

Police Civilian Review Panel
March 16, 2023
First Baptist Church of Vienna
450 Orchard St. NW Vienna, VA 22044
Meeting Summary

Panel Members Present:

Cheri Belkowitz, Vice Chair
Todd Cranford, Chair
Fazia Deen
Michael Lau
Celeste Peterson
Dirck Hargraves
William Ware
Janell Wolfe

Others Present:

Madison Gibbs, Counsel
Sanjida Lisa, PCRP
Steven Richardson, PCRP
Rachelle Ramirez, OIPA
Richard Schott, OIPA
2nd Lt. Matthew Lane, Internal Affairs Bureau
Community member

The Police Civilian Review Panel's (PCR) business meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. and Chair Cranford, Chairman, took attendance. Chair Cranford welcomed everyone to the Panel's March 16, 2023, meeting, thanked Pastor Walton and the First Baptist Church of Vienna for hosting the Panel's meeting, and invited Pastor Walton to offer remarks, which he did. As this is his first meeting as Chair, Chair Cranford thanked immediate past Chair Dirck Hargraves for his dedicated service and he also acknowledged Cheryl "Cheri" Belkowitz as the Panel's new Vice Chair Cranford shared some historical background about the Panel and its genesis, as well as the Panel's purview and procedures.

Approval of Agenda: Ms. Wolfe moved approval of the meeting agenda. Mr. Ware seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Approval of February 2, 2023, Draft Meeting Summary: Ms. Wolfe moved approval of the Panel's February 2, 2023, meeting summary. Vice Chair Belkowitz seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Approval of February 18, 2023, Draft Training Summary: Ms. Wolfe moved approval of the February 18, 2023, draft training summary. Vice Chair Belkowitz seconded the motion and then suggested that Ms. Deen's name be removed from the "Panel Members Present" column to the "Others Present" column, as Ms. Deen was not yet an official Panel member at the time of the training. The motion carried, with Mr. Ware abstaining.

Review of 2022 Annual Report: Chair Cranford postponed consideration of the Annual Report to a future Panel meeting.

OIPA Quarterly Update: The Independent Police Auditor, Mr. Richard Schott, gave an overview of his 2022 OIPA Annual report. He briefly explained his role as the IPA in monitoring and reviewing the investigation into the shooting of Timothy Johnson on February 22, 2023, and presented on his incident reports related to two officer-involved shootings and one incident in which the complainant recanted his allegation of excessive use of force. At approximately 7:22 p.m., Mr. Hargraves arrived.

Mr. Ware asked if Mr. Schott was able to share who at FCPD conducted the criminal investigations of officer-involved shootings. Mr. Schott provided that criminal investigations of officer involved shootings are conducted by the Major Crimes Bureau. Ms. Wolfe asked if a foot pursuit policy already existed for instances such as the Timothy Johnson shooting. Mr. Schott stated that a vehicle pursuit policy existed, but a foot pursuit policy had not been created yet. Mr. Hargraves asked whether the officers had ordered the individual to drop any weapons during the hostage situation in December 2020. Mr. Schott provided that he was unsure if FCPD had given commands to the individual to drop any weapons and that there was no body-worn camera footage available for that incident in 2020.

Further to the foot pursuit policy question, Mr. Adrian Steele, a former Panel member in attendance, pulled up FCPD's policy for a fleeing individual and whether deadly force can be utilized. Mr. Schott concluded his update by mentioning that the University of Texas report recommended that there be a specific policy on foot pursuit and mentioned that Chief Davis wanted to pursue something similar for FCPD.

Executive Director's Report: Exec. Dir. Mr. Richardson began his report first by thanking the Board of Supervisors for appointing the Panel's newest member, Ms. Fazia Deen, whose appointment fully constitutes the Panel at nine members. Exec. Dir. Richardson also recognized Mr. Cranford and Ms. Belkowitz as the Panel's new 2023 Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. Exec. Dir. Richardson then presented former Chair Hargraves with a Certificate of Appreciation, signed by Board of Supervisors Chair Jeff McKay, and Mr. Steven Richardson, for his term serving as Panel Chair.

Mr. Richardson went on to state that he had increased his efforts to reach out to Fairfax County's immigrant and Spanish-speaking communities and had been collaborating with the Office of Immigrant Community Affairs. Mr. Richardson stated that he met with the Counselor General of El Salvador and the Honduran Ambassador to familiarize them with the work of the Panel. He also stated that the Panel had been invited to participate in the County's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.

Mr. Richardson stated that the PCRCP had been working with the Office of the Independent Police Auditor and other Virginia police oversight entities to create an alliance regarding oversight practitioners. Exec. Dir. Richardson stated that a subcommittee of this group had been in discussions with the National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE), who was interested in formalizing a relationship between the Virginia group and theirs.

Exec. Dir. Richardson shared that the FCPD Annual Community Use of Force Training with Panel members would be scheduled for April 29, 2023, after determining this date was good for a majority of Panel members. Exec. Dir. Richardson concluded his report by announcing the locations of upcoming Panel meetings.

PCRCP Matters: Mr. Hargraves and Mr. Steele provided an overview of the Reform Matrix Working Group, an ad-hoc committee formed to consider and make recommendation regarding police reform,

and the matrix created by Supervisor Lusk to allow community members to make recommendations. Ms. Wolfe asked whether it was possible to give the PCRCP Executive Director the authority to be able to monitor. Mr. Steele stated that the recommendation to give Mr. Richardson monitoring authority was already made by the working group. Ms. Wolfe asked if there had been an update from FCPD regarding the two outstanding items in the Panel's recommendations matrix that the Panel directed the Exec. Dir. to inquire about with FCPD. The Exec. Dir. stated that the FCPD was still working on their response to the Panel's recommendations.

New Business: Chair Cranford asked the Panel and staff if there was any new business. Mr. Hargraves suggested to the Panel that they should take advantage of the various webinars and conferences available to them, such as the NACOLE conference. Hearing no further business, Chair Cranford opened the floor for community members to come forward with any questions or comments they might have. The community members asked questions and provided constructive criticism to the Panel. These queries included commentary about officer involved shooting cases, the Panel's processes, how much authority the Panel has, and public perception of the Panel and County officials with the general Fairfax County community.

Adjournment: Mr. Hargraves motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Wolfe seconded and it carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.