

Police Civilian Review Panel

May 4, 2023

WISH Center (Workforce, Innovation, Skills Hub)

7950 Audubon Ave. Alexandria, VA 22306

Meeting Summary

Panel Members Present:

Todd Cranford, Chair

Cheri Belkowitz, Vice Chair

Michael Lau

Celeste Peterson

Janell Wolfe

Others Present:

Madison Gibbs, Counsel

Sanjida Lisa, PCRCP

Rachelle Ramirez, OIPA

Lt. Todd Sweeney, Internal Affairs Bureau

Community members

Chair Cranford called the Police Civilian Review Panel’s (PCRCP) business meeting to order at 7:18 p.m. and after taking attendance noted the presence of a quorum. He welcomed everyone to the Panel’s May 4, 2023, meeting and thanked the WISH (Workforce, Innovation, Skills Hub) Center and Supervisor Rodney Lusk for hosting the Panel’s meeting.

Approval of Agenda: Ms. Wolfe moved approval of the meeting agenda. Mr. Lau seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Chair Cranford invited WISH Center representative, Carla Claire, to share information on the different workshops and resources the WISH Center provided to the community in Hybla Valley. Carla explained that the programs were specifically aimed at the low income residents in the community and the different range of classes that were offered for skills development. Chair Cranford also provided historical background and context to the community members in attendance of the creation of the Panel and the different kinds of cases the PCRCP reviews. He also noted the difference between the types cases that the Panel and the Office of the Independent Police Auditor review.

Approval of April 6, 2023, Draft Meeting Summary: Ms. Wolfe moved approval of the Panel’s April 6, 2023, meeting summary. Mr. Lau seconded the motion, and it carried with Ms. Belkowitz abstaining.

Executive Director’s Report: Ms. Lisa presented the Executive Director’s report, as Mr. Richardson was attending the Institute for Constitutional Policing Conference with the Independent Police Auditor (OIPA), Mr. Richard Schott. Ms. Lisa reported that the PCRCP continued to work with the Office of Immigrant Community Affairs on a comprehensive outreach strategy for the County’s Spanish speaking communities. Ms. Lisa presented that there would be various opportunities for the Panel to participate in outreach endeavors in June and throughout the summer with more information to come for a “Safe Summer” event for the County’s youth populations.

Ms. Lisa read that the next Panel meeting would take place at the Temple Rodef Shalom on June 1st and that future venues for meetings were being considered. If any Panel member had any suggestions on future locations, they were encouraged to share the information with PCRCP staff.

PCRCP Matters: Ms. Wolfe mentioned that the Use of Force training on April 29th was very informative and commended Lt. Sweeney for his presentation. Ms. Wolfe also mentioned that the demonstration of the BOLO device was interesting to look at and that she would be interested in learning more about cultural humility. Ms. Wolfe also mentioned that she learned that Fairfax County Police officers always have available to them a non-lethal weapon and a lethal weapon when responding to a scene.

Mr. Lau expressed that he enjoyed attending the Use of Force training and that he found it to be very informative and refreshing.

Chair Cranford mentioned that FCPD had responded to the recommendations matrix request and would give the Panel time to review the FCPD responses, so he recommended deferring discussion to the next Panel meeting.

Ms. Belkowitz echoed what Ms. Wolfe and Mr. Lau had expressed about the Use of Force training. Ms. Belkowitz and Ms. Wolfe also expressed their desire to return to the WISH Center for a future Panel meeting.

New Business: Ms. Wolfe asked that the Magistrate's office phone number and other resources, such as the Suicide Hotline, be added to the PCRCP website.

Ms. Lisa shared that there was a Subcommittee empaneled to review case CRP-23-04, but the originally scheduled meeting for the subcommittee to discuss the initial review report needed to be rescheduled in deference to the complainant's unavailability to attend the meeting. Ms. Lisa shared that a new date would be forthcoming and she would share the new date with the Panel when confirmed.

The Panel members listened to the community members' remarks and answered questions.

Adjournment: Ms. Belkowitz motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Peterson seconded, and it carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.