

Cleveland Community Police Commission (CPC)

Special Full Commission Meeting Minutes

Jerry Sue Thornton

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

6:00 pm

Attendees: Commissioners: Gail Maxwell, Dr. V. Yvonne Conner; Richard Knoth; Mario Clopton-Zymler; Richard Jackson; Jeffrey Follmer; Dr. Kathleen Clegg, Gordon Friedman; LaToya Logan; Anthony Body;

Staff: Jason Goodrick, Executive Director; Ryan Walker, Policy Analyst; Shelenah Williams, Community Engagement Coordinator; Junita Thomas, Administrative Assistant.

Absences: Commissioner Lee Fisher; Tiffany Artis; Christopher Brown

- **Commissioner Knoth called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm.**

Welcome & Recognition of Community Organizations:

Commissioner Knoth acknowledge all organizations in attendance:

- **ACLU**
- **Black on Black Crime**
- **Black Lives Matter**
- **Chasing Justice**
- **City of Cleveland**
- **Cleveland City Council-Councilwoman Phyllis Cleveland**
- **Department of Justice**
- **League of Women Voters**
- **LLC, Local Guidance Counselors**
- **Monitoring Team**
- **SURJ**

Introduction of Monitoring Team Members highlighting:

Monitor Team 6th Semi-Annual Report - Mr. Charles See, Dr. Ayesha Hardaway, Mr. Tim Tramble, Mr. Victor Ruiz.

Local Monitoring Team Representatives

Key Points of Discussion;

- An overview of the Community and Problem Oriented Policing section of the report was presented by Mr. Tim Tramble.
- Mr. Ruiz presented an overview of Use of Force.
- The Crisis Intervention Training report was presented by Mr. Charles See
- An overview of the Office of Professional Standards was presented by Ms. Ayesha Hardaway

The Monitoring Team answer questions from Social Media and email;

They received questions in advance from members of the Community and answered live from the audience.

Community Q&A/Comment Period:

Ms. Bickerstaff a member of the public, Samaria Rice and Member of the Community stated that they have submitted paperwork by email and hand delivery to City Council to implement the Cleveland Police Commission in the Charter after the consent decree has gone to guarantee community oversight. Also hand delivered the letter to Judge Oliver and would like to have a meeting with the Judge to discuss the letter with him. They are hoping he will answer their letter.

A community member stated regarding Accountability that there can be no sincere attempt at accountability until you can have some civilian oversight within that process. Goes on to comment that the community is asking that you actually do something that is going to bring about change and change in the culture. That is by bringing accountability back.

Samaria Rice requested that Commissioner Jeff Follmer resigns, stating that his position on the Commission is a conflict with police reform efforts. States he cannot play both sides.

Protesters want justice for Tamir Rice, chants from the audience "Justice for Tamir"
Samaria Rice and different Community organization delivered 100K+ signed (locally & nationwide) documents to Commissioner Follmer to petition against Timothy Loehmann being reinstated as a Cleveland Police Officer.

Mariah Crenshaw member of Chasing Justice organization has a concern regarding a part of the consent decree discussions about lateralizing moving police officers and what's required for the investigatory process to occur. Wants to know how the monitoring committee came to the conclusion in their report to state compliance in lateralizing moving police officers process. Wants to know what gauge was used to say that the CPD Officers are in operational compliance with this section of the consent decree?

Mr. See of the Monitoring Team responds to the question.

Amanda King former CPC Commissioner reiterates that Commission Follmer resigns.

Community member reiterates that Commission Follmer resigns and for him to stop advocating for the rehiring a Timothy Loehmann

Community member states on the tragic day in history 1968 in the Glenville that the police union described the Glenville section as containing rioting murderers.

Community Member states that the numbers of use of force incidents and officer injuries have both decreased But what was the model that was used to identify that it was directly related to the consent decree deliverables?

Mr. Ruiz of the Monitoring Team responds to the question.

Community and SURJ Member had a question concerning the ops and in general the success with the numbers of review. Regarding the article on cleveland.com from May 9th, which says that, Chief Williams is supporting following through with very few recommendations for discipline. So, her question to the monitoring team, how are we going to get the numbers if it's not being implemented from City Hall and from the employees and how are we going to make a difference for these numbers to really make it work.

Ms. Ayesha Hardaway of the Office of Professional Standards responds to the question. The issue that was highlighted during the City Councils Safety Committee, was, we Mr. Roger Smith was talking about the fact that they're making recommendations for discipline that are not being necessarily followed wholesale by chief Williams.

Community and SURJ Member asked for Mr. Ruiz of the Monitoring Team to Can to go into detail regarding the April 5th report and any aspects of race that are documented and measured in that report?

Mr. Ruiz of the Monitoring Team responds to the question.

Ms. Bickerstaff a member of the public stated an issue at a City of Cleveland Disciplinary Hearing

Captain Simon corrected the statement made by Ms. Bickerstaff regarding a matter of the Chief not wanting to discipline that individual. Stating the Chief can only discipline or give suspension up to 10 days. Anything beyond 10 days must be given out by the Safety Director. When the Chief looked at the case from OPS, we never had a hearing at the Chief's level. He kicked it immediately up to the Safety Director's level because he believed those infractions deserved more than 10 days.

Community Member states that it's important that we keep the CPC in place, that we have better representation on the CPC.

An audience member reminded the audience to be respectful of one another.

Announcement - June 25th Quarterly Meeting Commissioner Richard Knoth, Co-Chair

Budget Update - Commissioner Gail Maxwell

Organizational Updates - Mr. Jason Goodrick, Executive Director

Review and Approval of the March Meeting Minutes:

Minutes not reviewed, will be reviewed and approved at June 25th Quarterly Meeting.

Annual Election of Co-Chairs - Commissioner Richard Knoth, Co-Chair *Nominations:*

Commissioner Knoth stated that the following individuals nominated:

- Mr. Richard Jackson
- Ms. LaToya Logan
- Mr. Lee Fisher
- Mr. Anthony Body

Richard Jackson, LaToya Logan, and Anthony Body accepted the nomination. Lee Fisher was not present and did not accept the nomination (see Footnote 1 below).

Commissioner Knoth nominated the following individuals:

- Dean Lee Fisher
- Sgt. Richard Jackson

Commissioner Friedman nominated the following individuals:

- Dean Lee Fisher

Commissioner Clegg seconded the nomination of Dean Lee Fisher

Commissioner Maxwell nominated the following individuals:

- Sgt. Richard Jackson
- Anthony Body

Commissioner Clopton-Zymler nominated the following individuals:

- Ms. LaToya Logan

Commissioner Clopton-Zymler introduced the two-tiered election, as stated in the by-laws.

Commissioner Conner reiterated the two-tiered election, as stated in the by-laws.

Commissioner Clopton-Zymler requested to hear the nominee qualifications

Presentation of Qualifications:

Each nominee presented their qualifications to the Commission.

Commissioner Jackson stated qualifications to the Commission

Commissioner Friedman stated that he would speak on behalf of Nominee Dean Fisher

Commissioner Logan questioned is that appropriate to speak on behalf of someone else? State that it's inappropriate. We should be speaking for ourselves to advocate for why we would like to be in that position. And if that cannot happen, then we shouldn't have someone speaking for someone via proxy. They could've been in attendance to the meeting. Or a sent a statement.

Commissioner Friedman declined speaking on behalf of Nominee Dean Fisher

Commissioner Logan stated qualifications to the Commission

Commissioner Body stated qualifications to the Commission

First Vote for Co-Chair

Sgt Richard Jackson – 9 votes (out of 10)

Second Vote for Co-Chair

Ms. LaToya Logan – Votes not stated

Commission Maxwell recommended that the Commission offer a resolution to formally thanks to Dr. Connor and Mr. Knoth for their committed and selfless service to the Cleveland Police Commission. Called for a vote.

Commissioner Knoth announced Commissioner Conner under the CPC By- Laws Article Four, will be taking a leave of absence in effect June 1st 2019.

Commissioner Clopton-Zymler states the Selection Process for CPC Commissioners: by the 1st of July, it is intended for the Mayor to reconstitute the Selection Panel (group that selects the New Commissioners) and consult consultation with the DOJ and participation of City Council. By the 15th of July the City notifies the community of the CPC application process. By the 15th of August the application will be received for review by the Selection Panel. By the 14th of September the applications are reviewed by the Selection Panel. By the 15th of September the Selection Panel recommends a new panel of Commissioners, and then October 1st the new Commissioners are appointed.

Meeting ADJOURNED at 8:03pm.

Footnote 1

June 22, 2019

After reading the draft minutes of the May CPC meeting, I want to clarify something. At the April PPA meeting, I expressed an interest in serving as Chair of the CPC until new Commissioners and new Co-Chairs were appointed in Fall 2019. A majority of Commissioners present stated their opposition to having a single Chair even for a short period of time, rather than the current structure of two Co-Chairs, so I indicated that I therefore would not be a candidate for Chair or Co-Chair.

I did not change my mind after the April PPA meeting. Immediately after the April PPA meeting, some of my colleagues urged me to be a candidate for Co-Chair. I indicated that I would think about that possibility, but it was very unlikely. I did not speak to any of my colleagues about the possibility of being a candidate after that conversation.

I was traveling with my family and unable to attend the May CPC meeting. I want to be clear that if I had decided to be a candidate for Co-Chair, I would have sent a statement to all Commissioners prior to the May CPC meeting. While I am very appreciative that some of my colleagues nominated me for Co-Chair at the May CPC meeting, I did not ask any of them to do so, and I was not aware that any of them planned to do so. If I had been present, I would have asked my colleagues that I not be nominated.

Lee Fisher, Dean, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law