

**Police Accountability Board Meeting
Regular Session
October 16, 2023**

The Police Accountability Board for Dorchester County convened into open session in Room 110 of the County Office Building at 6:37 p.m. on October 16, 2023. A roll call of the members was conducted. Present in Room 110 were: Paul Riordan, Chair; Mike Larrimore, Sr.; Derek Griffin; ChanTay Nelson; and Bob Kirwan. Also present were Donna F. Lane, Chief of Staff/Police Accountability Board Liaison; and Rebecca Guay, Legal Counsel. Absent were Keith Adkins and Eddie James.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Police Accountability Board (PAB) Members approved the Regular Session Minutes for July 10, 2023 and two sets of August 29, 2023 Regular Session Minutes.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Riordan, Ms. Lane explained that discussions regarding amending or approving the Closed Session minutes must be held in a closed session meeting.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

Ms. Lane read the summaries for the July 10th and August 29th Closed Session meetings as follows:

July 10, 2023

The PAB convened into Regular Session on July 10, 2023 at 4:25 p.m. in Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge 21613 and motioned to adjourn into Closed Session pursuant to Title 3 of the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, pursuant to §3-305(b)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction. Present in Room 100 were: Paul Riordan, Chair; Mike Larrimore, Sr.; Bob Kirwan; Keith Adkins; Derek Griffin; and, ChanTay Nelson. Also present were Donna F. Lane, Chief of Staff/Police Accountability Board Liaison; and Rebecca Guay, Legal Counsel.

The PAB convened into a Closed Session on July 10, 2023 at 4:46 p.m. in Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge 21613 to discuss the following item: the possible appointment of a specific individual as an Administrative Charging Committee member.

August 29, 2023

The PAB convened into Regular Session on August 29, 2023 at 6:01 p.m. in Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge 21613 and motioned to adjourn into Closed Session pursuant to Title 3 of the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, pursuant to §3-305(b)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction. Present in Room 110 were: Paul Riordan, Chair; Mike Larrimore, Sr.; Bob Kirwan; Keith Adkins; Derek Griffin; and, ChanTay Nelson. Also present were Donna F. Lane, Chief of Staff/Police Accountability Board Liaison; and Rebecca Guay, Legal Counsel. The PAB convened into a Closed Session on August 29, 2023 at 6:05 p.m. in Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge 21613 to discuss the following item: to interview potential Administrative Charging Committee members for appointment.

Mr. Riordan said the record should reflect that on August 29, 2023 the PAB appointed Zia Ashraf as member of ACC, who has agreed to serve on the Committee for one year.

DISCUSSION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

At Mr. Riordan's request, John Stichberry, Captain, Sheriff's Office; Bruce Jones, Chief of Police, Hurlock Police Department (HPD) and Christopher Flynn, Detective Sergeant, City of Cambridge Police Department (CPD) identified themselves. Mr. Riordan asked them if any complaints have been filed since July 1, 2023. Chief Jones said HPD did not receive any complaints. Captain Stichberry advised that the Sheriff's Office has received one additional complaint. Pursuant to a query from Mr. Riordan, Captain Stichberry said three complaints were investigated by the Sheriff's Office with one expiring at the end of November 2023 with the first two complaints not being sustained and the third complaint being sustained. Sergeant Flynn advised that CPD only has two, which was relayed to the PAB at a prior meeting.

Mr. Riordan noted that it was recently reported in either The Dorchester Star or Dorchester Banner that the City of Cambridge's curfew for minors was reauthorized. In response to questions posed by Mr. Riordan, Detective Sergeant Flynn, advised that: 1) during the curfew trial period there were four violations; 2) in the first phase there is no fine; 3) there have been two violations since it was reauthorized; 4) letters are sent to the parents that are in violation of the curfew; 5) if a second violation occurs a fine can be assessed; 6) Justin Todd, Chief of Police, CPD, does not plan to issue fines; 6) the curfew is for youth 16 years and under; 7) a parent or guardian must pick up the youth; and, 8) the last youths that violated the curfew were brothers whose grandmother picked them up was not aware they had left the house.

Pursuant to a query from Mr. Griffin, Detective Sergeant Flynn said: 1) to date around 35 guns have been seized; 2) the majority were seized from individuals between the ages of 25 to 30; 3) three or four were seized from individuals under the age of 18; and, 4) there has been a decline in the amount of stolen or ghost guns. Mr. Griffin cited concerns about the prior passage of legislation that has resulted in an increase in illegal activity by juvenile offenders. Detective Sergeant Flynn and Chief Jones also cited concerns about this legislation. Mr. Griffin noted that youth under the age of 13 cannot be charged with certain crimes. Based on a question from Mr. Riordan, Chief Jones said carjacking is one of the enumerated offenses. Detective Sergeant Flynn noted that second degree assault is a misdemeanor. Ms. Lane noted that at its October 3, 2023 meeting with legislators, the Council discussed with them the need for changes in laws relating to juvenile offenders.

Mr. Griffin referenced a discussion he had with Captain Stichberry regarding recent legislation allowing the carrying of some firearms in the public. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Griffin said he is the liaison for the Mayor of the City of Cambridge. He noted that gunfire is heard frequently in areas of the City. A discussion ensued regarding the prior passage of legislation that has resulted in an increase in illegal activity by juvenile offenders. Captain Stichberry said there are multiple State's Attorneys' who support legislation to change these laws, including the Dorchester County State's Attorney. Chief Jones noted that many State's Attorneys were against the original legislation.

Mr. Riordan queried about the status of recruiting police officers for the Cambridge Police Department. Detective Sergeant Flynn said four individuals are currently enrolled in the police academy and two more have passed the interview stage. Pursuant to another query from Mr. Riordan, Chief Jones said the Town of Hurlock Police Department has had a full staff of 11 for four years. Captain Stichberry noted that the Sheriff's Office is understaffed but that is due to five grant positions from a COPS grant. He noted that some candidates are starting the academy in January 2024.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGING COMMITTEE

Mr. Riordan said he does not wish to serve as the Chair for the Administrative Charging Committee. He appointed Derek Griffin as the Chair. Mr. Griffin accepted the appointment.

UPDATE-ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGING COMMITTEE TRAINING

Mr. Lane advised that training for the following Administrative Charging Committee (ACC) members has been scheduled for November 6th to November 10th, 2023 noting that lodging has also been secured: Mr. Griffin, Chair; Vaughn Evans; Zia Ashraf and Benjamin Sampson.

Patrick Thomas, Esquire, who will be the attorney for the Administrative Charging Committee, confirmed that: 1) once the four ACC members are trained a meeting can be scheduled; and, 2) Mr. Aaron cannot participate in meetings until he has been trained as it is a precondition to serving.

DISCUSSION-ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

The PAB recognized that on or before December 31st of each year, it must submit a report to the County Council that identifies any trends in the disciplinary process of police officers in the County and makes recommendations on changes to policy that would improve police accountability in the County. Ms. Guay said she will work with Ms. Lane on the preparation of correspondence in lieu of an Annual Report since the ACC has not been convened.

The Police Accountability Board motioned to adjourn into Closed Session at 4:58 p.m. on October 16, 2023 pursuant to Title 3 of the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code of Maryland pursuant to §3-305(b)(2). A roll call of the members was conducted.

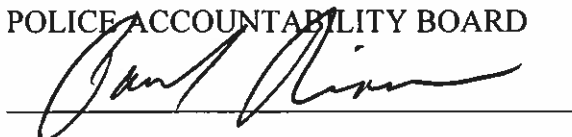
Present in Room 110 were: Paul Riordan, Chair; Mike Larrimore, Sr.; Derek Griffin; ChanTay Nelson; and, Eddie James. Also present were Donna F. Lane, Chief of Staff/Police Accountability Board Liaison; and Rebecca Guay, Legal Counsel. Bob Kirwan and Keith Adkins were absent. The Written Statement for Closing a Meeting under the Open Meetings Act is available upon request.

With no further business to discuss, Board adjourned into Closed Session.

ATTEST:




POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

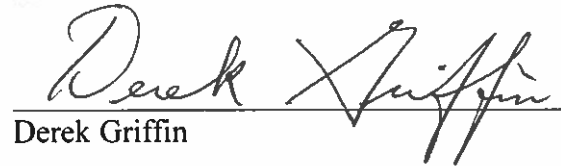


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Donna F. Lane
Board Liaison

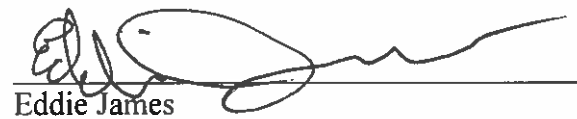
Paul Riordan, Chair



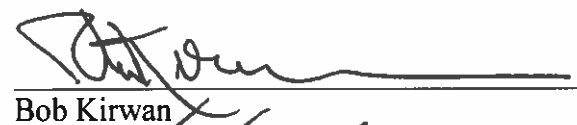
Keith Adkins



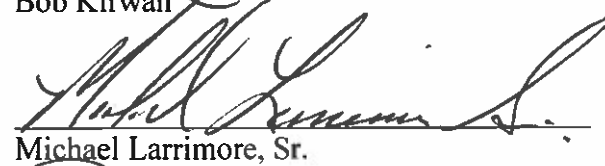
Derek Griffin



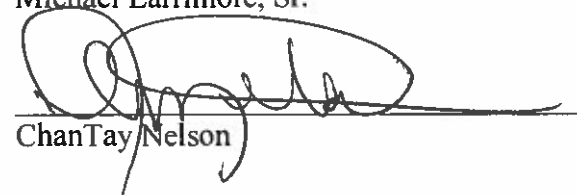
Eddie James



Bob Kirwan



Michael Larrimore, Sr.



ChanTay Nelson

Approved the ___ day of January 2024.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING
("CLOSING STATEMENT") UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT (General
Provisions Article § 3-305)

This form has two sides. Complete items 1 – 4 before closing the meeting.

1. Recorded vote to close the meeting: Date: **October 16, 2023**; Time: 4:58 p.m.; Location: Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland; Motion to close meeting made by: Nelson Seconded by Larrimore; Members in favor: Riordan, Larrimore, Griffin, Nelson, Krieger; Opposed: _____; Abstaining: _____; Absent: Adkins, James

2. Statutory authority to close session (check all provisions that apply).
This meeting will be closed under General Provisions Art. § 3-305(b) only:

(1)___ "To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals"; (2) X "To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business"; (3)___ "To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto"; (4)___ "To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State"; (5)___ "To consider the investment of public funds"; (6)___ "To consider the marketing of public securities"; (7)___ "To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice"; (8)___ "To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation"; (9)___ "To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations"; (10)___ "To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans"; (11)___ "To prepare, administer, or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination"; (12)___ "To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct"; (13)___ "To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter"; (14)___ "Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process." (15)___ "To discuss cybersecurity, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to: (i) security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology; (ii) network security information . . . or (iii) deployments or implementation of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices."

Continued →

3. For each provision checked above, disclosure of the topic to be discussed and the public body's reason for discussing that topic in closed session.

Citation (insert # from above)	Topic	Reason for closed-session discussion of topic
§3-305(b) (2)	Approval of Closed Session Minutes	To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business

4. This statement is made by Paul Dink, Presiding Officer.

WORKSHEET FOR OPTIONAL USE IN CLOSED SESSION: INFORMATION FOR SUMMARY TO BE DISCLOSED IN THE MINUTES OF THE NEXT OPEN MEETING. (See also template for summary.)

➤ For a meeting closed under the statutory authority cited above:

Time of closed session: 4:58pm

Place: Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane

Purpose(s): _____

Members who voted to meet in closed session: _____

Persons attending closed session: _____

Authority under § 3-305 for the closed session: _____

Topics actually discussed: _____

Actions taken: _____

Each recorded vote: _____

➤ For a meeting recessed to perform an administrative function (§ 3-104): Time: _____

Place: _____

Persons present: _____

Subjects discussed: _____