



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 28th day of May 2024.

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 Vice-Chair Valdes.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

Tonia Wilcox conducted a roll call. The following members were present upon roll call: Banks, Collins, Cooke, Guy, Ingandela, March and Tamayo. Member Aquil was absent at roll call.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

Vice-Chair Valdes requested a motion for approval of the Minutes from the April 23, 2024, meeting. A motion was made by Guy, seconded by March. Motion carried 8-0, with Aquil being absent.

V. Public Comment

Vice-Chair Valdes asked if there was anyone who signed up for public comment.

The following public speakers appeared:

1. Ryan Barack - approached and spoke regarding a comment which was made at a previous Citizens Review Board meeting, with reference to no local applicants having applied for the Independent Counsel position. Mr. Barack wanted the board to know that he applied for the position and lives in Tampa. Additionally, Mr. Barack mentioned the legal memorandum that was prepared by the American Civil Liberties Union, and that he found the analysis to House Bill 601 very interesting, and he is looking forward to hearing what the City Attorney Office has to say about the analysis.
2. James Shaw - approached and spoke with reference to encouraging the Citizens Review Board to retain their own independent attorney as referenced in Ordinance 18-8, subsection 6.
3. Julius Adams - approached and spoke with reference to House Bill 601 and provided his interpretation. Mr. Adams stated that he did not read anything in the bill where the Citizens Review Board cannot exist and is not allowed to move forward with business as usual. Also, Mr. Adams said that he is interested in the Independent Legal Counsel position.

Vice-Chair Valdes asked if there were any voicemails for public comments.

There were no voicemail public comments.

Vice-Chair Valdes asked if there were any written public comments.

There were no written public comments.

VI. Staff and Board Response to Public Comments

Discussion took place amongst members regarding the hiring of an independent counsel for the Citizens Review Board, and bringing forth a motion to move forward with the selection and hiring processes for the June 25, 2024 meeting.

VII. Items to be Reviewed

- 1. 22F-018. A corporal used their police vehicle for personal reasons, on and off duty, on numerous occasions. The corporal was previously disciplined for a similar violation and violated a direct order not to violate the policy again. The corporal failed to report to work on time and left early without approval, was late to extra duty assignments, failed to accurately report arrival times and failed to obtain waivers for extra duty hourly limits. MOR 1005 Standard of Conduct – Sustained, MOR 1010 Performance of Extra Duty Work – Sustained, MOR 1204 Attentiveness to Duty – Sustained, MOR 1804 Roll Call – Sustained, MOR 1208 Insubordination – Sustained, SOP 609.1 Assigned Vehicle Program – Sustained, SOP 672 Extra Duty Employment – Sustained, MOR 1902 Timekeeping – Sustained, MOR 1201 Incompetence – Sustained. The corporal was demoted to police officer, loss of take-home car for six months, suspended from extra duty for six months.**

Captain Kevin Schoolmeesters with the Professional Standards Bureau approached and presented the case concerning the Tampa Police Corporal. According to the reported violations, the corporal had been failing to report to work on time, leaving work early without approval, using the company vehicle both on and off duty, and not completing the non-city employment disclosure form, which requires approval for her secondary employment. An interview between the corporal and internal affairs was performed, upon completion of the interview, the corporal admitted to the violations. The Internal Affairs Bureau conducted several investigations and followed the Policies and Procedures Manual to determine whether the corporal was guilty of all reported violations. After the Internal Affairs Bureau investigation, the corporal was demoted to police officer, loss of take-home car, and suspended from extra duty work for six months.

Discussion took place amongst member Cooke and Captain Schoolmeesters, regarding the police terminology which was written in the report and what it meant. Captain Schoolmeesters provided an explanation as what each term meant.

Board Member Guy had a concern as to why the corporal's supervisor did not investigate the anonymous complaints before internal affairs got involved. Captain Schoolmeesters stated that the supervisor oversees 12 detectives and he's not able to constantly watch the detectives; therefore, the supervisor typically relies on the detective's word, and expects them to do what is required.

Board Member Tamayo asked Detective Degagne, and Captain Schoolmeesters a series of questions regarding, how long the corporal has been employed with TPD? Is the corporal still engaged in secondary employment? Was the secondary employment

approved by TPD? Can the secondary employment approval be confirmed, and a response brought back to the CRB on June 25, 2024? Detective Degagne answered the corporal has been with TPD roughly 16 -17 years, he's unsure as to whether the corporal is still engaged in secondary employment, and he's unaware about the secondary employment being approved by TPD.

Vice-Chair Valdes requested a motion. A motion was made by Tamayo, seconded by Collins, to concur with the sustaining of all nine violations. MOR 1005 Standard of Conduct, MOR 1010 Performance of Extra Duty Work, MOR 1204 Attentiveness to Duty, MOR 1804 Roll Call, MOR 1208 Insubordination, SOP 609.1 Assigned Vehicle Program, SOP 672 Extra Duty Employment, MOR 1902 Timekeeping, MOR 1201 Incompetence. Motion carried 8-0, with Aquil being absent.

A motion was made by Tamayo, seconded by Collins, to not concur with the lenient discipline which was imposed by Human Resources regarding the nine violations Motion carried 7-1, with March voting no, and Aquil being absent.

VIII. Community and Tampa Police Department Matters

There were no Community and Tampa Police Department Matters

IX. CRB Staff Reports and New Business

There were no Community and Tampa Police Department Matters

X. Items Continued

Discussion took place amongst members regarding the Independent Counsel position and moving forward with the hiring process.

A motion was made by Collins, seconded by Cooke, for the Citizen Review Board to have the six independent legal advisor candidates come before the CRB on June 25, 2024, for public interviews. Motion carried 6-2, with Guy and Tamayo voting no, Banks abstaining, and Aquil, being absent.

XI. Announcements/New Business


The next meeting will be held on **June 25, at 6:00pm**, at 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 7:08 p.m. this 28th day of May 2024.



CHAIRMAN/VICECHAIRMAN



RECORDING SECRETARY



CITY CLERK/DEPUTY CITY CLERK

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