



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of Police Accountability and Transparency
Stephanie Everett, Executive Director

OPAT Commission Community Meeting

Minutes

Thursday, March 16, 2023 | Scheduled for 11:00 a.m.

In-Person Meeting | 2201 Washington St, Suite 102, Roxbury, MA 02119

Call to order at 11:12 a.m.

OPAT Commission Members Present: Commission Chair & OPAT Executive Director Stephanie Everett; Internal Affairs Oversight Panel (IAOP) Chair Leslie Harris; Civilian Review Board (CRB) Chair Peter Alvarez.

Introduction

Chair Stephanie Everett opened the meeting by welcoming members of the public and provided a brief introduction of the OPAT Commissioners in attendance; the Chair established that quorum was present. Chair Everett presented the language access information and an overview of the meeting's agenda.

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

Chair Everett introduced the draft minutes from the Commission's December 6, 2022 community meeting and January 26, 2023 public meeting. Commissioner Leslie Harris motioned to approve the December 6, 2022 minutes and received a second from Commissioner Peter Alvarez. The minutes were accepted as presented. Commissioner Alvarez motioned to approve the January 26, 2023 minutes and received a second from Commissioner Harris. The minutes were accepted as presented.

OPAT Commission Public Report

Chair Everett noted that this public report is mandated by OPAT's ordinance and will be posted publicly following the Commission meeting. Chair Everett provided highlights from the public report on ongoing work on BPD rules and procedures, improvement for hiring, retention and promotion of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) employees at the Boston Police Department, and OPAT outreach activities.



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Chair Everett introduced OPAT's Policy & Data Analyst, Mariah Sabir, to present the FY23 Q2 public report data. Analyst Sabir explained OPAT's mandate to make public BPD's arrest and Field Interaction/Observation/Encounter (FIOE) data available on a monthly basis. Analyst Sabir provided a detailed review of the data currently available to the public through OPAT's data dashboards, located on the OPAT website. OPAT's dashboards are updated monthly and Analyst Sabir noted that the OPAT complaint dashboard is current through December 2022. This data can also be found in the March 2023 OPAT Commission Community Meeting Public Report on the OPAT website.

Analyst Sabir reported that OPAT held an Internal Affairs Oversight Panel (IAOP) meeting on October 20, 2022. At this meeting, the IAOP heard two (2) cases, in which the panel reviewed the appeals of BPD's Internal Affairs Division (IAD) findings. In both cases, the IAOP voted to Agree with the original IAD findings.

Analyst Sabir reported that OPAT held a Civilian Review Board (CRB) meeting on November 15, 2022. At this meeting, seventeen (17) cases were brought before the board. Seven (7) were dismissed. Of the remaining six (6) cases, three (3) were ruled Insufficient Evidence, two (2) were ruled Not Sustained, and one (1) is Pending.

Analyst Sabir reported that OPAT received fourteen (14) complaints as of October 2022-December 2022. Complaint reports are down 3.1% from the last quarter (23.1% FY23 Q1 and 20% FY23 Q2). The types of misconduct alleged in these cases for this quarter are: unprofessionalism, excessive force, and civil rights violations. The investigatory status of the fourteen (14) complaints are pending.

Other Business

The Commission held a brief discussion about the format and location of the June OPAT Commission meeting. This meeting will take place in person at the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building on June 15, 2023. The meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m.

Chair Everett proposed to the OPAT Commission that it consider regulations at its June community meeting.



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No additional business was presented.

Public Comment Period

Chair Everett opened up the community meeting to the audience for public comment. Members of the public reviewing the meeting recording or meeting minutes are welcome to submit written comments by email to opatboards@boston.gov. Any comments received through email will be read into the record at the next OPAT Commission Community Meeting. Chair Everett thanked the audience for attending the meeting.

Executive Session & Adjournment

Chair Everett entertained a motion to go into Executive Session, pursuant to Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c.30A, § 21(a)(1), in anticipation of discussion of complaints brought against a public employee in the matter of Cases #37 and #39, and Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c.30A, § 21(a)(8), in anticipation of discussion regarding the initiation of preliminary inquiries and initial staff review related to the same. Commissioner Alvarez motioned and received a second from Commissioner Harris. The Commission voted unanimously to enter Executive Session. Commissioner Harris motioned to adjourn the public session of the meeting and received a second from Commissioner Alvarez. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the public session of the meeting.

The Executive Session began and the public meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Approved on September 21, 2023

Benjamin Tillman, Administrative Assistant