



# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## Police Accountability Board

### OPEN MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2024

Location: 9200 Basil Court, Suite 400, Largo, Maryland 20774  
6:36p.m. – 8:39p.m.

**Board Members Present:** Chair Kelvin Davall, Vice Chair Carlo Sanchez, Keenon James, Lafayette Melton, Marsha Ridley, Daniel Vergamini

**Virtual Board Members Present:** Dr. Andrea Coleman

**Member(s) Absent:** Shelia Bryant, Earl O'Neal, Tamika Springs, Daniel Armando Jones

**Staff Present:** Denise Hall, Program Administrator; Ebony Rorls, Program Administrator, Christal Ogene, Policy Analyst, Tangi Allen, Program Associate; Ashley Ritter, Administrative Aide, Keona Savoy, General Clerk

**Consultant Present:** Marva Jo Camp, Esq., Legal Counsel

**Guest(s):** Anthony C. Bennett, Inspector General and Director of the Office of Integrity, Compliance and Accountability

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### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kelvin Davall called the meeting to order at 6:36p.m. Roll Call was taken.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve Minutes from January 10, 2024, was offered by Vice Chair Sanchez and seconded by Daniel Vergamini. Motion passed by a unanimous vote: Ayes – 6 Opposed – 0 Abstain – 0 Absent – 4

A motion to approve Minutes from November 29, 2023, was offered by Vice Chair Sanchez and seconded by Marsha Ridley. Motion passed by a unanimous vote: Ayes – 6 Opposed – 0 Abstain – 0 Absent – 4

A motion to approve Minutes from December 13, 2023, was offered by Vice Chair Sanchez and seconded by Marsha Ridley. Motion passed by a unanimous vote: Ayes – 6 Opposed – 0 Abstain – 0 Absent – 4

A motion to approve Minutes from December 27, 2023, was offered by Lafayette Melton and seconded by Keenon James. Motion passed by a unanimous vote: Ayes – 6 Opposed – 0 Abstain – 0 Absent – 4



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### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Action Items/Calendar**

Marva Jo Camp, Legal Counsel, shared that the Board decided to move from an Action Item format in December 2023, to a calendar format in 2024. This format will capture ongoing work of the Board. Staff is working to unveil the new format in February 2024.

#### **Meeting Sign-in (Open Meetings Act)**

Marva Jo Camp met with the State Attorney General to discuss requirements for PAB meeting attendees to register to attend meetings. Ms. Camp's legal opinion was affirmed that the Board can request attendees to register if they attend virtually or in person. If the Board decides to require attendees to register, that option is available.

#### **Strategic Plan**

The Board discussed the Strategic Plan. A motion to approve the Strategic Plan was offered by Lafayette Melton and seconded by Daniel Vergamini. Motion passed by a unanimous vote: Ayes – 6 Opposed – 0 Abstain – 0 Absent – 4

The Strategic Plan will be posted to the Police Accountability Board's website.

#### **Public Comments**

Chief Bowers, Greenbelt City Police Department, greeted the Board.

#### **New Staff Introductions**

Denise Hall, Program Administrator for the Police Accountability Board, announced that she is retiring in March 2024. The Police Accountability Board welcomed three new staff members who joined the County on February 12, 2024. Ebony Rorls is the new Program Administrator and will assume full responsibility of the position upon Ms. Hall's retirement in March. Ms. Hall and Ms. Rorls will collaborate to ensure a smooth transition.

Christal Ogene will serve as the Policy Analyst for the Police Accountability Board. Keona Savoy will serve as the General Clerk. Tangi Allen and Ashely Ritter will continue serving in their respective capacities as Program Associate and Administrative Aide.

#### **Data Analysis Addendum to Annual Report**

Dr. Andrea Coleman shared highlights of the addendum to the 2023 Police Accountability Board Annual Report.

Dr. Coleman's report was briefly interrupted due to inappropriate spam content displayed online. The meeting was briefly paused to resolve the matter. Inspector General Bennett apologized to all attendees and advised that he would report the incident to the Office of Information Technology. The Board decided to allow attendees with cameras on and properly identified to remain in the



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meeting, while others were placed in the waiting room. Chair Davall also offered apologies regarding the unexpected interruption.

Dr. Coleman resumed walking the Board through the compiled data for the Addendum. The distinction between allegations and complaints will be placed in the Addendum and on the website. "Complaints" will be changed to "Allegations" in the section that refers to police complaints. After edits have been made, Denise Hall can transmit the Addendum to the County Executive and County Council.

### **Case Review Update**

Vice Chair Carlo Sanchez announced that case review will be discussed during the next meeting due to the shortage of membership in attendance. Vice Chair Sanchez will work with staff prior to the next meeting to ensure updates to documents are available to Board Members. The Board will vote on finalized documents, then begin to develop a case review program/process.

Lafayette Melton mentioned that Shelia Bryant was experiencing issues accessing cases and requested assistance to resolve the matter. Inspector General Bennett advised that Board Members should include him, Denise Hall and Ebony Rorls regarding any access issues.

### **Information Requests**

#### **Greenbelt Response to Traffic Data Request**

The Board reviewed the response from Greenbelt Police Department regarding traffic data. Keenon James suggested meeting with the Greenbelt Police Department. Chief Bowers, Chief of the Greenbelt Police Department, advised that he is available to meet with the Board. He requested that the Board provide the specific information that they would like addressed.

Keenon James will follow-up with the Chair regarding the best time to meet with Greenbelt Police Department. The Board will send any questions or concerns regarding traffic data from Greenbelt Police Department to Mr. James to compile a scope of information for Greenbelt Police Department to address.

#### **Response to Letter from Chief Aziz**

Daniel Jones was leading the effort to request information from the Prince George's County Police Department. The matter will be tabled until the next meeting as Mr. Jones was unavailable to attend this meeting. Vice Chair Sanchez will follow-up with Mr. Jones prior to the next meeting.

#### **Administrative Hearing Board Appointments**

Dr. Andrea Coleman suggested tabling the discussion about Administrative Hearing Board Appointments until she can follow-up with staff regarding outstanding questions. The matter will be addressed during the next meeting.



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### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Outreach Schedule**

Vice Chair Sanchez mentioned the invitation Inspector General Bennett extended to Board Members to accompany him as he presents at upcoming community outreach events to discuss police accountability. IG Bennett shared his community outreach goals and the role the Police Accountability Board could offer during events, should they decide to join him on tour. Tangi Allen will place his events on a shared PAB calendar for Board Members to join as they are available. Vice Chair Sanchez and the Chair Davall will meet to discuss upcoming events and email Board Members to determine availability to attend upcoming events with the Inspector General.

Vice Chair Sanchez proposed hosting a PAB-led listening session/community outreach meeting on March 27, 2024. Vice Chair Sanchez and Tangi Allen will meet on Monday, February 19, 2024, to discuss next steps. Board Members are welcome to provide insight and assist with logistics.

A motion was made to host a community outreach listening session on March 27, 2024, in lieu of a PAB meeting was offered by Vice Chair Carlo Sanchez and seconded by Lafayette Melton. Motion passed by a unanimous vote: Ayes – 6 Opposed – 0 Abstain – 0 Absent – 4

Subsequent smaller meetings will be held with various stakeholders and community organizations.

Vice Chair Sanchez shared briefly about hosting quarterly meetings with police chiefs for the Board to discuss and plan during the next PAB meeting.

#### **Meeting Attendance**

The Board discussed measures to notify each other and staff of upcoming absences to ensure a quorum is met for each meeting. The Chair suggested creating an Outlook calendar to post absences. Tangi Allen shared that a calendar of events has been created for Board Members to utilize as well. The Chair suggested using GroupMe as well.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair shared that the Police Accountability Board has been invited to present at the Health, Human Services and Public Safety Committee Meeting on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 1:30p.m. The Chair extended an invitation for the entire Board to attend. The Chair will send a copy of the PowerPoint presentation to the Board.

#### **Anne Arundel Count PAB Recommendations**

The Board reviewed and discussed the Anne Arundel Police Accountability Board recommendations that were submitted to the Judiciary Committee of the Maryland General Assembly. The Inspector General shared that a cohort of Police Accountability Board and Administrative Charging Committee members, throughout the State, met in November 2024. He advised that Prince George's County weighed in the language of the recommendations offered by Anne Arundel County. The Inspector General will advise the Program Administrator of upcoming meetings. The Program Administrator will notify the Board.



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The Board will write a letter in support of select recommendations from the Anne Arundel County Police Accountability Board and include a copy of the 2024 Police Accountability Board Annual Report for Prince George's County.

The Board's review and determination of each recommendation of the Anne Arundel County Police Accountability Board's Annual Report are as follows:

- The General Assembly should amend §3-113(c) of the Public Safety Article, Annotated Code of Maryland to allow exceptions to the "year-and-a-day" rule for criminal cases and use-of-force cases. The clock should begin when the ACC receives the case from the law enforcement agency.
  - [Prince George's County Opinion: SUPPORT](#)
- The General Assembly should amend §3-102(d) of the Public Safety Article, Annotated Code of Maryland to also require a law enforcement agency to report complaints of alleged misconduct received by the agencies within a specified timeframe. More specifically, the State law should mandate that a local law enforcement agency report such complaints within three days. This change will ensure uniformity in information sharing and further improve accountability and oversight of law enforcement agencies.
  - [Prince George's County Opinion: SUPPORT](#)
- The General Assembly should amend §3-201(f) of the Public Safety Article, Annotated Code of Maryland to more clearly define "police officer" to include a police chief and command staff, if the individual was acting in the role of a "police officer" during the alleged incident. In addition, the law should be amended to allow the official who appoints the chief to decide consequences based on the disciplinary matrix. This recommendation is necessary to ensure that all law enforcement officers in an agency are held to the same accountability.
  - [Prince George's County Opinion: NEUTRAL](#)
- The General Assembly should amend §3-104(f)(l) of the Public Safety Article, Annotated Code of Maryland to clarify that a court of jurisdiction may compel compliance with a subpoena issued by the ACC.
  - [Prince George's County Opinion: SUPPORT](#)
- The General Assembly should amend §3-104(e)(3) of the Public Safety Article, Annotated Code of Maryland to allow an ACC to recommend mandatory training for an officer even if the ACC ultimately decides not to administratively charge an officer.
  - [Prince George's County Opinion: NEUTRAL](#)
- The General Assembly should amend §3-113(b) of the Public Safety Article, Annotated Code of Maryland to extend the 30-day period for the ACC to request additional information, which will ensure efficient access to complaints.
  - [Prince George's County Opinion: SUPPORT](#)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

Keenon James provided clarity regarding the requirement for PAB meeting attendees to register to attend versus identifying themselves to participate and remain in the meeting.

Keenon James requested quarterly complaint reports.



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Keenon James inquired about the Marlow Heights Special Police. Inspector General Bennett advised the Board that the Marlow Heights Special Police do not fall under the purview of the Police Accountability Board, as they are not a police department/agency and only have arrest powers on their property.

The Inspector General and County Attorney sought a legal opinion to determine if the Prince George's County Public School Police falls under the Police Accountability Board's purview. The Board will be updated when a decision has been rendered.

Keenon James inquired whether complaints of police misconduct can be accepted by the PAB from incidents stemming from State agencies, i.e. Maryland State Police, Metro Transit Police, Bowie State University, M-NCPPC Police. Complaints would be tracked and referred to the appropriate State entity. Mr. James recommended that we update our processes and published information to include that complaints can be accepted for State agencies. The Inspector General may follow-up and schedule meetings with some of the agencies cited to discuss reporting. Additional research on the matter is needed.

Tangi Allen shared that upcoming Administrative Hearing Boards information will be posted on the Police Accountability Board website.

The Inspector General advised that a large number of administrative hearings are forth coming. The Inspector General requested that the Board continue their vetting process and appoint new civilians to serve on Administrative Hearing Board panels. The Chair will have Administrative Hearing Board Civilian Appointments added to the next meeting.

The next Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission training will be held in April.

Marsha Ridley inquired about a letter from the Office of the Sheriff. Tangi Allen shared that the Office of the Sheriff will host a Citizen's Academy beginning March 4, 2024 – May 20, 2024.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Marsha Ridley offered a motion to adjourn; seconded by Lafayette Melton. Motion passed by a unanimous vote: Ayes – 6 Opposed – 0 Abstain – 0 Absent – 4

### **NEXT MEETING**

February 28, 2024 – In Person

**PAB Website:** [PAB Website](#)

**Meeting Recordings are available on PAB website:** [YouTube - Police Accountability Board Playlist](#)