



## CECIL COUNTY POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD PAB

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

### Open Meeting Minutes

July 31, 2023

#### **Attendance:**

Present: Stephen Miller (Chair), Robert McKnight, Jamila Mettee, and John Stricklett.  
Legal: Lawrence Scott, County Attorney  
Absent: John Thompson (excused)

#### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m.  
Roll call - 4 members present, representing a quorum. Absent – John Thompson

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Miller.

#### **Agenda Approval:**

Jamila Mettee motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Steve Miller and approved by all.

#### **Old Business:**

Approval of Minutes:

On motion made by Jamila Mettee, seconded by Robert McKnight, the Board moved to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2023, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **New Business:**

Law Enforcement Presentation:

Per Md. Code, Pub., Safety §3-102, Chief Widdoes from the Cecil County Sheriff's office addressed the Board to provide insight into the current law enforcement trends as well as policies and procedures. Chief Widdoes presented a flow chart detailing the organization of the Sheriff's office and services provided. He advised they are having difficulty attracting, retaining, and hiring quality candidates. And that the current political

climate and legislation coming out of Annapolis dampens enthusiasm resulting in difficulty in recruiting as well as demoralizing current officers. Chief Widdoes noted that current trends include an increase in juvenile crime statewide to include car jackings and theft. Officers' ability to charge juveniles are hindered by current legislation in this regard. Additionally, they are seeing "tranq" on the streets which is a combination of zylozene with fentanyl which create large wounds and abscesses. These medical issues lead to more costs for the county when these individuals are arrested and jailed. Lastly, inmates being transported out of state have brought up jurisdictional issues, however they have been working with Delaware, the State's Attorney and AG to resolve them.

**Closed Session:**

Chairman Miller announced his intention for the Board to enter into a closed session pursuant to Maryland Annotated Code, General provisions for §3-305 to discuss two complaints, 2023-55 and 2023-57.

On a motion made by John Strickett and seconded by Jamila Mette, the Board moved to convene a closed session.

The PAB went into Closed Session at 11:00 a.m.

**Open Session:**

On a motion made by Jamila Mette and seconded by Rob McKnight, the PAB meeting was reopened at 11:06 a.m.

**Closed Session Results:**

Chairman Miller announced in open session that:

Case #2023-57 will not be referred for investigation; and

Case #2023-55 to have further investigation to report to the ACC.

**Next meeting:**

It was acknowledged that the next PAB meeting would be Monday, August 21, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elk Room, Elkton, MD.

**Adjourn:**

On motion made by John Strickett to adjourn and seconded by Jamila Mette, the meeting was adjourned.