

Cleveland Community Police Commission (CPC) Minutes

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

4 p.m. – 9:20 p.m.

Attendees

Commissioners: **Jim Chura; Charles Donaldson Jr; Kyle Earley; Cait Kennedy; Greg Reaves; Jan Ridgeway; Piet van Lier; Teri Wang; Sharena Zayed; John Adams; Audrianna Rodriguez; Shandra Benito; Alana Garrett-Ferguson**

Staff: **Jason Goodrick**, Administrative Manager; **Shalenah Williams**, Community Engagement Coordinator; **Sara Anderson**, Marketing Communications Specialist; **Ryan Walker**, Policy Analyst

Jason Goodrick called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Welcome & Group Bonding Activity

Introduce commissioners to each other through Icebreaker: Shared Values, Shared Vision

- 1-2 Key Points/Strengths about yourself
- Board experience/success
- Envision 2027 for the Commission

Introduction to Other Stakeholders

City Administration

- **Delanté Spencer Thomas, Eden Giagnorio, Hannah Macias, Mark Griffin**
 - Worked on implementing Charter § 115-5
- **Dr. Leigh Anderson** – Police Accountability Team Executive Director
 - Works on ensuring compliance with the Consent Decree
- **Karrie Howard** – Chief Director of Public Safety
 - Executive Head of Police, Fire, EMS, Animal Care and Control, Corrections
- **Ayesha Bell Hardaway** – Interim Monitor
 - Served as member of Monitoring Team since beginning, became Interim Monitor November 2022

Overview of Charter Amendment 115

Commission will be responsible for making sure the community is represented and heard
Law Department will provide support and council to the commission when asked

- Commission can seek outside council when conflicts with the City Law Department are identified

Executive Director for CPC – Commission will nominate an ED to be appointed by Mayor to oversee operations of the CPC - close order of business

- Duties and responsibilities are outlined in Charter
- Job posting needs to be made and posted to City website
- An Interim ED should be chosen

Communication for CPC

Public Records & Sunshine Laws – high level overview, will be covered in depth during Commissioner training

Sunshine Laws – Open Meetings Act & Public Records Act

Open Meetings – what constitutes a meeting?

- Any prearranged meeting, if there is a majority of the Commissioners (7), if there is any discussion of public business (voting doesn't need to take place, any discussion about CPC business) - applies to subcommittees as well
- Virtual meetings – City Charter Provision allows for virtual meetings in some cases
- Needs to be notice issued prior to meeting to public, media, to any interested parties (CPC wants to provide print notices to communities that do not have ready access to computers/internet)
 - Notice for regular meetings – include time and place, how the public can access the meeting
 - Notice for special meetings (emergency situations) - include time, place, and reason
- Minutes need to be taken by secretary

Public Records Act

- Any document, device, item, regardless of physical form
- If that item was created or received by the public office
- If that document serves the organizations functions, policies, decisions, procedures of the organization
- Obligation to respond in a reasonable amount of time to public records requests, subject to fines and sanctions when non-compliant with requests

Operations of CPC

Introduction to CPC staff

- **Sara Anderson**, Marketing Communications Specialists
- **Shalena "Shelly" Williams**, Community Engagement Coordinator
- **Ryan Walker**, Research and Policy Analyst
- **Jason Goodrick**, Administrative Manager

History of previous CPC

- Continuity and Organizational learning
 - Commission will learn what the previous commission accomplished and past mistakes that have been made
 - Police benefit every time civilian oversight starts from scratch
- Office of Professional Standards – first civilian oversight endeavors in Cleveland, took years to be implemented
- Member of NACOLE, will elect a voting member for NACOLE

Budget – Needs to be a top priority

- City Council will have budget hearings in February, CPC will need to be present
- Staff is the biggest part of the budget

Bylaws

- Received draft operations and procedures manual (bylaws)
- Selecting a chair, no timeframe for when it needs to be selected, should be a priority
 - Can elect co-chairs
- Subcommittees should be formed
 - Each committee should have at least 3 people, 5 recommended
 - Commissioners can serve on more than 1 committee
- Work groups
- Media presence – needs to be informed, separate speaking for the commission or based on personal experience

Orientation and Training

- Recommended outline for training
 - Training committee will finalize training for the CPC

Past Commissioners

- **LaToya Logan** – Social Worker
- **Lewis Katz** – Retired Law Professor
- **Richard Jackson** – former Cleveland Police Officer

What should be accomplished in the first 90 days?

- Need to focus on budget and rules of commission
- Shouldn't make any big changes, need to work understand what has occurred previously

Citizens for a Safer Cleveland

- **Kareem Henton**
- **LaTonya Goldsby**
- **Alicia Kirkman**
- **Brenda Bickerstaff**

Advice on how to keep the community engaged in its work

- Support community input and engagement
- Go out to community events, get involved with youth
- Transparency, read the information

Importance of Issue 24

- Accountability, Issue 24 put citizens in a position to bring about better practices

Challenges that the commission might face, how to overcome challenges

- Lawsuits, need to read and be focused
- Need to get a lawyer independent from the city
- Pushback from parties (union, city, people who don't support police reform)
- Accountability isn't anti-police, but pro-community

Positive changes that the commission can grow on

- Passage of issue 24
- Guiding principles for a foundation to start with

Programing and grant ideas

- Solving unsolved murders
- Addressing reasons as to why crime is going up, addressing them at the community level
- Community programs, investment
- Housing, food deserts
- Invest in youth (conflict resolution, de-escalation, education about rape culture)

New Business

Commissioner Cait Kennedy – Motion to have Commissioner Shandra Benito serve as pro term chair

- **Commissioner Greg Reaves** 2nd
- All in favor, motion passed

Temporary Essential Committees

- Rules Committee
 - Audrianna Rodriguez, Charles Donaldson Jr., Jan Ridgeway, Shandra Benito, Teri Wang
- Budget and Grants Committee
 - Audrianna Rodriguez, Sharena Zayed, John Adams, Teri Wang, Piet van Lier, Alana Garrett-Ferguson, Cait Kennedy

- Commissioner Training Committee
 - Greg Reaves, Charles Donaldson Jr., Jim Chura, Sharena Zayed, John Adams, Alana Garrett-Ferguson, Kyle Earley
- **Commissioner Kyle Earley** – Motion to create temporary committees
 - **Commissioner Piet van Lier 2nd**
- **Commissioner Audrianna Rodriguez** – Motion for temporary committees to meet for 3 months
 - **Commissioner Charles Donaldson Jr. 2nd**
 - All in favor, motion passed
- **Commissioner Audrianna Rodriguez** – Amendment for the temporary committees to be formed with the above named Commissioners
 - All in favor, motion passed

Future schedule

- Regular public meeting schedule – biweekly, at least 2 hours, adjust if needed
 - 2nd and 4th Wednesday of month, 6-8 pm. Start February 8th
- Committee meetings on the 1st and 3rd week of month, CPC staff will help schedule
 - **Commissioner Piet van Lier** – Motion to adopt aforementioned schedule
 - **Commissioner Greg Reaves 2nd**
- **Commissioner Alana Garrett-Ferguson** – friendly amendment to change meeting time to 6 – 8:30 pm (2.5 hours) with the first 30 minutes for community engagement (public comment)
 - All in favor, motion passed

Commissioner Alana Garrett-Ferguson – Motion for Piet van Lier to serve as pro temp chair for next meeting and work with CPC staff on agenda

- **Commissioner Sharena Zayed 2nd**
- All in favor, motion passed

Motion to go into executive session to discuss Interim Executive Director Position

- **Commissioner Greg Reaves 2nd**
- All in favor, motion passed

Commissioner Piet van Lier – Motion to appoint Jason Goodrick as Interim Executive Director

- **Commissioner Sharena Zayed 2nd**
- 12 in favor, 1 abstain (John Adams)
- Motion passed

Commissioner Audrianna Rodriguez – Motion to establish a Hiring Committee

- **Commissioner Alana Garrett-Ferguson 2nd**
- **Commissioner Teri Wang** – Amendment to have Charles Donaldson Jr. as chair of the Hiring Committee
 - Hiring Committee
 - Jan Ridgeway, John Adams, Alana Garrett-Ferguson, Cait Kennedy, Teri Wang, Shandra Benito, Charles Donaldson Jr. (chair)
 - 12 in favor, 1 abstain (Sharena Zayed)
 - Motion passed

ADJOURNED at 9:20 p.m.