

Police Civilian Review Panel

January 23, 2024

Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 232

Subcommittee Meeting Summary (CRP-23-01)

Subcommittee Members Present:

Fazia Deen, Panel Member (participated remotely)

Celeste Peterson, Panel Member

Michael Lau, Chair of Subcommittee

Others Present:

Cheri Belkowitz, Panel Vice-Chair

Janell Wolfe, Panel Member

Dirck Hargraves, Panel Member

Rachelle Ramirez, OIPA

Richard Schott, Independent Police Auditor

The Panel's meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m. Mr. Lau welcomed everyone to the Panel's January 23, 2024, Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Lau described the purpose of the subcommittee and its procedures to conduct an initial review of a complaint. He stated that subcommittee will complete the Initial Review Report, which was included in the meeting materials, and will make its recommendation to the full Panel at its Feb. 1, 2024, meeting.

Mr. Lau and Ms. Peterson were present in the room. Ms. Deen participated remotely by telephone from Chicago, Illinois due to a personal matter.

Initial Review of CRP-23-01:

Mr. Lau stated that the subcommittee members reviewed the complainant's statements, the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) disposition letter, and the FCPD's investigative files, which included body-worn camera (BWC) recordings. Mr. Lau provided a summary of the events of the incident that led to the complaint (CRP-23-01) and took comments from Ms. Peterson and Ms. Deen. He identified the allegations made by the complainant in his correspondence to the Panel:

1. The FCPD did not charge the complainant's ex-wife with a crime (making a false police report).
2. An FCPD officer lied when he attributed a statement to the complainant that the complainant did not make.
3. The FCPD investigator (of his complaint) lied in saying that the complainant was interviewed during his complaint investigation when he was not.

The complainant was not present at the subcommittee meeting.

The subcommittee members considered whether each allegation was considered Serious Misconduct or Abuse of Authority, which is required for recommending full Panel review.

Subcommittee members discussed the first allegation and agreed that the police not charging the ex-wife with a crime was not Serious Misconduct or Abuse of Authority. Ms. Deen said that the police explained to the complainant that there was no crime element.

Subcommittee members discussed the second allegation and agreed that it did not rise to the level of Serious Misconduct or Abuse of Authority. Mr. Lau stated that a supplemental report was made to clarify what the complainant said to the police.

Subcommittee members discussed the third allegation. Ms. Peterson said the investigator tried to get in touch with the complainant and Mr. Lau agreed that there were interviews conducted over the phone. The subcommittee members stated that they did not think the officer lied and, therefore, this did not rise to the level of Serious Misconduct or Abuse of Authority.

Mr. Lau moved that the subcommittee does not recommend full Panel review based on the subcommittee voting no on each of the allegations. Ms. Deen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.