

Police Civilian Review Panel

January 5, 2023

Pozez Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia

8900 Little River Turnpike Annandale, VA 22031

Meeting Summary

Panel Members Present:

Cheri Belkowitz
Todd Cranford, Vice-Chair
Bryon Garner
Celeste Peterson
Dirck Hargraves, Chair
William Ware
Janell Wolfe

Others Present:

Madison Gibbs, Counsel
Sanjida Lisa, PCRP
Steven Richardson, PCRP
Rachelle Ramirez, OIPA
Richard Schott, OIPA
2nd Lt. Tim Forrest, Internal Affairs Bureau
Lt. Todd Sweeney, Internal Affairs Bureau
2nd Lt. Matthew Lane, Internal Affairs Bureau
Community members

The Panel's business meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Mr. Hargraves, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the Panel's January 5, 2023, meeting. Mr. Hargraves invited Laura Adler of the Pozez Jewish Community Center to share some remarks. Ms. Adler introduced herself to the Panel and the community members present and shared some historical background of the community center.

Mr. Jimmy Bierman, shared a few remarks and wished the Panel goodbye as he stepped down from his role as a Panel member to begin a political campaign, per the Police Civilian Review Panel (PCR) By-Laws.

Approval of Agenda: Mr. Cranford moved approval of the meeting agenda. Mr. Garner seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Approval of October 1, 2022, Draft Training Summary: Mr. Garner moved approval of the Panel's October 1, 2022, training summary. Mr. Ware seconded the motion, and all moved to approve the summary, except Ms. Belkowitz who abstained.

Approval of November 3, 2022, Draft Meeting Summary: Mr. Garner moved approval of the November 3, 2022 draft meeting summary. Ms. Wolfe seconded the motion. Mr. Cranford wanted to change the "Ms." to "Mr." in the third paragraph on page 3. No other edits were made. All vote to approve the summary, except Mr. Ware who abstained.

Approval of November 10, 2022, Draft Summary: Mr. Garner moved approval of the November 10, 2022 draft Reception summary, Ms. Wolfe seconded the motion. All vote to approve, except Mr. Ware who abstained.

Approval of November 12, 2022, Draft Training Summary: Mr. Garner moved approval of the November 12, 2022 draft training summary, Ms. Belkowitz seconded the motion. All vote to approve, except Mr. Ware who abstained.

2023 Panel Leadership Elections: Mr. Hargraves read aloud the By-Laws pertaining to election procedure. Mr. Hargraves expressed a desire to postpone the elections to the next Panel meeting to better prepare for the elections. Mr. Hargraves asked the Panel if any of the current Panel members wanted to nominate another Panel member or themselves for the Vice Chair position. No Panel member expressed their desire to nominate and agreed with Mr. Hargraves that the elections should be postponed.

Mr. Garner moved to table the elections to the February 2, 2023 Panel meeting. Mr. Cranford seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Executive Director's Report: Mr. Richardson went over the current case intake PCR/P had received and the status of the requests. Mr. Richardson announced to the Panel of the upcoming PCR/P and Interfaith/Public Safety breakfast on January 26, 2023. He asked if the Panel members had any faith leaders they would want to invite to the breakfast and to forward those recommendations to the PCR/P office.

Mr. Richardson reminded the Panel of the upcoming training with Ms. Marcia Thompson on February 18, 2023.

Mr. Richardson announced his work in conjunction with the Office of the Independent Auditor (OIPA) to develop a standardized training curriculum for current and future Panel members.

Mr. Richardson went over the locations of the upcoming Panel meetings until July 2023.

Mr. Richardson presented his proposal for a Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) Cadet Community Volunteer Program, which would require cadets from the Police Academy to spend two weeks volunteering with an organization in Fairfax County and building a rapport with that community. Ms. Peterson suggested that the cadets wear their uniforms while they volunteer. Mr. Cranford discussed the idea of an officer being off the clock versus on the clock. Ms. Peterson elaborated that she worked with young males who have a skewed perspective of officers in uniform and would thus greatly benefit from positive interactions with officers in uniform.

At approximately 7:55 p.m., Mr. Hargraves asked everyone in attendance to state their name and title. Everyone who was present stated their name and their position.

OIPA Update: Mr. Schott presented his findings from reviewing a June 2020 incident in Gum springs involving a taser. Mr. Schott agreed with the findings of the investigation by FCPD's Internal Affairs Bureau, though he believed that there was a violation of the department's mandatory use of de-escalation techniques.

Mr. Schott presented his findings from his review of the March 2022 incident in Lorton of a suspicious vehicle. Mr. Schott agreed with the IAB findings for this case, after reviewing the FCPD's criminal and internal investigation as the case involved use of deadly force.

Mr. Schott provided that he is presently monitoring two other incidents and an additional internal investigation into an officer-involved shooting in Seven Corners. Mr. Schott also provided that he is working on the OIPA Annual Report.

PCPR Matters:

Mr. Cranford had nothing further to add. Mr. Schott had nothing further to add.

Ms. Ramirez provided an update on VACOLE, which is the Virginia Coalition on Oversight of Law Enforcement. Ms. Ramirez provided that they had a meeting recently in which the different oversight offices in Virginia provided updates on their offices and they all discussed potentially changing the name of the coalition to something else.

Ms. Peterson had nothing further to add.

Ms. Wolfe expressed a desire to look at the By-Law procedures for Subcommittee Meetings and whether complainants are allowed to "testify" and how much time they are allotted to address the Panel. Ms. Wolfe mentioned that she will look further into the By-Laws and the current standards to possibly reframe and adjust how the Panel should set that standard for complainants and for FCPD input.

Mr. Garner had nothing further to add.

Ms. Belkowitz mentioned that her daughter worked for the Suicide Hotline, 988, and shared that resource with the community. Mr. Cranford mentioned that he wanted to include the resource of the Domestic Violence number for the community as well. The Panel suggested creating magnets with resource phone numbers to the Suicide Hotline, Domestic Violence hotline, and the Magistrate's office.

Ms. Peterson wanted to ascertain whether there were any other forums or opportunities for the Panel to address the concerns of the complainants outside of the meetings. She wanted to ensure that the complainants were being heard and were able to air their concerns and be heard as humans.

Mr. Hargraves had nothing further to add. Mr. Ware had nothing further to add. Counsel had nothing further to add. PCRPR had nothing further to add.

Adjournment: Mr. Hargraves announced the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.