

**OPEN MEETING MINUTES**  
February 28, 2023

The Police Accountability Board met in an open session at the County Administrative Building, 200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elkton Room, Elkton MD on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

**Present:** Stephen Miller, Chairman, Lawrence Scott, Board Attorney, Jamila Mettee, Board Member, John Stricklett, Board Member, Robert McKnight, Board Member, Jeanea Sexton Gomez, Paralegal Angela Raduszewski, Paralegal

**Absent:** John Thompson, Board Member

**Call to Order:**

- Steve Miller, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll call was taken and it was noted that four out of the 5 members were present. Mr. Miller advised that the 5<sup>th</sup> member, John Thompson was excused from the meeting due to a medical appointment. Chairman Miller noted a quorum was present.

**Agenda Approval:**

- It was noted that additional items to the agenda would include review of an email received through the PAB portal, a policy for a time limit which would require the police departments to submit any complaint received directly through their agency to the PAB within a set timeframe, and the appointment of one of the Board members to the State PAB.
- Jamila Mettee made a motion to approve the draft February 28, 2023, agenda, seconded by John Stricklett, and approved by all.

**January 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes Approval**

- John Stricklett made a motion to approve the draft January 13, 2023, open meeting minutes, seconded by Jamila Mette, and approved by all.

**Old Business**

**PAB Training** – Training has been set up for April 17, 2023 through Friday, April 21, 2023.

**Confidentiality Agreement** – Lawrence Scott will provide confidentiality agreements to the Board Members.

### New Business

**Email Submission** – Lawrence Scott reviewed a recent email submitted through the PAB portal which he believed to be spam. In addition, the email does not discuss any law enforcement agency or officer. It appears that the email does not make a complaint against any law officer or agency. Copies of the email were distributed among the board members for review.

- Robert McKnight made a motion to take no action on the email and asked the County Attorney's office to contact the individual to make aware that we are not able to follow through with submission as it is believed to be spam.
- Motion was seconded by Jamila Mettee and was approved by all.
- This email will be logged and noted as spam

**Time Limits** – Lawrence Scott, explained that when a complaint originates through the county PAB website, it is forward to the appropriate law enforcement agency within 48-hour hours per the state legislation. Mr. Scott noted that there is pending legislation in Annapolis to change the 48 hours requirement to 72 hours to make reporting more feasible due to weekends and holidays. However, each law enforcement agency also has a complaint mechanism. A member of the public can walk in, email, or phone a local law enforcement jurisdiction to make a complaint. When that occurs, the PAB is to be notified as such. However, the legislation does not recommend as to how much time should elapse between when the complaint is received by the police agency and when the police agency notifies the county PAB.

- John Stricklett made a motion to create a policy that the police agency forward the complaints received to the PAB within 72 hours via email and/or hand delivery to the county attorney's office should there be confidentiality concerns.
- The motion was seconded by Robert McKnight and was approved by all.

**State PAB** – Lawrence Scott advised that the State is now setting up and designing their PAB which will oversee law enforcement agencies that report to the State. The State is requesting that we provide one member from our PAB as a representative to sit on their PAB. When and if a complaint originates from an State officer's official duties in Cecil County, then our PAB representative to the State PAB would be involved. Mr. Scott noted that this individual would need to take an additional two days of training. Mr. Miller volunteered that he would like to assume this position as he believes being an former state police officer in Cecil County for 25 years would provide insight.

- Robert McKnight made a motion to nominate Steve Miller to serve for the first year unless other directed by the State Board. This motion was seconded by John Stricklett
- Let the record reflect this vote passed 3 to 0 and Mr. Miller abstained from the vote.
  
- A gentleman appeared before the board requesting assistance related to a District Court matter. It was explained that the PAB has no power or jurisdiction to aid him, however, Lawrence Scott offered his assistance in directing the gentleman to additional resources. Mr. Slicker was given Mr. Scott's email to contact him in follow-up to this regard.

**Adjourn:**

- Robert McKnight made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:05, seconded by Jamila Mettee and approved by all.

**Next meeting:**

- March 28, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elk Room, Elkton, MD