



**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 6:12 p.m. on this 23rd day of January 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 Chair Aquil.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

****Agenda order was not followed, due to not having adequate board members who were eligible to vote at the start of meeting****

VI. Public Comment

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

There were no public comments.

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.

VII. Staff and Board Response to Public Comment

No public comment response

VIII. Items to be Reviewed

- 1. 22F-016: MOR 1208 Insubordination, not Sustained; MOR 1404.03 Misuse of Police Radio/Computers, Not Sustained; MOR 1701 Supervisor Responsibility, Sustained. An officer sent a computer message that demonstrated poor judgment and failed to reflect proper leadership and guidance expected of a supervisor. The officer received a letter of counseling.**

Captain Kevin Schoolmeester with the Professional Standards Bureau approached and presented the case. On August 8, 2022, Chief Assistant City Attorney for the City of Tampa sent a departmental email stating that State Attorney Susan Lopez had rescinded an internal email relating to the policy change of misdemeanor offenses. On August 9, 2022, the Corporal decided he'd reply directly to the Chief Assistant City Attorney's email; however, he inadvertently replied to the entire police department. In the Corporal's reply, he stated that "the policy would not change how the officers operate, it would make the officers feel supported". He further added, those policies contributed to the highest murder rate in the City's history. An investigation was conducted by Internal Affairs, and in the interview the Corporal stated that he intended to reply directly to the Chief Assistant City Attorney; however, mistakenly pressed the "reply all" key. Then on October 28, 2022, a training order email was sent listing the officers who would attend the course title "Women Leading When the Heat Is On". The Corporal sent a message to his squad stating, "somebody please tell me don't do it, LOL". A few minutes later, he sent a second message stating, "just curious, why are there women only classes, where are the men only specialized classes"? The Corporal was asked why he sent those messages, he stated that he felt the messages were work related as they were in response to the department course announcement. Later, the Corporal submitted a response to the course announcement stating, "thanks Whitney, I looked back through your training emails, and I did not see a training course just for men. Are they coming soon"? The Corporal then took a picture of his phone and sent his response to his Major to preview prior to him sending his email. The Major's immediate response was, "you better not,

LOL". The Corporal ignored the Major's directive and sent the email to the entire department. The Corporal was asked why the email was sent after being told not to do so, and he responded, "because the response from the Major included the LOL, so thought it was okay to send". Based on the facts regarding this case the captain found that the Corporal did not commit a policy violation when responding to the Chief Assistant City Attorney's email, he did not violate policy for the misuse of the police radio when he responded to the course announcement on October 28, 2022, and he was not insubordinate when he sent the email response to the department. However, the Corporal demonstrated unprofessionalism, poor judgment, while sending messages to his subordinates, and he failed to provide proper leadership.

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Schoolmeester, regarding both emails that were sent by the Corporal, if they were subject to the investigation, and was questioned if there were any discussion with the Corporal pertaining to the inappropriateness to the emails. Captain Schoolmeester stated that, according to the transcript, the Major did not order him not to send messages; however, commented that it was not a good idea to send the messages.

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Schoolmeester, regarding whether the Corporal was still employed, and when would be his retirement date since he has 28 years with the department. Captain Schoolmeester stated that the Corporal is still employed, and typically the officers retire after 30 years.

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Schoolmeester, regarding the Major's supervisory responsibility. The question was asked, shouldn't the department have looked at him as well for his "LOL" response. Captain Schoolmeester stated he could not speak on his behalf. However, the Chief makes the determination, and in the future I'm sure the Major would be careful and more direct.

III. Roll Call

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

Chair Aquil requested a motion. A motion was made by Tamayo, seconded by Ingandela to concur with MOR 1208 Insubordination, Not Sustained; MOR 1404.03 Misuse of Police Radio/Computers, Not Sustained; MOR 1701 Supervisor Responsibility, Sustained.

Discussion took place amongst members to make separate motions for each MOR violation, being that the board had motioned and voted separately in the past.

Tamayo restated the amended motion, seconded by Ingandela, that the Citizens Review Board does not concur with the finding of not sustaining MOR-1208, Insubordination. Motion carried 4-2, with Collins and Valdes voting no, March abstaining, and Banks and Guy being absent.

A motion was made by Tamayo, seconded by Ingandela, that the Citizens Review Board concurs with MOR 1404.03, Misuse of Police Radio/Computers, Not Sustained. Motion carried 4-2, with Cooke and Valdes voting no, March abstaining, and Banks and Guy being absent.

A motion was made by Tamayo, seconded by Valdes that the Citizens Review Board concurs with MOR 1701, Supervisor Responsibility, Sustained. Motion carried 6-0, with March abstaining, and Banks and Guy being absent.

IV. Elections

Shirley Foxx-Knowles, City Clerk, provided direction in the processes of nominating and electing a Chair and Vice-Chair for the Citizens Review Board.

Shirley-Foxx-Knowles opened the floor for nominations of Chair. Member Lincoln Tamayo nominated Rasheed Aquil for Chair. Mrs. Foxx-Knowles announced the vote as being unanimous for Chair. Member Rasheed Aquil was elected as Chair of the Citizens Review Board.

Shirley-Foxx-Knowles opened the floor for nominations of Vice-Chair. Member Rasheed Aquil nominated Carlos Valdes for Vice Chair. Mrs. Foxx-Knowles announced the vote as being unanimous for Vice-Chair. Member Carlos Valdes was elected as Vice Chair of the Citizens Review Board.

V. Approval of Minutes

Chair Aquil requested a motion for approval of the Minutes from the December 5, 2023, meeting. The motion was made by Collins, seconded by Tamayo. Motion carried 6-0, with March abstaining, and Banks and Guy being absent.

IX. Community and Tampa Police Department Matters

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Michael Schmid, regarding the distribution path for the CRB "2024" survey. Assistant City Attorney Michael Schmid stated that a company has been identified to distribute the survey; however, the funding source is still being negotiated.

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Michael Schmid, regarding the distribution date for the CRB “2024” survey. Assistant City Attorney Michael Schmid was not able to provide a distribution; however, he stated that once the questions were drafted the survey would be open for six weeks.

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Michael Schmid, regarding whether the city applied for a grant to pay for the survey. Assistant City Attorney Michael Schmid stated yes, the city was awarded the grant; however, the city must make sure that the grant is approved and covered in the budget.

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Michael Schmid, regarding the cost of the survey project. Assistant City Attorney Michael Schmid stated that the cost could be in the ballpark of thirty thousand to six figures, depending on the type of survey that’s selected.

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Michael Schmid, regarding how often the survey is provided, a motion or discussion to bring before the City Council a request to include the cost of the Annual Surveys in the City’s budget. Assistant City Attorney Michael Schmid stated that the survey is provided every three years. Also, the funding for the survey to be added into the City’s budget can be discussed during the CRB’s Annual Report, which will be in front of the City Council in a few months, so the budget funding can be discussed then.

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Michael Schmid, regarding the cost of the last survey. Assistant City Attorney Michael Schmid stated that the last survey was funded through a grant, and the cost was roughly around one hundred and thirty thousand.

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Board member Collins suggested to the board that the CRB Annual Report be reviewed by the board before it’s presented to the City Council, so that the board may discuss future funding for the CRB survey, and making sure that the funding is included in the City’s budget.

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Michael Schmid, regarding the last survey, and the extension of time that was requested by the CRB as they felt as though the community was not saturated with the survey, and what can the board do to make sure that the survey is reaching the community. Assistant City Attorney Michael Schmid stated that he would do the board a disservice if he tried to explain something that was not within his wheelhouse; therefore, he would try to bring in a representative from the survey company to explain the process.

A motion was made by Valdes, seconded by Collins, to have a presentation regarding the Community Intervention Violence Grant, in conjunction with Safe and Sound on how it pertains to the survey process. Motion carried 6-0, with March abstaining, and Banks and Guy being absent.

X. CRB Staff Reports and Business

Captain Kevin Schoolmeester provided feedback from the TPD Personnel Department, regarding the interviewing hiring process of new officers, and making sure the CRB participates in the proceedings.

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle, regarding the CRB 2023, Annual Report along with certain items the CRB would like to bring before the City Council.

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle, regarding updates pertaining to House Bills 601 and 576. Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle stated the bills are moving forward, and hopefully soon we will know what the Florida Legislature decides.

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle, regarding whether committees are assigned to each House Bills 601 and 576. Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle stated there are committees assigned.

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle, regarding submitting a letter to the Florida Legislature advocating on behalf of the CRB in the event all members are not able to attend the hearing. Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle stated that it would be the pleasure of the board to submit a letter to Tallahassee as a whole.

A motion was made by Valdes, seconded by Collins, to have Valdes draft a letter on behalf of the CRB to submit to Tallahassee, regarding House Bills 607 and 576. The motion was amended by Valdes. Collins restated the amended motion, seconded by Valdes, to have Valdes draft and send an advocacy letter on behalf of the Citizens Review Board to Tallahassee concerning House Bills 601 and 576, to allow the CRB to continue to operate in its current capacity. Motion carried 6-0, with March abstaining, and Banks and Guy being absent.

XI. Items Continued

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle regarding the independent counsel interviewing process, questionnaire for each candidate, and readvertise for an additional fifteen days, so that other interested candidates may apply.


A motion was made by Valdes, seconded by Collins, that the Citizens Review Board adopts the interview questionnaire; further, the current candidates will appear before the CRB for Q&A at the March 26, 2024 meeting. In addition, staff be requested to readvertise to attract additional candidates for independent counsel. Motion carried 6-0, with March abstaining, and Banks and Guy being absent.

XII. Announcements/New Business

Chair Aquil announced the next meeting will be held on **February 27, 2024 at 6:00pm**, Old City Hall, 315 E. Kennedy Blvd, 3rd Floor, and if anyone is not able to attend the meeting, please notify the Clerk at least 48 hours in advance.

XIII. Adjournment


There being no further business to come before the Citizens Review Board at this time, said meeting was adjourned at 7:49p.m. this 23rd day of January 2024.



CHAIRMAN/VICECHAIRMAN



RECORDING SECRETARY



CITY CLERK/DEPUTY CITY CLERK

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Upon request, an audio CD recording of this proceeding is available from the Office of the City Clerk for a fee. Our telephone number is (813) 274-8131. Upon request, a DVD of the actual proceeding is available from the Office of Digital Media Productions for a fee. Their telephone number is (813) 274-8127.

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