

**NOTE:** Due to a lack of quorum at this meeting, there are no Official Minutes only a summary report.

## ATLANTA CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD

### OFFICIAL SUMMARY

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MEETING: January 08, 2009, 6:30 PM / PLACE: 55 TRINITY AVENUE, SW  
COMMITTEE ROOM #2  
ATLANTA, GA 30303

**IN ATTENDANCE:** **BOARD MEMBERS:** JOY MORRISSEY (JM); LASHAWN HOFFMAN (LH); JOHN MICHAEL (JMM) CHARIS JOHNSON (CJ); J.L. BOOKER (JB); EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (ED): CRISTINA BEAMUD (CB)

**ABSENT:** SHARESE SHIELDS (SS); SETH KIRSENBAUM (SK); RODERICK EDMOND (RE); KATHY CRAWFORD (KC); OWEN MONTAGUE (OM)

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 6:42 PM LASHAWN HOFFMAN

- 1) SH presided in absence of the Chair and Vice Chair.
- 2) No official voting will take place due to a lack of quorum.

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:** William Casting (WC), City of Atlanta Law Department; (AA), Myola Smith (MS), ACRB staff

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

No quorum, approval of minutes will be postponed until February's meeting.

#### **TRAINING LECTURE**

CB introduce Dr. Robert R. Friedmann, Criminal Justice Professor, Georgia State University and Chair of Public Safety Partnerships

- 1) TOPIC: "POLICE & COMMUNITY RELATIONS"
- 2) LECTURE FOCUS POINTS:
  - a. Importance of Community Police and what creates crime and what can be done about it;
  - b. The importance of collaboration and cooperation between Metro area Police forces;
  - c. Economic impact crime Stats have on the City and the role media plays
  - d. Resolution of Conflict before crime is committed;
  - e. Review Boards & Police Departments working together with a common goal of providing top service for the citizen.
  - f. Discussion and Q& A followed lecture.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1) LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL & MAYOR FRANKLIN

- a. CB presented a copy of a letter written by her and SS addressed to the Council & Mayor outlining why the Board is unhappy with current procedures.
  - b. CB noted that the letter highlights three concerns: denial of records requested; the proposal to amend the ordinance and Sgt. Scott Kreher's letter.
- 2) PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING, Second reading of the Proposed Ordinance
- a. Monday, January 5 2009, 9:30am - Committee on Council Briefing, the Committee Chairs indication that she would be supporting the subpoena and would present it the committee members at the formal meeting @11am.
  - b. LH noted that he had an opportunity to attend APAB's meeting and bring them up-to-date on the Board's position. APAB is not in support of amending the Ordinance and will be drafting a letter of support defending the Board's position
  - c. CB noted that she will share APAB's letter with the Council.
- 3) RESOLUTION OF SUBPOENA MATTER
- a. CB noted that the Subpoena that the board was seeking was withdrawn.
  - b. Monday, January 5, 2009 @ shortly after 10am, records were received and subsequently, the Subpoena was withdrawn.
  - c. LH & CB thanked BC & Roger Bhandari of the Law Dept for working on behalf of the board and defending the Board's position.

## **ED JANUARY REPORT – CB**

- 1) LORI BEARD DAILEY CONTRACT
- a. CB noted that OM, JLB, CB & MS met with Beard Dailey regarding the development of the Board's logo and website.
  - b. Report of meeting provided to each board member for review.
  - c. CB encourage members to review the full report and pay close attention to the last two pages (*Unique Propositions & Internal "SWOT" Analysis*) of the report and provide feedback to her by next Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup> . CB noted the importance of each board member weighing in their thoughts via any form of communication on key issues.
- 2) IA PRO
- Training will be provided to CB & MS, Tuesday, January 26. Board members interested in learning the system are welcome to stop by.
- 3) PLANS TO HIRE INVESTIGATOR
- a. CB noted an opportunity to hire a woman from the Compliance Unit of the City's Law Department with an impressive background and a Law Degree.

- b. The salary structure for the position has already been set by Council and is acceptable to her.
- c. CB noted that in probability, she will make her an offer.
- d. JMM asked for more information on candidate's background
- e. LH – noted that more details will be provided at the next board meeting to avoid going into Executive Session.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1) PUBLIC AWARENESS

- a. JLB recommend the Board hold a press conference to promote public awareness and to announce that we are hearing cases. He voiced concerned that the public was not attending board meetings.
- b. LH noted that the board is still in the process of determining how best to promote public awareness and that Beard/Daily is part that strategy.
- c. CB noted that Beard/Daily is preparing documents and materials to appeal and promote awareness; however, community outreach is still necessary. CB noted that she is scheduled to attend another NPU meeting and board members attending with her would be helpful. She also noted that she is willing to attend not only NPU meetings but any group meeting to do outreach.
- d. LH noted that although we don't have everything in place, press releases are available for us to use.
- e. JM noted that the Board has sent out several press releases, but the media have the option to choose what they want to report or not report. She further stated that if we call a press conference that does not guarantee media will show up or put us in the news.
- f. LH noted that the City's 26 channel maybe an option.
- g. JMM noted that it may be in the best interest of the Board to make our position clear and address some of the attacks against the board currently being played out in the media.
- h. LH noted that the letter to Council and the Mayor written by CB & SS is an excellent tool for the Board to use to clarify our position. He further noted that since the letter is public information, the Board can distribute as we see fit to help build support for Board's position.
- i. JMM noted that negative information on the radio this week, deserves a response.
- j. CB suggested that the Board not respond every time there is an attack. She noted that the talk show this week on WAOK is example of why the Board may not want to respond to every attack. She noted that on the first day of that particular talk show, RE called in an addressed the issues. He did a phenomenal job of articulating the Board's position and the citizen calls following RE's comments, supported the Board's position.
- k. JMM noted that because it a powerful community station, we need to reach out to the show's host, Dr Lorraine White.
- l. CB noted that she will call the talk show host and explain the issues. She will also send her a copy of the letter.

- m. LH noted that while we don't want to respond to every complaint, we can take advantage of opportunities to present a balance view.
  - n. JM noted that in order for the Board to say focus, a policy should be developed on how the Board should respond in the future.
- 2) PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT (JM)  
JM noted that the ED's comments included the Personnel Report
  - 3) RULES & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE REPORT (CJ)  
Comments included in Public Awareness discussion
  - 4) MOTION TO ACCEPT/REJECT RECOMMENDATIONS OF SCREENING PANELS
    - a. LH noted that since we did not have a quorum, voting would be held until the next board meeting.
    - b. CJ noted that there are still open ended procedures that still need to be worked out regarding the flow of cases

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**OTHER ISSUES**

LH noted that due to the time, any remaining issues will be discussed at the next board meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM