



**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 6:01 p.m. on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March 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, Tamayo, Ingandela, Guy, Cooke, March, and Valdes. Member Aquil and Collins were absent during roll call, **Dr. Collins arrived at 6:06 p.m.**

**IV. Approval of the Minutes**

**Vice Chair Valdes requested a motion for approval of the Minutes from the February 26, 2024, meeting. The motion was made by Guy, seconded by Ingandela. Motion carried 7-0, with Aquil and Collins 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. James Shaw - approached and spoke with reference to House Bill 601, and how it relates to the Citizens Review Board's operating practices.

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

There were no voicemails for 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 and James Shaw as to what brought him before the CRB Citizens Review Board. Mr. Shaw stated as a citizen he thought it would be beneficial to come before the CRB to help clarify some of the misinformation regarding House Bill 601.

Discussion took place amongst members and James Shaw, regarding the definition of the Citizens Review Board, and Citizens Advisory Board. Mr. Shaw stated that some of the boards are defined pursuant to ordinances, and some pursuant to charter provisions; however, he only recognizes the boards, which were created by ordinance, resolution, or policy outside of the department.

Discussion took place amongst members and James Shaw, regarding the Sheriff's salary increase in House Bill 601. Mr. Shaw stated that the salary increase language is mentioned in the bill; however, he was not familiar with the salary provisions, and only concerned with the portion of the bill which would affect the CRB; therefore, he was not able to provide comments concerning the salary as it relates to the bill.

Discussion took place amongst members and James Shaw, regarding whether the chief of police could establish a civilian board. If so, could it be a separate board from the Citizens Review Board? Mr. Shaw stated yes, the Chief could establish a separate civilian board, which would have nothing to do with the CRB.

Discussion took place amongst members and James Shaw, regarding the interpretation of House Bill 601, and how it is going to affect the statute pertaining to the Citizens Review Board for which it operates under. Mr. Shaw stated that the legal advisor of the Citizens Review Board can interpret the bill. In addition, Mr. Shaw mentioned that months ago he came before the board and spoke about the Citizens Review Board having their own independent counsel, because he knew this day would come when the Citizens Review Board might be dissolved.

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle, regarding Ms. Pettis-Mackle being able to provide interpretation of House Bill 601. Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle stated that she did not have an interpretation of the bill, the Board Members were given copies of the bill to review; however, the bill has yet to be signed by the governor, and further information concerning the bill will be provided later.

## **VII. Items to be Reviewed**

- 1. 23R-002: Officers were attempting to locate a wanted subject and conducting surveillance near his residence. While attempting to detain a subject they believed to be the wanted person, an officer stumbled and fell in the roadway. As he did, he unintentionally fired one round from his firearm. No person was injured, and no property was damaged. MOR 1503 Firearms Display, SUSTAINED. The officer received a letter of counseling.**
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Captain Kevin Schoolmeester with the Professional Standards Bureau approached and presented the case. On February 16, 2023, the officer was tasked with locating a subject who was wanted for a shooting. The officer conducted surveillance at a nearby residence, and the subject matching the alleged description was spotted across the street from the surveillance location. When the subject exited the vehicle, the officer moved towards the subject with his weapon drawn, ordering the subject to the ground. While the officer continued to move closer to the subject, the officer inadvertently stepped off the slightly raised curb, lost his balance, and fell to the ground. As the officer's body made contact with the ground, his firearm accidentally discharged firing a single round. The area was searched by the responding officers and detectives for property damage due to the accidental discharge. After the completion of the search for property damage or injury to a person, the officers reported that there was no property damage or injury to a person. Then the officer was interviewed by the Internal Affairs Bureau, as well as the Professional Standards Bureau. Upon the finalization of the interviews with Internal Affairs Bureau, as well as the Professional Standards Bureau, the circumstances surrounding the incident were found to be consistent with the documentations, interviews, and videos, which resulted in the officer receiving a letter of counseling.



Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Schoolmeester, regarding the firearm safety rules. Captain Schoolmeester stated that in firearms training class individuals are trained to keep their index finger off the trigger as a precautionary measure.

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Schoolmeester, regarding where the officer's bullet had landed after it was fired. Captain Schoolmeester stated that when the officer fell, he tucked his gun underneath him, and the bullet flew someplace in the northern direction of the location. The area was searched by the officers and detectives; however, the bullet was unable to be located.

Discussion took place amongst members and Captain Schoolmeester, regarding whether the officer was sent back to firearm training after the incident. Captain Schoolmeester stated that he was uncertain as to whether the officer went back to firearm training; however, training is provided to the officers once a year.

**Vice Chair Valdes requested a motion. A motion was made by Guy, seconded by Banks, to concur with the sustained violation of case, 23R-002. Motion carried 8-0, with Aquil being absent.**

#### **VIII. Community and Tampa Police Department Matters**

There were no Community and Tampa Police Department Matters.

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#### **IX. CRB Staff Reports and New Business**

Captain Kevin Schoolmeester, Tampa Police Department, approached and presented the board with the 2023 Annual Report.

Discussion took place amongst members regarding, changing some of the language in the Annual Report pertaining to the hiring process of the Police Officers and Reserve Officers as it relates to the Citizens Review Board's interview panel participation.

**A motion was made by Tamayo, seconded by Collins, to incorporate the number of officers and reserve officers in which the Citizens Review Board provided their input while participating on the interview panel. Motion carried 8-0, with Aquil being absent.**

**A motion was made by Collins, seconded by Cooke, to remove sentence in the Annual Report under section 1, second paragraph, which states the “CRB makes recommendations regarding the hiring criteria and participates in interviews with prospective officers”, and replace with the following sentence: CRB makes recommendations of the mayor and chief of police concerning the hiring criteria and to participate in the interview panel for prospective officers, which is found in the code of ordinance, 18-8, Item 2-G. Motion carried 8-0, with Aquil being absent.**

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle, regarding including in the Annual Report individual CRB complaint cases which are brought back before the Citizens Review Board and providing a thirty-day notification to the individuals to appear before CRB for case review. Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle stated that if the board desires, they may make a motion to add these processes.

**A motion was made by Collins, seconded by March, that the Citizens Review Board add in section seven of the Annual Report a protocol as it relates to the community filing a complaint with the CRB, after the complaint has been investigated, and brought back before the CRB, the individual is provided a thirty day notice to appear before the CRB for case review. Motion carried 8-0, with Aquil being absent.**

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle, regarding the individual CRB off-site community meetings, and combining the CRB meetings with TPD’s community meetings. Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle stated that the CRB would need to ask the Tampa City Council to amend the Ordinance to modify the community, the board is allowed to do so.

**A motion was made by Collins, that the Citizens Review Board add in section seven of the Annual Report make a recommendation to the Tampa City Council to change how the community meetings take place and allow the CRB’s community meetings to take place along with the Tampa Police Department. Motion withdrawn by Collins.**

**Tamayo restated the amended motion, seconded by Collins, that the Citizens Review Board recommends that the Tampa City Council removes the Ordinance requirement that states “at least four times per year the CRB meetings shall be held in a community location in each of the four City Council single member districts and the respective council member for said district shall be encouraged to attend the meetings”, and recommends that City Council further modifies its Ordinance to include the CRB’s participation in the community meetings with the Tampa Police Department. Motion carried 6-2, with Guy and March voting no, and Aquil being absent.**



Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle, regarding continuing to have the community CRB meetings four City Council single member districts and do more to get proper notification out pertaining to the meetings. Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle stated although proper notification was provided to the public the turnout for the meetings was low.

#### **X. Items Continued**

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle, regarding how the Sunshine Law requirement will impact the necessity for broadcasting of the Citizens Review Board and TPD co-participating in community meetings. Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle stated the Citizens Review Board co-participating with TPD is not a CRB meeting which must be publicly noticed as CRB business will not be conducted.

Discussion took place amongst members and Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle, regarding the items continued, selecting of independent counsel, and the community survey. Assistant City Attorney Camaria Pettis-Mackle stated that these items will remain on the agenda until House Bill 601 be addressed in detail.

Vice Chair Valdes requested that a report be brought back to CRB regarding the interpretation of House Bill 601, so that the Citizens Review Board and the City Attorney staff knows how to move forward conducting CRB's business.

Discussion took place amongst members regarding House Bills 601, their desire to better understand the bill, and moving forward how it will allow the Citizens Review Board to operate.

**A motion was made by Tamayo, seconded by Collins to reopen public comments so that James Shaw can address the Citizens Review Board, regarding additional questions pertaining to House Bill 601. Motion carried 6-2, with Guy and March voting no, and Aquil being absent.**

James Shaw approached and stated that someone will interpret House Bill 601, the ultimate interpreter will be someone from the Florida Supreme Court; however, the immediate interpreter will be your legal advisor for the CRB.

## **XI. Announcements/New Business**

The Citizens Review Board requested that someone from the city staff provide definitive information at the next meeting, April 23, 2024, regarding the interpretation of House Bill 601, as to how it relates to the Ordinance which dictates the operations of the Citizens Review Board.

Vice-Chair Valdes announced the next meeting will be held on **April 23, 2024 at 6:00pm**, Old City Hall, 315 E. Kennedy Blvd, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, and if anyone is not able to attend the meeting 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 7:36p.m. this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

  
CHAIRMAN/VICECHAIRMAN  
RECORDING SECRETARY  
CITY CLERK/DEPUTY CITY CLERK

### **DISCLAIMER**

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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.*

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