



CECIL COUNTY POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD (PAB)

Cecil County Administration Building
200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Suite 2100
Elkton, Maryland 21921

Open Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2023

Attendance:

Present:

Members: Stephen Miller (Chair), Robert McKnight, John Thompson, and John Stricklett.
Office of Law: Lawrence Scott (County Attorney), Kevin Jensen (Assistant County Attorney), Kayla Maldeis (Legal Administrator)

Absent:

Members: Jamila Mettee

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m.
Roll call - 4 members present, representing a quorum.

Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Stephen Miller.

Agenda Approval:

Stephen Miller motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Robert McKnight, and approved by all.

Old Business:

Approval of Minutes:

On motion made by Robert McKnight, seconded by John Thompson, the Board moved to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2023, meeting. The motion was approved by all.

New Business:

1- Mr. Chad Johnston, nominated and approved as the civilian trial board member at the last meeting, answered questions from the board members.

2- Presentation from Chief Yates from the North East Police Department.

“Per Md. Code Ann. Pub. Safety § 3-102(a)(1), Chief Stephen Yates of the North East Police Department testified to the PAB regarding matters of policing in his department. Chief Yates expressed concern over the state's new juvenile justice reform law, stating that he has observed a sharp increase in juvenile crime. Chief Yates also noted difficulties surrounding the legalization of marijuana; specifically, that his department has seen an increase in calls from parents of juveniles seeking police assistance because they found marijuana in the children's possession. Chief Yates stated that he would like to be able to provide more assistance in these circumstances, but recent legislation prevents any police intervention. Chief Yates noted continuing proliferation of Fentanyl and a sharp recent uptrend in Xylazine. He reported that overdose deaths are decreasing, but there is no corresponding decrease in drug use or drug-related crime.

3- Review of confidential Complaint summary:

A confidential case summary of all PAB complaints submitted, and their status was provided to the PAB. The PAB were informed that the complaints are available for review at any time during office hours.

On motion made by Robert McKnight, seconded by John Thompson, the board moved to approve the status of the complaints as amended.

4- **MOTION:** John Thompson motioned for the Office of Law to send a letter to North East Police Department directing them to investigate the identity of the officer accused in PAB complaint 87. The motion was seconded by John Stricklett, and passed by a vote of 3-1, with Robert McKnight voting in opposition.

5- **MOTION:** John Stricklett motioned to request County Executive to designate January 31st as the submission date for the PAB Annual Report, per Cecil County Code 82-2 (B) (5) (b), seconded by Robert Mcknight, and approved by all.

Next meeting:

Next PAB meeting is Tuesday, January 30, at 10:00 a.m., County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elk Room, Elkton, MD.

Adjourn:

On motion made by John Thompson to adjourn and seconded by John Stricklett, and approved by all, the meeting was adjourned at 10:59am.