

Police Civilian Review Panel

January 6, 2022

Conducted Electronically due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Meeting Summary

Panel Members Present:

Jimmy Bierman, Chair
Cheri Belkowitz (joined at 7:05 p.m.)
Todd Cranford
Frank Gallagher
Dirck Hargraves, Vice-Chair
Shirley Norman-Taylor
William Ware (joined at 7:11 p.m.)

Others Present:

Rachelle Ramirez, OIPA
Richard Schott, Independent Police Auditor
Dre-Ana Whitfield, OIPA

NOTE: The Panel's January 6 meeting was conducted electronically due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The electronic meeting was hosted on WebEx and allowed for members of the public to virtually attend via WebEx or conference call.

The Panel's business meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Motions to Conduct Electronic Meeting: Mr. Bierman welcomed everyone and took roll call to verify a quorum of the Panel was present and to ensure each Panel Member's voice could be heard clearly. He asked each Panel Member to state their name and the location from which they were participating.

Mr. Cranford was present and participated from Fairfax, Virginia.

Mr. Gallagher was present and participated from Burke, Virginia.

Mr. Hargraves was present and participated from Kingstown, Virginia.

Ms. Norman-Taylor was present and participated from Lorton, Virginia.

Mr. Bierman was present and participated from Mclean, Virginia.

Ms. Belkowitz joined the meeting at 7:05 p.m. and participated from Fairfax Station, Virginia.

Mr. Ware joined the meeting at 7:11 p.m. and participated from Alexandria, Virginia.

Mr. Bierman moved that each member's voice may be adequately heard by each other member of this Panel. Mr. Hargraves seconded the motion, and it carried with a vote of five, without the votes of Ms. Belkowitz and Mr. Ware who were absent due to technical difficulties.

Mr. Bierman moved that the State of Emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic makes it unsafe for the subcommittee to physically assemble and unsafe for the public to physically attend any such meeting, and that as such, FOIA's usual procedures, which require the physical assembly of this Panel and the physical presence of the public, cannot be implemented safely or practically. He further moved that the subcommittee may conduct this meeting electronically through a dedicated WebEx platform and audio-conferencing line, and that the public may access this meeting by using the WebEx attendee access link or by calling 1-844-621-3956 and entering access code 2335 103 8481 as noted in the Public Meeting Notice. Mr. Hargraves seconded the motion, and it carried with a vote of six, without the vote of Mr. Ware who was absent.

Mr. Bierman moved that all matters addressed on the agenda are necessary to continue operations and the discharge of the Panel's lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities. Mr. Hargraves seconded the motion, and it carried with a vote of six, with Mr. Ware being absent.

Approval of Agenda: Mr. Bierman explained that due to the winter weather advisory he was not able to travel to the FCPD to review the file for CRP-21-24. He stated that the Panel will not discuss the subcommittee review at this time. The subcommittee meeting has been rescheduled to a later date in January. Mr. Bierman stated that the subcommittee will be ready to present the findings to the Panel at the February 3, 2022, meeting. Mr. Gallagher moved approval of the Panel's agenda. Mr. Hargraves seconded the motion, and it carried with a vote of six, with Mr. Ware being absent.

Approval of December 2 Meeting Summary: Mr. Hargraves moved approval of the Panel's December 2 meeting summary. Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of six, with Mr. Ware being absent.

Report from the 2021 NACOLE Conference: Mr. Hargraves, Ms. Ramirez (OIPA), and Mr. Schott (OIPA) provided a brief report of the 2021 National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) annual conference. Mr. Hargraves recommended that Panel members try to attend the next NACOLE Conference. Mr. Hargraves stated that the NACOLE conference allows attendees to receive information on how other entities are responding to different challenges. He expressed that it was fascinating to learn about the different challenges faced by other jurisdictions and noted the benefit of attending breakout sessions. He mentioned learning about challenges faced by international jurisdictions, such as Mexico and Sierra Leone. Ms. Ramirez explained that NACOLE organizes an excellent conference. She stated that NACOLE presents on and provides numerous resources on effective practices that relate to a variety of oversight models. Ms. Ramirez stated that she will send the most recent reports from NACOLE to the Panel members. She also said that NACOLE will be hosting a webinar series starting January 20, 2022, with the topic of implicit bias training in law enforcement. She said if any Panel members are available to attend the webinar, they should let her know and she will register them. Mr. Schott expressed that it is striking to hear the level of training that other oversight entities receive, and he encouraged Panel members to attend NACOLE training if possible. Mr. Schott stated that the next NACOLE conference will be in October of 2022 in Fort Worth, Texas. He also said that the FCPD plans on providing training to the Panel and OIPA later this year. Mr. Hargraves emphasized the benefit of being able to develop connections and relationships with other professionals in other jurisdictions so that they may serve as a future resource. Ms. Belkowitz asked if there will be a regional event held. Ms. Ramirez said that she is not aware of a regional in-person event planned, but

only the webinar series at this time. Mr. Hargraves said he spoke with a former Panel member about the possibility of forming a coalition of Virginia localities on law enforcement oversight.

Mr. Bierman informed the Panel members that they are invited to a use of force discussion by Chief Davis. He stated that the event has been rescheduled from January to March 26, 2022.

2022 Panel Leadership Elections: Mr. Bierman reminded the Panel that his term as Chair ends March 1, 2022. He stated that he intends to ask the Board of Supervisors' Chairman to be reappointed for an additional three-year term. Mr. Hargraves will be requesting to be appointed for another three-year term. Mr. Gallagher informed the Panel that he is not requesting another three-year term. Mr. Bierman said there will be additional turnover on the Panel in addition to the two seats are currently vacant on the Panel. He stated that the interviews for Executive Director will be held on January 18, 2022. He said that he will not be able to serve on the interview Panel but hopes the next elected Vice-Chair will serve on the interview panel.

Mr. Bierman then asked for nominations for Vice-Chair. Mr. Hargraves nominated Mr. Cranford, and it was seconded by Ms. Norman-Taylor. Mr. Cranford expressed his gratitude for being considered for the Vice-Chair position. He stated that he is honored to be serving on the Panel.

Mr. Bierman called the question, and it carried unanimously. Panel members congratulated Mr. Cranford, who will serve as the new Vice-Chair for the Panel starting on March 1, 2022. Mr. Gallagher asked whether Mr. Hargraves will automatically assume the role of chairman of the Panel in March, 2022. Mr. Bierman replied affirmatively as it is stated in the Bylaws.

New Business: Ms. Belkowitz informed the Panel that Fairfax County Special Education PTA (SEPTA) will be hosting a meeting about police in public schools. The meeting will be held virtually on January 18, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. She stated that Mr. Bierman will be a speaker at the event, as will Chief Davis and other FCPD representatives. She stated that she will be sending out the flyer for the Panel members to register.

Mr. Bierman said that a decision will be made later whether the next Panel meeting in February will be held virtually or in person.

Adjournment: Mr. Hargraves moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Next Meeting: The Panel's next business meeting will be held on February 3, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.