



Citizens Review Board Tampa, Florida Meeting Minutes

The Citizens Review Board of the City of Tampa, Florida convened in a regular session in the City Council Chambers 315 E. Kennedy Blvd, Tampa Florida, 33602 at 6:00 p.m. on this 24th day of October 2023.

The Legal Department was represented by Assistant City Attorney, Camaria Pettis-Mackle.

The Recording Secretary was Tonia Wilcox, Sr. City Council/City Clerk Support Technician.

Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle approached and requested a motion to elect an Acting Chair Pro-Tem for the October 24, 2023, meeting as the Chair and Vice-Chair were absent, **Dr. Collins arrived at 6:06 p.m.**

A motion was made by Guy, seconded by Banks, that Tamayo act as Chair Pro-Tem for October 24, 2023, meeting as both Chair and Vice-Chair were absent. Motion carried 5-0, with Aquil, Reyes, and Collins being absent.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pro-Tem Tamayo.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

Tonia Wilcox conducted a roll call. The following members were present upon roll call: Banks, Tamayo, Ingandela, Valdes and Guy. Members Aquil, Collins and Reyes were absent at roll call.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

Chair Pro-Tem Tamayo requested a motion for approval of the Minutes from the September 27, 2023, meeting. A motion was made by Guy, seconded by Banks. Motion carried 5-0, with Aquil, Collins, and Reyes being absent.

V. Public Comment

Acting Chair Pro-Tem Tamayo asked if there was anyone signed up for public comment.

The following public speakers appeared:

1. Pearth Dawkins with the Tampa Bay Community Action Committee - approached and spoke with reference to claimant, Kelsey Storemski who was assaulted by Tampa Police Department Officers on October 12, 2019. Ms. Dawkins asked the Citizens Review Board to investigate this matter for excessive use of police force and a violation of the Professional Codes of Conduct.
2. Joe Nohavo with the Tampa Bay Community Action Committee - approached and spoke with reference to claimant, Kelsey Storemeski who was assaulted by Tampa Police Department Officers on October 12, 2019. Mr. Nohavo asked the Citizens Review Board to investigate this matter for excessive use of police force and a violation of the Professional Codes of Conduct.

Acting Chair Pro-Tem Tamayo asked if there were any voicemails for public comments.

There were no voicemails for public comments.

Acting Chair Pro-Tem Tamayo asked if there were any written public comments.

Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle provided to the Board all written public comments that the Citizens Review Board had received.

VI. Staff and Board Response to Public Comments

There were no board responses to public comments.

VII. Items to be Reviewed

1. Kelsey Storemski, 21C-171

Captain Kevin Schoolmeester with the Tampa Police Department approached and presented the citizens complaint case. On December 12, 2019, a traffic stop was conducted by a Tampa Police Department, DUI Officer. Subsequently the driver was arrested for driving under the influence, and Ms. Storemski was a passenger in the vehicle. The officer recommended that Ms. Storemski arrange for a ride as the officer did not see a need to invoke the Marchman Act, because Ms. Storemski was not believed to be impaired. Since Ms. Storemski did not comply with the officer's recommendation to arrange for a ride and would not cooperate with the officers, later Ms. Storemski was placed under the Marchman Act due to her behavior. According to the police report, Ms. Storemski was charged with battery, and it was directly filed and reviewed by the State Attorney's Office. Ms. Storemski was charged by the State Attorney's Office with battery on a law enforcement officer. On October 8, 2021, Ms. Storemski filed a complaint with the Professional Standards Bureau regarding the officers who had arrested her. Nonetheless, the complaint was documented by TPD, and Ms. Storemski was advised that the case could not be opened due to the statute of limitations outlined in the Florida State Statute 112.532, which is the officer's Bill of Rights, as well as any complaints not brought within 180-days of an incident referenced in Article 37.6.2, of the Police Benevolent Association contract.

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Schoolmeester, regarding the officers that were involved whether they had body worn cameras during the time of the incident. Captain Schoolmaster stated that the DUI officers did not have body worn cameras; however, they did have cameras in their patrol cars.

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Schoolmeester, regarding the hand technique when an officer restrains a person. Captain Schoolmaster stated that you would place your knee on the person's shoulder blade and position your leg behind their leg or arm whichever the officer is behind, so that the individual cannot move.

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Schoolmeester, regarding TPD's post-restraint policy. Captain Schoolmaster stated that under the policy, basic restraint is the use of handcuffs.

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Schoolmeester, regarding the slight injury Ms. Storemski suffered. Captain Schoolmaster stated that when they took Ms. Storemski to the ground is when she sustained the slight injury.

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Schoolmeester, regarding whether the complaint was filed within the 180-day window if there had been an investigation. Captain Schoolmeester stated that the complaint had been investigated; however, being that there was no substantial evidence and no camera footage nothing more could be done to proceed with the complaint.

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Schoolmeester, regarding other avenues Ms. Storemski could have taken to have the complaint further investigated. Captain Schoolmaster stated that Ms. Storemski could have discussed with her defense attorney on what avenues she could have taken to have the case further investigated.

No motion was made by the board as there were no findings by the Professional Standards Bureau.

VIII. Community and Tampa Police Department Matters

Lieutenant Robin Polk and Dr. Kathy Thompson approached and provided a presentation on the Behavioral Health Unit. The Behavioral Health Unit is a co-responder model that respond to live calls for service related to a behavioral health crisis & provides follow-up assistance to individuals who have experienced a recent hospitalization via protective custody (Baker Act or Marchman Act).

Discussion took place amongst members and Lieutenant Polk and Dr. Thompson, regarding whether the program has enough funding to cover the entire program. Lieutenant Polk stated that the program is budgeted for four clinicians, four sworn officers, one sworn supervisor, and 1 civilian supervisor.

Discussion took place amongst members and Lieutenant Polk and Dr. Thompson, regarding whether the program has incorporated mental health first aid as part of the training. Dr. Thompson stated that mental health first aid is not a part of the training.

Discussion took place amongst members and Lieutenant Polk and Dr. Thompson, regarding who can initiate a referral and how can the referral be submitted. Lieutenant Polk stated that there is a link on the website, and anyone can submit their referral online.

Discussion took place amongst members and Lieutenant Polk and Dr. Thompson, regarding how the Citizen Review Board can help promote the BHU program. Dr. Thompson stated that the CRB can re-direct and encourage people to go to the City of Tampa's website as there are multiple resources listed.

Discussion took place amongst members and Lieutenant Polk and Dr. Thompson, regarding statistics relating to the age groups, such as elderly woman. Dr. Thompson stated that the TPD has partnered with the University of South Florida to collect and aggregate data.

Discussion took place amongst members and Lieutenant Polk and Dr. Thompson, regarding the appropriations at the federal and state levels to make sure the community receives the information. Lieutenant Polk stated that the pamphlets, cards, phone numbers and QR code will be distributed, so that every population is served.

Discussion took place amongst members and Lieutenant Polk and Dr. Thompson, regarding the definition of CIT. Lieutenant Polk stated that CIT stands for Crisis Intervention Training.

Discussion took place amongst members and Lieutenant Polk and Dr. Thompson, regarding the officer's training. Dr. Thompson stated that the CIT training allows the officers to do field visits to some of their partners and that is how they are trained and connect to build relationships.

IX. CRB Staff Reports and New Business

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Michael Schmid, regarding the CRB's two-year survey. In the past the survey was funded with a grant by NYU and there were forty-eight questions on the survey. ACA Schmid stated that he was able to reduce the number of questions to a total of eleven by using the questions that were asked, so that the board can consider using the same questions.

Discussion took place amongst members and ACA Schmid, regarding being supplied with a copy of the old survey. ACA Schmid stated that he will supply the members with a copy of the survey.

X. Items Continued

Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle provided an update regarding the status of an independent counsel, and how the board would like to move the process forward with selecting an independent counsel.

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle, regarding how to proceed with the independent counsel selections.

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle, regarding selecting a date for the next Citizen Review Board meeting.

A motion was made by Collins, seconded by Valdes to conduct the next CRB meeting December 5, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried 6-0, with Reyes and Aquil being absent.

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle, regarding the written public comments and whether all were specific to the October 24, 2023, meeting. ACA Pettis-Mackle stated that there were other written public comments provided for different dates.

A motion was made by Guy, seconded by Collins to receive, and file the written public comments for the October 24, 2023, meeting. Motion carried 6-0, with Reyes and Aquil being absent.

XI. Announcements/New Business

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle, regarding the "2024" CRB community meetings. Valdes asked, will the board still have to provide community meeting in "2024"? ACA Pettis-Mackle stated that the time to address concerns in relation to recommendations, or changes to the CRB is when the board submits the annual report to the Tampa City Council.

Assistant City Attorney Michael Schmid provided new board member information. ACA stated that a new member will join the CRB, his name is Albert Cooke, and he will be available to serve at the next meeting.

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Michael Schmid, regarding street racing in the communities. ACA Schmid stated that there is an assigned detective who is coming up with operational plans on how to target street racing.

The next meeting will be held on **December 5, 2023, at 6:00pm**, Old City Hall, 315 E. Kennedy Blvd, 3rd Floor, and if anyone is not able to attend the meeting to please notify the Clerk at least 48 hours in advance.

XII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Citizens Review Board at this time, said meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m. this 24th day of October 2023.



CHAIRMAN/VICECHAIRMAN



RECORDING SECRETARY



CITY CLERK/DEPUTY CITY CLERK

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Meetings on Demand can be viewed on the City of Tampa Meeting – YouTube Channel website at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLzohJmEqvfJOEd4YJNlHbg>