

**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: Kelli Dugan, Kendra Pressley, Donald Salmon, and David Smith. Absent: Cecile Bradshaw 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 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 meaningful investigations can be done.

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

City Manager 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. She asked the Board for specific items that they would like for her to know and what changes can she 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

The following items were discussed:

Vision for the Board, Consistent or Making Changes

- 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.
- Need to be responsive to the community (going out to community and bring the community to Board)
- Benchmark to see what other cities are doing with Police Review Boards was mentioned by Board member Salmon and City Manager Page thought it was a good ideal and should be looked into;
- Qualities that City Manager Page mentioned qualities that she is looking for in Durham's next Police Chief. She also mentioned that the City is hosting public forums to receive feedback from various communities. (New Police Chief qualities mentioned: focus should be on overall community safety, partnership 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 safe; and reflect the values of the community)
- Concern about the lack of support from City Council regarding P recommendations made by former City Manager and the low morale of police officers were stated by Board member Thomas. City Manager Page stated her focus will be looking at the future instead of the past;
- City Manager Page touch based on her budget presentation, the increase and decrease funding of programs in Police Department that is in the budget, and how the new community police department would function;
- Police total budget stated (\$70 million of City's Budget goes to Police);
- Need to expand scope of Board, police ergonomics, more training/focus is needed with police Code of Conduct (lack of respect from Police Officer) were mentioned by Board member Pressley;

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- 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 departments but she's responsible for hiring the next Police Chief and will make sure that policies and practices are followed as well as 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 make introduction, 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.

A hearing for Ashley Harris will be held on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Police Headquarters on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor in the Contrast 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 would 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 at same time.

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

Availability of video footage from body camera during the hearing was requested by Board member Dugan.

A discussion was held if the police officers involved should be in attendance at the Ashley Harris Hearing.

Chair Langley stated that the Board will follow the rules that are listed in the Board's procedures Manual.

Police officers will be in attendance but some will have counselor and may be advised not to speak was noted by Attorney Anna Davis.

Attorney Anna Davis stated that she would send the hearing scope to Board members the following week.

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

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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