



**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 26th day of September 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.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Aquil.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

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

IV. Approval of the Minutes

Chair Aquil requested a motion for approval of the Minutes from the July 25, 2023, meeting. A motion was made by Reyes, seconded by Tamayo. Motion carried 6-0, with Valdes and Guy being absent.

V. Public Comment

Chair Aquil asked if there was anyone who signed up for public comment.

The following public speakers appeared:

Sandra Zikry approached and spoke with reference to an ongoing concern regarding a case with the Tampa Police Department.

Chair Aquil asked if there were any voicemails for public comments.

There were no voicemails for public comments.

Chair Aquil asked if there were any written public comments.

There were no written public comments.

VI. Staff and Board Response to Public Comments

There were no board responses to public comments.

VII. Items to be Reviewed

- 1. 22F-006: An officer took part in an investigation not assigned to him and revealed information to another person. MOR 1402 Department Property Restriction of Use, Unfounded/Exonerated – MOR 1814 Restriction on Revealing Information – Sustained. The officer received a letter of counseling.**

Captain Kevin Schoolmeester with the Tampa Police Department approached and presented the aggravated battery case. Captain Schoolmeester provided the CRB with detailed information involving a female victim in an aggravated battery that occurred on December 16, 2022. Then on December 18, 2022, the officer released confidential information to his girlfriend concerning the case, which is against TPD's departmental policies. In the disposition letter written by the captain stating that the case was unbiased and comprehensive provided by the reviewer with the facts to render an impartial decision; however, based on the facts presented in this case the captain believed that the officer took it upon himself to investigate a case that was not assigned to him and shared the case information with another person. Therefore, the officer violated the manual of regulations, MOR: 1814.02, revealing information, which was sustained, and MOR: 1402,

departmental property usage, the allegation was exonerated. In conclusion, Captain Schoolmeester provided the board with an explanation of the MOR's, so that the board would have a clear understanding of delivering a sound decision.

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Schoolmeester, regarding whether the officer was issued any of the City's property, which may have been used in this case. Captain Schoolmaster stated that the officer used computers that are located at each district for employees to use.

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Schoolmeester, regarding how the officer sent the case information to his girlfriend. Captain Schoolmaster stated that the officer took a picture of the computer screen and recorded the video with his personal cell phone and sent it to his girlfriend.

A motion was made by Tamayo, seconded by Collins, concurring with the findings of unfounded and exonerated case, MOR-1402: Motion carried 6-0, with Valdes and Guy being absent.

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Schoolmeester, regarding whether there were any other TPD departmental policies available, which allow an officer to release confidential information to an individual other than an employee. Captain Schoolmaster stated information can be released to the State Attorney's Office, but not your significant other or family member.

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Schoolmeester, regarding whether the release of confidential information is restricted to open or closed cases. Captain Schoolmaster stated that open cases are restricted, and once closed the case is of public record.

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Schoolmeester, regarding whether the officer reported from the video that he had made a connection as to who had assaulted the victim in the case. Captain Schoolmaster stated that the officer had told the investigating detective that the video contained information where the victim identified the suspect in the case.

Chair Aquil requested a motion. A motion was made by Tamayo, seconded by Reyes, concurring with the findings to sustain MOR-1814: Motion carried 6-0, with Valdes and Guy being absent.

VIII. Community and Tampa Police Department Matters

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Schoolmeester, regarding an item which was supposed to be brought back before the board, providing the dates of weapons qualification concerning a specific TPD officer, whether the number had been determined, will the information be presented tonight, or does the item need to be continued to the next CRB meeting. Captain Schoolmeester was able to provide dates and timelines concerning the weapons qualifications.

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Schoolmeester, regarding sending CRB members advanced invites for TPD's monthly Town Hall Meetings. Captain Schoolmeester stated that they will send the board the invitation as soon as they know when and where the Town Hall Meetings will be held.

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 to gather the public's feedback to TPD's policies and procedures; however, TPD is exploring options as to conducting their own survey and the CRB had previously discussed with TPD about joining and participating in their survey. Assistant City Attorney Michael Schmid stated that TPD is moving forward with the joint survey and hoped that the CRB will participate in joining the venture. Assistant City Attorney Michael Schmid further stated that he plans to present the board with questions from a prior survey which was previously performed. ACA Schmid has reviewed the prior survey and have met with multiple vendors who are able to create a similar survey.

X. Items Continued

Chair Aquil confirmed the date of October 24, 2023, for the Kelsey Storemski case to be heard at the CRB meeting,

XI. Announcements/New Business

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle, regarding the status of independent counsel, and some recommendations the CRB may utilize in selecting an independent counsel.

1. Select a meeting for the candidates to introduce themselves.
2. ACA Pettis-Mackle will provide the board with resumes of all the candidates in advance.
3. At the selected meeting the candidates will have the opportunity to speak to the board and express why they are interested in the position.

4. The board can ask questions during the meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting, the board can make a motion that the City Attorney hire a specific person for the independent counsel for CRB.

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle, regarding selecting the independent counsel. The board is inclined to keep Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle as their legal counsel, due to the city's money constraints and not move forward with the hiring of independent counsel. However, keeping the existing legal counsel is not an option as the community voted and the vote passed for the Citizen Review Board to have their own outside independent counsel.

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle, regarding providing evaluation sheets for the CRB to help them navigate through the independent counsel selection process. Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle stated that she will provide the board with the evaluation sheets.

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle, regarding the date the candidates are to appear before the board for the independent counsel interview process.

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Michael Schmid, regarding the selection process. ACA Schmid discussed the procurement process and how it is beneficial in narrowing and selecting potential candidates.

Discussion took place amongst members, Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle, and Assistant City Attorney Michael Schmid, regarding whether the City Attorney's Office already has a specific hiring process in place where they solicit outside counsel. ACA Schmid stated that he believes that the City Attorney's Office does have a process in place; however, he's not familiar with it, he would bring the information back to the board at the next CRB meeting.

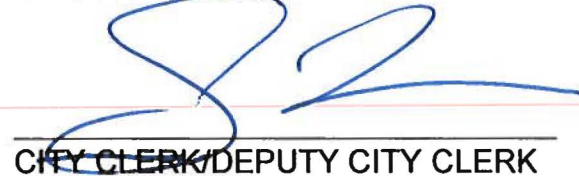
Discussion took place amongst members to not move forward with the motion to have the candidates appear during the November 21, 2023 meeting and continue to explore the different selection processes for choosing the candidates.

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle, regarding whether the CRB can go back before the City Council and ask for modifications concerning the ordinance. ACA Pettis-Mackle stated that the CRB can go back before the City Council during the time they present their 2023 survey to discuss their concerns and recommendations.

Chair Aquil announced the next meeting will be held on **October 24, 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 7:01p.m. this 26th day of September 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>