

**CIVILIAN APPEAL BOARD MEETING**  
**MARCH 17, 2021**

*These minutes are a summary of the discussions that took place during the last meeting of the Civilian Appeal Board. They are not a verbatim transcription of the remarks made by any individual.*

**CALL TO ORDER: 4:04 PM at City Hall Commission Chambers**

**Members:** Present: Huemartin Robinson II (*Chairperson*)  
John Weiss (*Vice Chair*)  
Briana Trudell  
Michelle Williams  
Russell Olmsted  
Sophia Brewer

**Non-Members Present:** Brandon Davis, Director of Oversight and Public  
Accountability (*Board Liaison*)  
Philip Strom, Deputy City Attorney  
Christin M. Johnson, OPA Specialist  
Stacey Moody, Labor Relations Specialist  
Nathan Mead, GRPD Internal Affairs  
Chad McKersie, GRPD Training Unit  
Kevin Curiel-Vazquez, Administrative Aide  
Claudette Henry, OPA Exec. Asst. (*Board Secretary*)

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Civilian Appeal Board (CAB) of the City of Grand Rapids was called to order at 4:04 PM on March 17, 2021 virtually by Chairperson Huemartin Robinson. Chairperson Robinson welcomed everyone and explained the purpose of the CAB. Chairperson Robinson stated that the purpose of the CAB is to act as a review body pursuant to City Commission Policy #800-02 for finding fact made by the Grand Rapids Police Department (GRPD) with respect to complaints made by individuals who believe that they have been mistreated by police officers through the use of excessive force, falsification/lying, civil rights violations; and/or conduct committed in a context of racial animosity or prejudice.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was conducted. Members who were present are listed above.

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Motion by Chairperson Robinson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board on February 17, 2021 with correction to the misspelling of Russell Olmsted's name.

- Motion by Briana Trudell, seconded by Russell Olmsted.
- Motion carried: Unanimously.
- Resolved: Minutes from the meeting on February 17, 2021 was approved with correction of the spelling of "Russel Olmstead" to Russell Olmsted.

## **BOARD LIAISON REPORT**

### **• Board Training**

Mr. Davis informed the Board that a training schedule has been implemented for Board Members, which is based on recommendations from the City Attorney's Office and the Office of Oversight and Public Accountability with assistance from the Grand Rapids Police Department (GRPD) and is also based on national principles created by the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE).

#### **○ Training Curriculum**

1. Session One: Supplement to Previous Trainings (3/17/21)
  - History of Civilian Oversight
  - History, Culture, and Concerns regarding law enforcement relationships with community
  - National Principles of Civilian Oversight
  - Board Procedures and Expectation
2. Session Two: Law Enforcement/Use of Force Training (3/31/21, 6 – 9pm)
  - Use of Force Lecture
  - PPCT Techniques
  - ASP/ASR's
  - Taser
  - Force-on-Force Scenarios
3. Session Three: Legal Considerations
  - Public Records and Open Meetings
  - Confidentiality Requirements
  - State/Local Laws regarding personnel actions, employee rights, and privacy
  - Case Law Update re: stops, detentions, search, seizure, arrest, Miranda, and rights of arrested persons

- **Proposed Special Training Meeting**

Board members agreed to participate in the *Use of Force* training (in person), on March 31st from 6-9 PM at the GRPD. Board Members also agreed to participate in the *Legal Considerations* training (virtually) on April 14<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 PM. The legal training will last an hour and a half to two hours. Training dates will be confirmed, and other information will be provided to Board Members prior. These trainings are independent of Board meetings and activities.

- **Schedule Regarding Future Appeals**

Appeal case **CR 20-050** is scheduled to be heard at the next regular Board Meeting on April 21, 2021.

- **Update on Appeal Case (CR 19-171)**

Stacey Moody from the Labor Relations Department informed the Board that the Labor Relations Department is currently working on a supplemental investigation regarding appeal case CR 19-171 and has submitted follow-up questions to Internal Affairs and is in the process of preparing a written a summary to present to the Board.

## **DISCUSSION REGARDING CAB PROCEDURES AND POLICY**

Mr. Davis reminded the Board about a survey that was sent out related to Board Procedures and Policies. Mr. Davis stated that there is a section in the survey where Board Members can fill in specific suggestions about how the Board should function.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

- Mr. Davis suggested that, since the Board is behind on hearing cases due to COVID protocols, it considers preparing for a couple of cases rather than preparing for one at a time as usual. Board Members expressed that they prefer to handle them one at a time, so that they can focus their attention on one case. Chairperson Robinson added that the Board will concentrate on one case for now and see how it works out. Mr. Davis encouraged the Board to consider if it has the capacity to hear more than one case at a time to ensure the timeliness of each case.
- The Board inquired about obtaining a redacted version of the arbitrator's decision in the VanderKooi arbitration case for use by the Board. Attorney Strom asked Board Members to contact the legal department to make arrangements to review the documents.

- The Board inquired as to whether there were any other materials available, in terms of training, that would provide examples of written statements for decisions made after deliberations. Mr. Davis replied that review boards have their own set of rules to guide them, so there is no set written opinion. Mr. Davis further stated that the law department and the Board could prepare something that could help guide the Board in preparing written decisions. Attorney Strom added that this could be done during the Legal Considerations training on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the Board will be at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, April 21, 2021.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM by Chairperson Robinson.