

Cleveland Community Police Commission

Full Commission Meeting Minutes



Regularly Scheduled Meeting



Special Meeting

Meeting Date, Time and Location

Meeting Date: July 26, 2023

Meeting Time: 6:00 PM

Meeting Location: Harvard Community Center
8240 Harvard Ave, Cleveland, OH 44128

This regular meeting of the Cleveland Community Police Commission was called to order on July 26 at 6:01 PM by Co-Chair Ridgeway

Attendance roll call:

- Adams – absent
- Benito – present
- Chura – present
- Donaldson – present
- Earley – present
- Garrett-Ferguson – present
- Kennedy – present
- Reaves – absent
- Ridgeway – present
- Rodriguez – present
- van Lier – present, arrived at 6:22
- Wang – present
- Zayed – present

Quorum established: yes

I. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was distributed and approved.

II. Review of Previous Minutes

The minutes for the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

III. Special Presentation (11:00 minute mark)

- CPC Staff member Shalenah Williams gave a presentation providing background and provided citizens with details of what the CPC is and its role in police reform in Cleveland.
- Councilman Jones spoke about the challenges of democracy and that it takes work to make it function. He said that civility and empathy are important, and that the Commission has to work together.
- CDP Lt. Chapman and Deputy Chief Morris took questions from the community which included topics concerning traffic enforcement, the strain on the police force, and some

concerns that Black victims of crimes were having their cases taken less seriously than white victims.

- Commissioner Benito shared a resource with the community: that if one is experiencing a mental health emergency you can dial **988** for professional help.

IV. Director's Report (1:12:43 minute mark)

- ED Goodrick described the upcoming NACOLE Conference in Chicago.
- ED Goodrick discussed the ongoing interviews for open positions on the CPC Staff including the interviews for the Office Manager and Finance position, and an update on the process to start looking for a part-time staff lawyer.

V. Committee Reports (1:15:40 minute mark)

- Internal Training: (Garrett-Ferguson) currently were no updates.
- Budget and Grants: (Zayed) there have been 24 applications for grants so far, totaling 1.6 million requested. We plan to start reviewing applications in a week, award by August 31; the goal is to have the Money distributed by November 1.
- Rules: (Wang): no rules introduced this meeting.
- Accountability: (Wang) three Work Groups established: Brady-Giglio List WG, Discipline WG, and Gender Violence WG (in progress).
- Policy: (van Lier) two Work Groups established: Police Surveillance WG and Behavioral Health WG.
- Training: Use-of-Force training event for Commissioners is tentatively scheduled for October.
- Outreach: (Zayed) the Committee is in the process of updating the CPC's annual survey.

VI. Old Business (2:24:00 minute mark – please note this was after the public comment period.

There was a lengthy discussion about whether or not the CPC should hire an outside council to look into if Mayor Bibb overstepped in his decision to refuse to appoint ED Goodrick the permanent Executive Director.

Earley made a motion to hire outside counsel to help the Commission determine if the Mayor overstepped in his decision to not appoint ED Goodrick the permanent Executive Director, Wang seconded.

Adams – absent

Benito – aye

Chura – aye

Donaldson – abstain

Earley – aye

Garrett-Ferguson – nay

Kennedy – nay

Reaves – absent

Ridgeway – nay

Rodriguez – abstain

van Lier – abstain

Wang – aye

Zayed – aye

With a vote of 5 – 3, that Motion carries.

VII. Public Comment (1:44:00 minute mark)

Summary of comments

- Brenda Bickerstaff, citizen, expressed how important it is that Commissioners are knowledgeable about the Consent Decree and City Charter, and expressed concern that, 8 months in, Commissioners still do not seem knowledgeable about these important topics.
- Dave Lima, SURJ, expressed his concerns that Mayor Bibb, by refusing to seat the Commission's choice for Executive Director, ED Goodrick, was trying to take away Charter mandated powers from the Commission. He reminded everyone that the charter gave such appointing power to the Commission, not the Mayor, and that the CPC now has necessary powers to reform policing in Cleveland.
- Ward 1 resident expressed the importance of community participation in this process, emphasizing that the only way these things will improve is if the community works towards it.
- Larry Patterson, Ward 1 resident, expressed concerns that developers are pushing out residents to make way for wealthier people to buy up property.
- Jasmine Long, Ward 3 resident and NAACP, expressed her support for Commissioner Garrett-Ferguson.
- Vernita Thomas, Mount Pleasant and Ward 1 resident, encouraged everyone present to attend their local DPC meeting, mentioning the District 4 meeting in particular.
- Rosie Palfy, formerly with MHRAC, expressed support for the CPC's support staff and ED, and expressed frustration that the Commission has not taken a more vocal stance against the Mayor's decision to reject the ED appointment.
- Lisa Valler, Miles-Heights/The Village Ward 1, described a nearly deadly experience she had a few years ago when a stray bullet was shot into her house and almost hit herself and her young son. She also expressed frustration with how hard it is to get a response from local government to community concerns. She asked citizens to contact her if they need help getting a response because she now has a lot of experience with that.
- Loh, citizen, expressed frustration that politics has slowed the police reform process, in a way that harms citizens and officers alike.
- Manager at WOVU FM, expressed confusion as to why so many are arguing the Mayor made the wrong decision. He expressed some hope that even though there was a violent incident recently in Cleveland the police were able to deescalate it without using deadly force.
- Kayla Pincus, citizen, expressed concerns that, going against the charter, there was no lawyer appointed as a commissioner and expressed concern that the Commission, under the current arrangement, will have to share a staff attorney with the City even though the Commission is an independent body.

VIII. Formal Adjournment

The meeting was formally adjourned at 8:58 PM.