The Secretary to the Board called the roll and stated Board member Myra Griffin requested an excused absence.

Subject: Action on the Agenda

The agenda was adopted with one modification. (Salmon/Pressley, 5:34 p.m. 8/0)
(Note: Item #5 – The year of City Manager Page’s original appointment should be 2020.)

Subject: Introductions of Members

Board members introduced themselves. Some members stated where they lived and expressed why they applied to serve on Board. In one introduction a board member expressed that she wants to see effective change in the Board’s role that includes having more authority so that meaningful investigations can be done.

Subject: Introduction of City Manager Wanda Page & Vision for Civilian Police Review Board

City Manager Wanda Page thanked Chair Langley for the invitation and made favorable remarks regarding the Board’s valuable work as it relates to reviewing cases and becoming a part of police accountability. She likes the diversity in board membership regarding various City districts and looks forward to receiving their rich reports and letters. City Manager Page was very happy to put names with faces since she never made any of the current member appointments. City Manager Page asked the Board for specific items that they would like for her to know and what changes she can make that would make their work be more effective.

City Manager Page has been with the City for over 30 years and lived in Durham all her adulthood. She stated that Police work is difficult and becoming more and more difficult as the world gets exposed. We all have a role in ensuring that there is integrity with the work the

Police Department does. The police also want to make sure that policies and procedures keep residents safe. She likes conversation, and if she doesn't have the answer, she will get the information and get back with you.

Subject: Discussion

Board members shared their thoughts as it related to their service on the Board. The following items were mentioned and/or discussed:

- City Manager Page stated she's not for great change but not afraid to look into making changes. The Board serves as an advisory board to her.
- The need to be responsive to the community by going into the community and also bringing the community to the Board by keeping them informed about police accountability and the role the Board serves.
- Board member Salmon mentioned the desire to see what other cities are doing with police review boards, and City Manager Page thought it was a good idea and should be looked into.
- City Manager Page mentioned several qualities that she is looking for in Durham's next Police Chief: Focus should be on overall community safety and partner with other agencies, promote public safety in the community, support innovation, keep the community safe in a non-traditional way, have that community spirit with the community, work on root causes, come up with alternative responses that make everyone in the community feel safe, and reflect the values of the community. She also mentioned that the City is hosting public forums to receive feedback from various communities.
- Board member Thomas expressed concern about the lack of support from City Council regarding recommendations made by former City Manager and the low morale of police officers. City Manager Page stated her focus will be looking at the future instead of the past.
- City Manager Page spoke about her budget presentation to Council, the Police Department's budget and how the newly created department will assist the police.
- Police total budget was stated as \$70 million of the City's total budget.
- Board member Pressley expressed the need to expand the scope of the Board, the need for improved police ergonomics, and the need for additional training with a focus on the Police Code of Conduct. (This stems from a lack of respect that some police officers have demonstrated in cases that the Board has reviewed.)
- Responding to Board member Bradsher's question, City Manager Page stated that she does not get into the day-to-day operations of any City department, but she's responsible

for hiring the next Police Chief and will make sure that policies and practices are followed as well as the City's administrative orders.

- Chair Langley thanked City Manager Page for taking the time to meet with the members of the Civilian Police Review Board (CPRB), to introduce herself, and share her vision. He stated that the CPRB would discuss the roles and responsibilities of the CPRB with input from the community and research on best practices to develop recommendations to ensure the CPRB is responsive to the needs of the community.

Subject: Announcements

The next scheduled meeting will be via Zoom on June 9, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the Request for Appeal Hearing from Sharron D. Hunter-Rainey.

Hearing for Ashley Harris will be held on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. at Police Headquarters on the 3rd Floor in the CompStat Room.

Board member Dugan requested status of hard copies of case files she requested at the prior meeting. Ms. Wallace will work with City Attorney's Office to see if and/or when those documents will be available. She was unable to commit to specific date/time.

Ms. Wallace explained why the Board was meeting at Police Department instead of City Hall. The room is available for virtual and in-person meeting simultaneously.

Chair Langley informed the Board that he would attend in person at the Ashley Harris Hearing.

Availability of video footage from body-worn cameras was requested by Board member Dugan.

A discussion was held if the police officers involved should be in attendance at the Ashley Harris Hearing. Police officers will be in attendance, but some will have counsel and may be advised not to speak as noted by Attorney Davis.

Chair Langley stated that the Board will follow the rules that are listed in the CPRB Procedure Manual.

Attorney Anna Davis stated that she would send the CPRB Appeal Hearing Scope to Board members the following week.

Chair Langley will include hearing protocol information on the June 9, 2021, agenda.

CPRB Special Meeting
May 26, 2021

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Langley adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonette Amos, Office of the City Clerk

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