

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020
5:30 p.m.

The Civilian Police Review Board held a virtual meeting on the above date with the following members present: Chair DeWarren Langley and Vice Chair Cassandra Johnson and Board Members: Dr. Celia Bradshaw, Kelli Dugan, Myra Griffin, Kendra Pressley, Donald Salmon, Jr., David Smith and Jeffrey Thomas. Absent: None.

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

Technology Support: Assistant to the Mayor Amber Wade

Chair Langley called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

The Secretary to the Board performed roll call.

Subject: Action on Agenda

The regular agenda was adopted as printed. (Smith/Pressley at 5:42 p.m. 9/0)

Subject: Approval of Minutes – November 20, 2019 and December 11, 2019

No action was taken on the November 20, 2019 minutes. Clarity needs to be settled on the following:

- Toni Russ' official job title; and
- Karmisha Wallace's comments regarding the computer purchase on page 3. Ms. Wallace will listen to recording and provide to the Clerk the proper wording to be included in the minutes.

The December 11, 2019 minutes was approved unanimously. (Smith/Thomas at 5:45 p.m. 9/0)

Public Comment

Chair Langley opened the floor for public comments.

Assistant to the Mayor Amber Wade was introduced to Board as Technical Support for the meeting.

Chair Langley asked individuals to put their name in the Chat if they wanted to make comments. Only one person placed their name in the Chat and made comments.

Toby Berla stated the work of the Civilian Police Review Board is important and expressed concern about the board not meeting regularly during COVID-19 crisis because of the what's going on in society

with Police and Racial Justice issues. He closed by stating it is important for this type of board to be meeting continuously.

Chair Langley responded that the Board had to figure out how to conduct meeting pursuant to the confidential nature of the work that needs to be reviewed to consider a request for a hearing. Working out the logistics with City staff was a challenge, but the Board is moving forward. The Civilian Police Review Board Community Police Relations Forum scheduled for October 14, 2020 is moving forth. He stated this forum is where individuals can share concerns to the Board and invited Mr. Berla to attend.

Chair Langley closed the floor for public comments.

Subject: Closed Session – Discussion and Determination of Request for Appeal Hearings for Steven Matthew, Carl Lee and Shahsultan Jaffer

Amber Wade explained the tasks she needed to perform before the Board could start a closed session hearing.

Motion by Board Member Smith and seconded by Board Member Griffin to go into closed session to conduct appeal hearings concerning complainants Steven Matthew, Carl Lee and Shahsultan Jaffer was approved at 5:50 p.m. (9/0)

The Board returned to open session at 6:56 p.m.

Subject: Announcements of Board's Determination Regarding request for Appeal Hearings

Pursuant to Civilian Police Review Board Procedures Manual, Section 4.5 Appeals Procedures, Chair Langley announced in public session the vote regarding whether to hold a hearing. He stated that the Board voted 9/0 (unanimous) to grant a hearing regarding the Steven Matthew Case.

Chair Langley also announced that the Request for Appeal Hearings for complainants Carl Lee and Shahsultan Jaffer were deferred until additional information could be provided by staff (Police Department and City Attorney's Office) to the Board.

Old Business – FY 2019 Professional Standards Annual Report

Chair Langley introduced item and opened the floor for questions, comments and concerns.

No one made comments or provided remarks.

Old Business –Professional Standards Quarterly Report (April-June 2020)

Chair Langley introduced item and opened the floor for questions, comments and concerns.

No one made any comments or provided remarks.

Subject: New Business – Draft FY 2019-2020 Annual Report

Chair Langley presented the 2019-2020 Annual Report. During his presentation he noted a modification would be made to add the March 25, 2020 regular quarterly meeting was cancelled due to COVID before submitting to the City Manager. He asked the Board did they have any updates/corrections and no one spoke.

The Board unanimously approved the FY 2019-2020 Annual Report with modification for submission to the City Manager. (Dugan/Griffin at 7:03 p.m. 9/0)

Chair Langley announced the Board selected Wednesday, October 14, 2020 for the Annual Community-Police Relations Forum Virtual Meeting. The forum will start at 6:00 p.m.

Subject: New Business – Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Board held elections for Chair and Vice-Chair.

The Board unanimously approved DeWarren Langley as Chair and Cassandra Johnson as Vice-Chair for 2020-2021 (9/0 at 7:05 p.m.).

Subject: Announcements and Determination of Next Meeting Date

Chair Langley announced that the next scheduled meeting would be the Community Police Relations Forum Virtual Meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. He will work with Ms. Wallace regarding Zoom information for flyer.

Ms. Wallace stated citizens should be directed to the City's webpage.

Chair Langley would also forward flyer information to Mr. Berla who requested information/flyer in the Chat.

The Board agreed that a doodle poll will be sent out regarding next meeting dates from Vice-Chair Johnson regarding the pending cases and recommended that only one case should be heard per meeting.

Responding to Board member Dugan's concern about agenda not being ready in sufficient time and not visible to public, Chair Langley stated that he was concerned about all the issues and emails he received about the case files and did not know if the scheduled meeting would take place.

Information regarding what is public and private information regarding the agenda was discussed.

The Secretary announced that she posted the Civilian Police Review Board agenda and supporting documents to website earlier in the day.

Karmisha Wallace announced that minutes will be posted to City's website moving forward.

The Board agreed that a doodle poll will be sent out regarding next meeting date from Vice-Chair Johnson regarding the pending cases. Only one case will be heard at a time was recommended.

Attorney Anna Davis confirmed that she would provide to the Board information they receive for case files moving forward and make a checklist regarding all files can be viewed at pick-up. She will let the Board know about any technical issues on the City's part and the Board should inform staff (Attorney Davis and Ms. Wallace) of any issues they have with viewing files on their personal devices. Attorney Davis and/or Ms. Wallace would arrange drop off and pick-up times of case materials for Steven Matthews (drop-off); Carl Lee and Shahsultan Jaffer (pick-up) cases.

Meetings to determine Carl Lee and Shahsultan Jaffer cases will be rescheduled after the Board receives new case files from the City Attorney's Office. After the receipt of new case files for pending cases, Vice-Chair Johnson will send out a doodle poll to schedule meetings for those cases.

Next Meeting: The Board will host its annual Community Police Relations Forum Virtual Meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2020.

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Langley adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tonette Amos
Secretary to the Board
Office of the City Clerk