

Cleveland Community Police Commission

Full Commission Public Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023

6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Boys & Girls Club at Saint Luke's Manor - 2705 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Cleveland, OH 44104

Attendance roll call:

Adams – present
Benito – present
Chura – present
Donaldson – present
Earley – present
Garrett-Ferguson – present
Kennedy – present
Reaves – present
Ridgeway – present
Van Lier – present
Rodriguez – present
Wang – present
Zayed – present

Staff in attendance:

Interim Executive - Director Jason Goodrick
Community Engagement & Project Coordinator - Shalenah Williams
Communications Specialist - Sara Anderson
Senior Policy Analyst - Ryan M. Walker
Administrative Assistant – Junita Thomas

Co-chair Rodriguez called to order at 6:18 PM

Approval of Minutes:

- **Approval of Minutes (August 23rd):** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the August 23rd meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.
- **Approval of Minutes (July 26th):** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the July 26th meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.
- **Approval of Minutes (June 14th):** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 14th meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

Presentation: Jason Goodrick presented the framework of the community police commission committees, explaining their roles and responsibilities. The meeting primarily discussed the work of the Cleveland Community Police Commission and various concerns and initiatives related to policing in the community.

- The presentation addressed issues related to the use of technology in policing, such as Shot Spotter and AI tools, emphasizing the need for fairness and compliance with policies and laws.

- There were concerns about the adequacy of police staffing levels and a planned examination of whether more officers are needed or if existing officers require improvements.
- Police pursuits were highlighted as a key aspect of the commission's work, with an intent to review and potentially recommend changes to police pursuit policies.
- Ensuring bias-free policing was identified as a central goal of the commission.
- The Training Committee focuses on police training, particularly regarding fair and unbiased policing. A community event was planned to engage the public in observing training and providing feedback.
- The Outreach Committee is working on conducting surveys to gather feedback from residents about their experiences with the Cleveland Division of Police, with an emphasis on hearing from youth and heavily policed communities.

Public Comment Period:

The attendees included youth members, residents, and community organizations. They expressed concerns and made suggestions to improve community-police relations and to ensure the commission's work is impactful.

- Attendees suggested the commission should request funding for an independent lawyer to address potential conflicts of interest.
- Concerns were raised about the care response program's current Request for Proposals (RFP) process, with a call for more community input in designing the program.
- The importance of authentic community engagement and ensuring that young people's voices are heard was highlighted.

Co-Chair Reports:

- Co-Chair Rodriguez and Co-Chair Ridgeway, discussing their roles.
- Co-Chair Rodriguez reported on various updates, including upcoming meetings, an attendance audit, the CPC calendar, a police wellness survey, a draft status report of the consent decree, and the hiring of a shared attorney.
- Co-Chair Ridgeway reported on budget-related matters, such as the budget review process for the current year and the beginning of the budget cycle for 2024.
- Commissioner Adams provided an update on the grants review process, explaining that the commission was ensuring compliance with state law, especially regarding conflicts of interest and recusals.
- Commissioner Wang, from the Rules Committee, discussed the ongoing refinement of the commission's rules to enhance collaboration and adherence.
- The Police Policy Committee, represented by Commissioner Van Lier, reviewed the framework and discussed work related to surveillance technology, behavioral health, and crisis intervention.
- Commissioner Chura provided an update on the Police Training Committee's plans for a public forum focusing on use of force training, aiming to make it a regular event.

- Commissioner Wang provided updates on the Police Accountability Committee, including the Brady Giglio work group.

Old Business:

The primary motion is addressing a conflict of interest in the appointment of an executive director and engaging outside counsel. Some Commissioners express reservations about the process, the legal opinion provided, and the vetting of a candidate. The debate continues during the meeting.

Commissioner Benito proposes an amendment to the motion, suggesting the removal of section three and the approval of Mr. Wallach as the council for the issue.

The motion to amend is voted on, resulting in a tie (6 ayes, 6 nays) motion failed.

The original motion, including the ad hoc committee and attorney selection, is voted on, passing with 7 in favor 4 against, and 1 abstention.

Commissioner Adams: NAY

Commissioner Benito: AYE

Commissioner Chura: AYE

Commissioner Donaldson: AYE

Commissioner Garrett-Ferguson: NAY

Commissioner Kennedy: Abstains

Commissioner Reeves: AYE

Commissioner Van Lier: AYE

Commissioner Rodriguez: NAY

Commissioner Wang: AYE

Commissioner Zayed: AYE

Commissioner Ridgeway: NAY.

A request for an extension of the meeting is denied, and the meeting is adjourned 8:32pm.