

Police Civilian Review Panel

February 1, 2024

Fairfax County Government Center

12000 Government Center Pkwy Fairfax, VA 22035

Meeting Summary

Panel Members Present:

Cheri Belkowitz, Vice Chair

Todd Cranford, Chair

Fazia Deen (virtual)

Bryon Garner

Dirck Hargraves (virtual)

Michael Lau

Celeste Peterson

William Ware

Janell Wolfe

Others Present:

Sanjida Lisa, PCRCP

Rachelle Ramirez, OIPA

Richard Schott, OIPA

Kenneth Bynum, Counsel

Madison Gibbs, Counsel

Lt. Chris Cosgriff, Internal Affairs Bureau

Chair Cranford called the Police Civilian Review Panel's (PCRCP) business meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., and after taking attendance, noted the presence of a quorum. He welcomed everyone to the Panel's February 1, 2024, meeting.

Approval of Agenda: Mr. Garner moved approval of the meeting agenda. Ms. Wolfe seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Approval of January 4, 2024 Draft Meeting Summary: Mr. Garner moved approval of the January 4, 2024 draft meeting summary. Mr. Ware seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Discussion of Panel 2023 Annual Report: Ms. Wolfe wanted to discuss the new Appendix A first. Ms. Belkowitz suggested adding "In addition to the meetings held at the Government Center, the Panel also held the following meetings..." on page five. Ms. Deen wanted to know why the Panel meeting held at Dar al Hijrah was not included in the annual report. Chair Cranford clarified that the annual report covers Panel business from March to March, and the Dar al Hijrah meeting was held in February. Panel members asked to implement a few other grammatical changes. Mr. Hargraves motioned to approve the 2023 Annual Report as amended. Mr. Garner seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Discussion of Subcommittee CRP-23-01: Ms. Lau presented the initial disposition of the subcommittee and provided a brief explanation of the Panel's subcommittee process. Mr. Lau continued to provide a summary of the facts of the case. Ms. Deen provided additional information for context and Ms.

Peterson made a correction about the timeline of the events. Mr. Lau presented the subcommittee findings and its recommendation. Ms. Wolfe moved to accept the subcommittee's recommendation. Mr. Garner seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Discussion of Subcommittee CRP-23-13: Ms. Belkowitz presented the allegations made by the complainant and provided a brief summary of the facts of the case. Ms. Wolfe provided a brief statement and shared her opinion on the case. Mr. Hargraves agreed and wanted to point out that a certain comment made by the complainant was akin to a racial slur. Mr. Hargraves also clarified that state legislature on freedom of speech in terms of when it is applicable and it isn't. Ms. Belkowitz presented the subcommittee findings and recommendation. Mr. Garner motioned to accept the subcommittee's recommendation. Mr. Lau seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

New Business: Ms. Wolfe reminded the Panel that new scripts were utilized that the subcommittee meetings and any suggestions of edits or tweaks should be made to staff to incorporate. Ms. Wolfe reminded that there was also a new document that provided guidance for the complainant that would get sent out along with the notification letters.

Mr. Lau proposed a duty to decorum form for complainants to sign and acknowledge before attending a subcommittee meeting. Chair Cranford and Ms. Belkowitz both provided that there would be no way the Panel could enforce that. Mr. Bynum added that it would be ideal to handle it on a case by case basis. Ms. Peterson recommended getting some basic training on de-escalation for the Panel.

Mr. Hargraves provided an update on the police reform working matrix group and their recommendations around independent oversight. Mr. Bynum provided an update on the Gloss v. Wheeler case.

Chair Cranford announced that Panel member William Ware would be stepping down from the Panel after the February Panel meeting. Chair Cranford also wanted to emphasize Panel outreach and accessibility to the Panel. Chair Cranford also announced that the February Panel meeting would be his last official meeting as Chair of the meeting and that Ms. Belkowitz would be transitioning over as the new Panel Chair for 2024.

Adjournment: Mr. Garner motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ware seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.