

Police Civilian Review Panel

June 1, 2023

Temple Rodef Shalom

2100 Westmoreland Street Falls Church, VA 22043

Meeting Summary

Panel Members Present:

Cheri Belkowitz, Vice-Chair

Todd Cranford, Chair

Michael Lau

Fazia Deen

Dirck Hargraves

Celeste Peterson

William Ware

Janell Wolfe

Others Present:

Madison Gibbs, Counsel

Sanjida Lisa, PCRP

Steven Richardson, PCRP

Rachelle Ramirez, OIPA

Richard Schott, OIPA

2nd Lt. Matthew Lane, Internal Affairs Bureau

Community members

Chairman Cranford called the Police Civilian Review Panel's (PCR) business meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. and after taking attendance noted the presence of a quorum. He welcomed everyone to the Panel's June 1, 2023, meeting and thanked Temple Rodef Shalom and Rabbi Stein for hosting the Panel's meeting. Rabbi Stein welcomed the Panel and shared a few remarks about the temple, the community they serve and the types of events they hold. Chairman Cranford then shared that the Panel would be going into a Closed Session during the Panel meeting.

Approval of Agenda: Ms. Belkowitz moved approval of the meeting agenda. Mr. Hargraves seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Approval of May 4 2023, Draft Meeting Summary: Mr. Hargraves asked if the hotline and resource numbers were added to the website. Ms. Lisa and Ms. Wolfe both confirmed that they were. Ms. Belkowitz recommended adding that the Panel spoke about having another meeting at the WISH center at a later date and providing translation for the Spanish speaking community under New Business. Mr. Hargraves moved approval of the Panel's May 4, 2023, meeting summary as amended. Ms. Wolfe seconded the motion, and it carried. Mr. Ware abstained.

Approval of May 10, 2023 Draft Subcommittee Meeting Summary and Initial Review Report: Mr. Ware presented the case the subcommittee had reviewed, CRP-23-04, and shared the details of the complaint and information regarding the details of the incident and the allegations made by the Complainant. Mr. Lau provided further description of the complaint and his perspective when reviewing the file. Mr. Hargraves confirmed that the complainant is not able to file a complaint until any and all civil, criminal

and administrative proceedings are completed. Mr. Hargraves asked whether the complainant had been present at the subcommittee meeting. Mr. Cranford explained that the complainant was unable to attend the first meeting, which then got rescheduled. The complainant was also unable to attend the second scheduled meeting, and the Panel moved forward with the subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Cranford allowed the complainant of CRP-23-04 to present his complaint, the allegations made and address the Panel. The complainant presented the circumstances around the traffic incident and deferred to his wife to present a powerpoint presentation explaining the details further and why she thought certain statistical data from the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) were misrepresented. Ms. Gibbs reminded the complainant that this was not a court of law and the Panel does not operate in a legal setting, but would be able to request further investigation by the Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) on the discretion of the Chair. Ms. Wolfe asked the complainant whether they had pled guilty to the traffic citation and was notified that the Complainant had paid the fine.

Mr. Lau confirmed that he did not recommend that the complaint be forwarded for review by the full Panel and confirmed that he felt the investigation conducted by IAB was complete, thorough, accurate, impartial and objective. Mr. Ware wanted to confirm if the Panel By-Laws stated that the subcommittee's role was to determine whether the IAB's investigative file was thorough, complete, accurate, objective and impartial. Ms. Gibbs provided the section where the role of the subcommittee was outlined. Mr. Cranford confirmed that while that is not the primary role, he did not believe that the subcommittee could determine whether there was basis for the allegations without determining for thoroughness, objectivity, impartiality, accuracy and completeness.

Ms. Belkowitz asked whether there was a discrepancy in the statistics and data in the IAB file for the responding officer. Mr. Ware expressed that he was unsure as to why the Complainant was described as a Caucasian male with blue eyes when the Complainant has brown eyes and is of Hispanic descent.

Mr. Hargraves asked how an officer could make that kind of mistake and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Matt Lane confirmed that there is no default race selection in the FCPD RMS system the officer fills out. Mr. Hargraves asked 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Lane how the scrubbing of data works and was notified that gets done by a different bureau. Ms. Deen wanted to know whether the responding officer is asked to input data regarding race at the start of an incident or after the fact. Mr. Lau confirmed that the officer usually inputs the information after the fact.

Ms. Wolfe moved approval of the subcommittee's recommendation to not forward the complaint for review by the full Panel. Mr. Ware seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Closed Session: Mr. Hargraves motioned to recess into a closed session. Mr. Ware seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Panel was in closed session from 8:22 p.m. to 9:25 p.m.

Ms. Wolfe motioned to re-enter the Panel in a public meeting, Mr. Ware seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

PCRP Business: Mr. Hargraves wanted to ask FCPD what the process was of responding officers to input data and how discrepancies might occur. Mr. Cranford seconded that inquiry.

Executive Director's Report: Mr. Richardson presented his Executive Director's report. Mr. Richardson provided that he had attended the Constitutional Policing's Constitutional Policing Conference, along with the Independent Police Auditor and neighboring oversight practitioners from Alexandria and Arlington counties. Mr. Richardson shared the topics that were discussed at the conference and included that there were three handouts among the meeting materials at this evening's meeting that had more information.

Mr. Richardson shared that the Panel had been invited to hold an upcoming Panel meeting with 2<sup>nd</sup> Story and that the County's Office of Public Affairs was working with the PCRCP staff on a new Spanish language brochure. Mr. Richardson also shared that Channel 16 would be developing a Spanish language public service announcement to augment Panel outreach and a draft script would be forthcoming.

Mr. Richardson provided that in honor of Juneteenth, the Panel and staff would be supporting youths being recognized at the Resiliency Awards and upcoming Juneteenth events around the County. Mr. Richardson encouraged all Panel members to attend.

Mr. Richardson provided that a mandatory training plan had been produced in collaboration with the Office of the Independent Police Auditor and various County partners and a timetable for implementation would be forthcoming.

Ms. Peterson wanted to know if the Panel had any social media presence. Mr. Richardson provided that the Panel was not given the approval to create one yet. Mr. Cranford suggested that the office follow up and see if other similarly sized panels have access to social media platforms. Ms. Wolfe wanted to know the purpose of the training and how it would get implemented, which Mr. Richardson expanded on.

Ms. Deen left the meeting at 9:36 p.m.

Adjournment: Mr. Ware motioned to adjourn, Ms. Peterson seconded and it carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.