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Community Police Commission Public Meeting

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Agency: [Cleveland Community Police Commission \(CPC\)](#)

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Summary

- Community members asked the officers present questions about how different calls to the police are handled.
- Community members expressed concerns about how the commission was operating so far.
- Committees reported out on new working groups. Community members are welcome to participate in those groups.

Follow-Up Questions

- What are public comment guidelines? How are commenters' concerns addressed? I watch person after person come up to speak at many meetings.
- Other than time constraints, why are commission members not equipped to directly address public comments? Why are there no staff members available to process comments and address them if needed?

Notes

BEFORE

There was some concern from the community about the new Cleveland Community Police Commission (CPC), which was created as a result of Issue 24 after it passed on Nov. 2, 2021. The current group of commissioners has been working together for seven months.

Community members have expressed concerns around multiple issues in the past few months. On June 30, impacted families, the Citizens for Greater Cleveland and other community groups [held a conference](#) to discuss a commissioner's behavior in a past meeting.

The next issue is Mayor Justin Bibb's [recent decision to not hire](#) Interim Executive

Director Jason Goodrick as the CPC's executive director. Community members and commissioners said his decision was contrary to the charter. Another issue is [the potential conflict of interest](#) if the attorney that serves the CPC is also a city-employed attorney.

The CPC has established committees of Rules, Police Policy, Police training, Police Accountability, and related working groups. These committees have been active for about one month.

The Cleveland Police Foundation is supporting officers in the 4th District with the [Cultural Transformation Project](#), which was designed to improve internal relationships and operations to develop officers who are empathetic, culturally responsive and fully equipped to be the guardians of the communities they serve. The foundation also has a [Wellness and Morale Program](#).

DURING

Shalenah Willams, community engagement coordinator, opened the meeting with a presentation about what the CPC is and what it does. She referred to [Section 115-5 of the city charter](#), which says that the CPC was approved in the November 2021 election as an independent municipal commission to overhaul police oversight in Cleveland. She mentioned that other cities have community-related police commissions, but Cleveland is the only one with certain authorities.

Cleveland Division of Police (CDP) Lieutenant Michael Chapman shared his personal story of being a 40-year Cleveland resident and how that encourages him to live and serve in his role. He said he approved of the police oversight work being done. He said that he "can see the change."

Chapman was asked how officers are finding relief from stressors like working 18-hour shifts. He mentioned that titled officers and detectives have been asked to come back to patrols to relieve officers of duty. He said that the county sheriff has been asked to patrol and that [Ohio State Troopers](#) have stepped in.

A woman asked if a Black woman is treated differently than a white woman when she reports domestic violence. She shared her experience supporting a family member who reported domestic violence and what she went through to get the abuser arrested. She said that when they reported what was happening, an officer told them the department was short-staffed.

Chapman responded that short staff is not an excuse but a reality. Deputy Chief Sammy Morris said that staffing shouldn't have mattered because there is a separate domestic violence unit.

Another community member asked how to determine if a police report is fake. She had a document in her hand, and she asked how to tell if it was a real police report. Her name sounded like Alica Battle. They ignored her and advised that she speak with an officer after the meeting.

There was continuous tension between the officials at the table and community commenters regarding the issue of the City of Cleveland attorney having a conflict of interest in serving this commission. The [Operations Manual](#) states that, "When a legal conflict arises related to authority or scope of the CPC a written legal opinion of the City Law Director shall be sought by the Commission prior to taking any additional action. City of Cleveland Charter (§ 115-5) grants the commission, at its discretion, the authority to engage in outside legal services at the Department of Law's expense when there is a conflict of interest between the Commission's mission and representation from the City's Department of Law."

Committees reported:

Rules committee, Chair Teri Wang: Stated that there are no new rules. An upcoming meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 2 in the Perkins Building. Her report included 2.X to receive citizen or officer-based complaints.

Wang said they are also assessing the commission's ability under the charter to seek independent legal counsel if there is a conflict of interest with hiring a city-employed attorney. She added that they will be considering what the process looks like and the timelines.

She reported that the committee would be working to make a schematic for the meeting minutes. They would like to make them more standardized and not overstress the details that can be tough to capture. She reported working on an evidentiary hearing process to look at officer misconduct. She said that community input is welcome and that the commission could one day be called upon for high profile incidents and will need to be able to respond.

Police Policy Committee, Chair Piet van Lier: Established two working groups at their first meeting July 13: surveillance technology and behavioral health crisis intervention.

They are finalizing their strategic plan for 2023-2024 and will review previous CPC reports to determine how to establish a broad policy around this technology such as the real time crime center. They are also looking at the need for police response for behavioral health. They talked about surveys on the topic and the experiences of people who have interacted with [CIT officers](#).

He also mentioned recruitment and retention, vehicle pursuit, bias-free policing, etc. He said they are still looking at how to prioritize and address these items. They meet on the third Wednesday of the month at the CPC office.

Police Training Committee, Commissioner Shandra Benito: Benito stated that they met for the in-service training preload. The committee offered six pages of feedback. Police are working to incorporate the feedback and will submit it to the Justice Department. They are also offering the committee final review and developing a process for future police training and curriculum that is clear and streamlined while providing sufficient oversight. At the next meeting, the process will be presented by Commissioner John Adams and CDP Commander Mark McGuth. They are working on an event for October (target date) where they will work with CDP to demonstrate new training modalities like live stimulation.

Police Accountability Committee, Chair Wang: Stated that this committee is the one the community is most interested in. She talked about redefining accountability to include the prevention of misconduct. The committee is working on discipline charts and training themselves on how to look at cases. She said they hope to learn through examining prior cases.

Formed three work groups. The **Brady/Giglio** Work group will provide a list of officers with what is referred to as [Giglio material](#). The prosecution must turn over such material. The working group will use the list of officers to create a database the community will have access to.

James Chura will be a part of this work group. He has 33 years of experience and served as commander of internal affairs. The second work group will focus on discipline, and the third will focus on gender violence and sexual misconduct.

The next committee meeting is Tuesday, Aug. 8 at the CPC headquarters on Perkins Avenue.

Police Community Outreach, Chair Sharena Zayed: On July 24 they voted for Zayed as

chair. They established a work group to lead an annual survey on police community interaction. This will ensure that issues and projects are tied to the needs of Clevelanders. They will meet on Monday, Aug. 7 and every other Monday at 3631 Perkins, 4th floor. The meetings will be live streamed on YouTube.

If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate, please email us at clDOCUMENTERS@gmail.com with "Correction Request" in the subject line.