



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Police Accountability Board

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

July 10, 2024

Location: 9200 Basil Court, Suite 400, Largo, Maryland 20774

6:36 p.m. – 7:57 p.m.

Board Members Present: Board Chair Kelvin Davall, Board Members; Marsha Ridley, Tamika Springs, Keenon James, Lafayette Melton, Sheila Bryant, and Earl O'Neal

Virtual Board Members Present: Andrea Coleman

Member(s) Absent: Vice Chair Carlo Sanchez, Daniel Jones

Staff Present: Ebony Rorls, Program Administrator; Christal Ogene, Policy Analyst; Keona Savoy, General Clerk

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

Guest(s): N/A

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Davall called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm. The roll call was taken. Chair Davall asked if any guests signed up to speak or wanted to introduce themselves online. With no response, he proceeded with the meeting agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve Minutes from May 8, 2024, was offered by Marsha Ridley and seconded by Lafayette Melton. Motion passed by: Ayes:7 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 1 Absent: 1

The Legal Counsel requested that the Program Administrator send her the official transmittal letter that documents the recommendations passed at the May 8 2024 meeting.

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REPORTS AND UPDATES

2nd Quarter Chiefs Meeting: Chair Davall reports that the Board met with 6 Police Chiefs at the 2nd Quarter meeting, and the discussion was robust and enlightening. Chair Davall said that the Upper Marlboro Chief was concerned at content of a letter sent from the ACC to them several months prior, indicating that they were underreporting their cases. The Chair apologized, and informed all present that measures have now been put in place to ensure that all communication sent under his signature is properly edited for tone and tenor going forward.

Keenon James inquired about meeting notes from the Chief's meeting and the Legal Counsel explained that since it was not a "formal" meeting, no minutes were required under the Open Meetings Act. Keenon James indicated that some record of the meeting was necessary. Sheila Bryant recommended that a synopsis of quarterly meetings be required. Earl O'Neal agreed and reiterated that it is necessary to have a record of these meetings for the annual report, and to document the positive outcomes and follow-up items from the meeting. Legal Counsel responded that there is a need for candor in the meetings, and that formal minutes might prove limiting in that respect. She demurred however, saying that there is a distinction between official meeting minutes and a meeting report, which is allowed under the Open Meetings Act. Following this discussion, Sheila Bryant made a motion that the Board prepare a meeting summary after each Quarterly Meeting with Law Enforcement Chiefs. The motion was seconded by Lafayette Melton and passed with 6 Ayes 2 Nos (Tamika Springs and Kelvin Davall). Sheila Bryant volunteered to write the report for the remaining 2024 meetings.

MML Conference: Board Members Earl O'Neal, Sheila Bryant, Marsha Ridley, Legal Counsel Marva Jo Camp and PAB Policy Analyst Christal Ogene attended the Maryland Municipal League's 2024 Summer Conference from June 23-26 in Ocean City. For the first time, attendees were asked to write a report of the conference and submit to the Policy Analyst. The Chair inquired about the reports, and overall impressions of the conference from those that attended. Below is a summary of the feedback received:

- The Policy Analyst indicated that everyone had submitted their reports on time.
- Sheila Bryant reported that she found the conference very fulfilling as she was able to meet with many Police Chiefs and was most inspired by the Guest Speaker Mr. Brian Flemming.
- Earl O'Neal agreed that it was a great conference but would like to see a workshop on Police Accountability. He went to the Police Recruitment/Retention session hosted by the Police Chief of Frederick and was impressed by their policies – especially how they handle citizen complaints, where there is an effort to mediate with citizens before complaints are formally filed. Earl O'Neal also indicates that this conference is a good place to meet with members of the County Council. He would like to see a booth or table with collaborative Maryland PABs at the conference next time. Sheila Bryant agreed but indicated that the MACo conference might be a better format for this.
- Marsha Ridley said she didn't find the training beneficial. She said she went to one training
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that talked about the different technology that is used when the police do their arrests, and she found that fascinating and interesting.

- Legal Counsel indicated that this conference was not as good as the last one. She said that as a group, she recommends that every person attends the Police Chief's Breakfast and the PG County Municipal Breakfast, where legislation priorities are reviewed. She said that apart from the educational sessions, there is a tremendous opportunity to meet with Council Members and so an in-house strategy should be designed to maximize that opportunity.

Overall, Board members agreed that there are many opportunities to meet with council members throughout the conference.

NEW BUSINESS

PAB Rules and Procedures: Chair Davall has asked staff to send out the Board Rules and Procedures so that they can be reviewed by all board members and voted on. Board members agreed to the following schedule:

July 15, 2024 – Staff send document to Board Members for review (via a document sharing service)

August 9, 2024 – Due date for Board Members to make changes to document.

August 28, 2024 – Dedicated Board Meeting for Board Rules and Procedures

Action Plan Dashboard- Discuss Board Member's Tasks: Lafayette Melton thanked everyone who volunteered and took ownership of tasks on the dashboard. He indicated, however, that many people did not sign up for tasks. So far, the only Board Members who have signed up for tasks are Tamika Springs, Andrea Coleman, Keenon James, and himself. He reminded the members that the Action Plan will not work without ownership of tasks, because they will need to be monitored throughout the year to achieve Board objectives.

Lafayette Melton indicated that although he is aware that people are busy, the work of the Board should be equitable. Following this statement, he encouraged all Board Members to pull up the dashboard in real time. Tamika Spriggs suggested that every Board Member commit to ownership of at least two tasks. Lafayette Melton said he is willing to update the tracker as needed via email messages from Board Members, if that would make the process easier for members to commit. Chair Davall asked each Board Member to commit to their tasks and notify Lafayette Melton by July 15, 2024.

Annual Report 2024: Chair Davall suggests that it is important to have committees for this year's annual report. He would like to see report categories so that Board Members can discuss. He asked that an outline be shared by staff based on last year's report by COB on Monday, July 15, 2024.

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COMMUNITY AND EXTERNAL OUTREACH

3rd quarter Chiefs Meeting: The next meeting is on July 24, 2024. Chief Azeez and Sherriff Carr will be present. An agenda needs to be created. The Chair suggests that the Board look at cases and come to the meeting prepared to discuss them with the Chiefs and also discuss the recent Policy Recommendations passed by the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Davall informed those present that he has had some concerns in the past month, so he and Vice Chair Sanchez met with DCAO Stanton, to confirm that the PAB is an independent board that is outside the legislative mandate. One of the outcomes of this meeting is that Chair Davall and Vice Chair Sanchez will be meeting twice a month with IG Bennet to ensure that there is cross communication between the Board and Administration, so that roles are clearly defined. Chair Davall said he will discuss specifics when Vice Chair Sanchez is present.

Following the Chair's comments there was some discussion amongst Board Members about the need for mutual respect, and the need to go into closed session to discuss some concerns regarding communication and mutual respect on the Board. This conversation was tabled and will be continued at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was offered by Sheila Bryant and seconded by Marsha Ridley Motion passed: Ayes – 8; Opposed – 0; Abstain – 0; Absent – 1

The meeting adjourned at 7:57pm

NEXT MEETING

July 24, 2024– In Person

Attachments: N/A

PAB Website: [PAB Website](#)

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

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