

**City of Memphis Civilian Law Enforcement Review Board**  
**Minutes for September 13, 2018**

**Call to Order**

The meeting of the Civilian Law Enforcement Review Board was formally called to order by Chairman Ralph White at 4:36 p.m.

**Board Members Present:**

Ralph White, Chairman  
Casey Bryant, Vice Chairman  
David Acey  
Marie Finney  
Ricky Floyd  
Dwan Gilliom  
Floridia Jackson  
Sandeep Pednekar

**Board Members Absent:**

June Chinn-Jointer  
Nicholas Bragorgos  
Hazel Moore  
Jamita Swearengen

**Also Present:**

Mary Grambergs, Sr. Assistant City Attorney

**Miscellaneous:**

Chairman White thanked the board for their support during his tenure and offered his support to the incoming Chairman.

A card was passed by Chairman White to board members, that was obtained from Shelby County Schools, with instructions on how to respond to law enforcement. The board hopes to obtain copies of the card and be able to pass them out at churches, libraries, and other community places.

**Public Comment Session:**

Mr. Reginald Johnson inquired about how the board vets new members.

Chairman White explained that CLERB members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council, and encouraged Mr. Johnson to submit a resume for consideration.

Mr. Fergus Nolan thanked CLERB for all of the work it is doing for the community and strongly encouraged the board to update the website with minutes, case summaries, correspondence with the mayor and Director Rallings, etc. Mr. Nolan recognized that the documents are being generated, but they are not as accessible to the public as they should be under the open records law.

Ms. Wilson thanked Mr. Nolan for his comments, and stated that there are documents that are being uploaded, currently, with more to be expected in the coming few weeks. There is a recognition that updating the website is a continuing need and priority, and that it is being handled as quickly as time and budgeting allows, with the expectation that all of the 2018 meeting minutes and agendas will be posted within the next few days/weeks.

Mr. Acey spoke on behalf of Ms. Wilson's efforts for the board and the need for continuing citizen involvement in teaching each other how to have positive interactions with law enforcement.

Chairman White remarked that other communities fund and staff their civilian law enforcement review boards up to \$1 million annually for the work they do, and Memphis does not fund CLERB anywhere near that level, and with the funding and staffing that CLERB has, it are doing the best it can.

Mr. Reginald Johnson inquired if CLERB anticipates obtaining subpoena power so that police officers can be required to come to testify before the board.

Chairman White explained that while CLERB does, currently, have subpoena power, the way it is set up is difficult to work with, and that CLERB is working on options to be more effective within that constraint. However, even with the limitations they are currently working within, the board members find ways to assist citizens in getting the help they need, so their concerns can be voiced and heard.

Mr. Reginald Johnson stated that he hoped to be able to invite a few board members to participate in a panel discussion he would be holding next month on crime in his area, and that, perhaps, that would be a good forum for the board members to be able to discuss with the community how to interact appropriately with law enforcement.

Chairman White agreed he would like to participate, and that Mr. Johnson should let him know the details of the event.

#### **Approval of the Minutes:**

A motion to approve the minutes of the August meeting was offered by Mr. Gilliom, seconded by Mr. Acey, and unanimously approved as submitted with no corrections.

#### **Old Business:**

The date of Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> was selected for Citizen's Police Academy training.

#### **New Business:**

- **Status on pending CLERB cases:**

Ms. Wilson remarked that the backlog of cases has been greatly decreased. There are not as many new cases coming in as in previous years 2016 and 2017. There are about six cases in the pipeline that are being prepared for presentation to the board, if the complainants decide to proceed.

Ms. Jackson noted that some people have become fatigued by the process of complaining about improper decorum by the police, but also hopes that use of cameras and internal affairs being more consistent with officer discipline may also be contributing to the lower case load.

- **Election of Board Chair:**

Mr. Gilliom nominated Casey Bryant as incoming chairman, with Mr. Acey seconding. The board unanimously voted in favor, with no dissenting votes.

- **Election of Vice-Chair:**

Nominations were made for Ralph White, Sandeep Pednekar, and Dwan Gilliom.

Mr. Gilliom appreciated the vote of confidence, but declined the nomination.

A roll-call vote was taken with the result being seven votes in favor of Ralph White, which was the majority. Mr. Pednekar graciously thanked the board for the nomination and offered his congratulations to Mr. White.

**Adjournment:**

Chairman-Elect Bryant moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Gilliom. A vote was held with all voting in favor of the motion and no dissents. The meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 11, 2018, at 125 N. Main Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor City Council Conference Room , Memphis, TN, at 4:00 p.m.