

Police Civilian Review Panel
September 7, 2017, 7:00 p.m. Conference room 232,
Fairfax County Government Center
Meeting Summary

The meeting began at 7:05 pm.

Panel Members present:

Hansel Aguilar

Steve Descano

Hollye Doane

Doug Kay

Randy Sayles

Jean Senseman

Kathleen Davis-Siudut

Adrian Steel, Panel Chairman

Rhonda VanLowe, Panel Vice Chairman

Panel Chairman Steel called the meeting to order. Mr. Aguilar introduced the Panel's guest, Mr. Paul Ashton, who serves as the Chair of the D.C. Police Complaints Board (PCB). Mr. Ashton briefed the panel on the structure, mission, jurisdiction, and the process for review of citizen complaints against the MPD (Metropolitan Police Department). He further explained that the PCB takes an active role in the work of the Office of Police Complaints (OPC) offering guidance on many issues and making policy recommendations to the Mayor, the Council, and the MPD. Community outreach is an important aspect of the PCB's work and an annual report is issued.

Chairman Steel noted that the Agenda items would be taken out of order.

1. Panel website – Chairman Steel announced that the Panel webpage page is live, and a press release was issued by the office of Chairman Bulova announcing that the Auditor and Panel are both accepting complaints and providing links to both websites.
2. Public Forum and Community Outreach – Vice Chair VanLowe reported on the planning for the first public forum and they are still working to confirm a date – which may be on a weeknight. Ms. Doane reported on the work to develop a brochure for the Panel. It will include a complaint form that can be detached and mailed in; it will be distributed at locations such as libraries, recreation centers, Board of Supervisors' offices, FCPD stations, and other places where the community congregates; and it will be made available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Korean. Creating a video on Channel 16 and posting on social media, were additional outreach efforts discussed.

3. Meeting with Community and Police Officer Organizations – Mr. Descano reported that he has contacted a number of community organizations and groups about the Panel and its scope and activities. These include: NAACP (forum being held on September 9); CASA in Action; Unitarian-Universalist Church in Reston; various Route 1 organizations; ethnic populations; Police Citizen Advisory Committees and the Chief’s Diversity Council; and FCPD officer organizations. Suggestions for other organizations to be contacted should be sent to Mr. Descano in order that he and Ms. Davis-Siudut can keep a record of all such outreach. Panel members noted that contact should be made with additional organizations such as the ACLU, Black Lives Matter, SURJ, and others that have been active in the Ad Hoc Commission process.

Chairman Steel noted that members of the Panel will be expected to help in the outreach process which could include one or two Panel members attending meetings with groups. He and Ms. Davis-Suidut offered to prepare key talking points and a draft PowerPoint presentation.

4. Meetings with the independent Police Auditor (IPA) – The first meeting with IPA Mr. Schott, as provided in the bylaws, will be scheduled when he is further along in his work and review of investigations.
5. Third Panel Training Session – Major Lee confirmed Saturday, September 30 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm as the date for the third training session. The location will be the McConnell Public Safety Transportation Operations Center at 4890 Alliance Drive in Fairfax.
6. Complaint Process – IPA Schott reported on the complaints that he has reviewed from the Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) which have been identified by himself and IAB Commander Major Gervais Reed as being within the scope of the Panel’s authority. Those complainants will be informed in the letter the FCPD sends notifying them of the results of the FCPD’s investigation of their opportunity to request a review by the Panel.

The Panel discussed whether the Chair and Vice Chair should review the complaints received by IAB to determine which are within the scope of the Panel’s authority, or should the entire Panel perform the review. Mr. Kay moved that for a trial period of 60 days, the Chair and Vice Chair will confer with Mr. Schott and Major Reed to review the complaints received to date, and any additional complaints received, to identify those which should be provided with a notice of the opportunity to request a CRP review. The motion carried with Mr. Descano voting “NAY”. The Chair and Vice Chair will report to the Panel as to the results of the trial period and their recommendation(s) at the next Panel meeting.

Once it is determined and agreed by all as to how the complaint process should work, the Panel will develop a written protocol to confirm the process, to include a standard template for use in communicating with complainants.

7. Complaint Received by Panel -- A citizen complaint was submitted to the Panel in late August. It related to activity which occurred prior to December 6, 2016, and the Panel does not have the authority to review any FCPD investigation of the identified activity. The complainant was so advised, and the Chair will follow up with a further communication explaining that the December 6 date controls as per the Panel's bylaws and will inform the complainant that he may appear at an upcoming public forum to express any concerns he may have as to relevant FCPD policies and practices.
8. NACOLE Annual Conference – Both Mr. Aguilar and Mr. Schott will be attending the annual NACOLE meeting in Spokane next week, and they will report back on what they learn at the meeting and on current developments in civilian oversight.
9. Next Meeting - The Panel's next business meeting will be scheduled on Thursday, October 19, 2017, at 7 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.