



**Citizen Police Review Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, May 3, 2023  
6:30 p.m.  
Room 2402 Evanston Civic Center**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Chair Kate Watson Moss, Commissioners Cindy Reed, Scott Fishman, Blanca Lule, and Nyika Strickland

**Absent:** Commissioners Douglass Whitmore, Juniata Shambee and Samuel Jones

**Staff Present:** DCM Dave Stoneback, Sergeant Charlotte Hart, Commander Glew, Commander Wernick and Police Chief Stewart

**CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**

Following a roll call, Chair Moss indicated that there was a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Reed made a motion to approve the minutes of the Citizen Police Review Commission meeting of March 1, 2023, and the Executive Session minutes of September 7, 2022, November 2, 2022, December 7, 2022 and February 1, 2023. The minutes were approved with a unanimous 5-0 vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Zematis thanked the Commission for their service and continued review of Complaint Register #21-06.

## **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **CPRC1. Review of Complaint Register #21-06**

Commissioner Reed made a motion to review Complaint Register #21-06. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Strickland. Commissioner Strickland stated her displeasure with the review. Commander Glew stated that the last review was completed by a competent, experienced commander and that the Police Department took the Commission's concerns seriously and performed a thorough review. However, the review does not provide the response that the Commission believes is correct. The general consensus of the Commission is that there was a rule violation, but they don't comment on the level of discipline. After further discussion Commissioner Strickland made a motion to hold the Commission's response on this investigation until the next meeting when a report from the Commission could be finalized. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The motion was unanimous approved with 5-0 vote

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Commission did not go into Executive Session.

## **DISCUSSION**

**D1.** Discussion on the Response from Chief Stewart on the Letter of Recommendation from the Citizen Police Review Commission dated February 1, 2023.

A motion to begin the discussion was made by Commissioner Strickland and seconded by Commissioner Reed. The motion was unanimous approved with 5-0 vote.

Chief Stewart made summary comments based on her letter to the Commission dated April 11, 2023.

Chair Moss asked if Evanston could have a standalone de-escalation policy similar to Seattle and Madison. Chief Stewart indicated that she preferred the incorporation of the philosophy of de-escalation throughout the entirety of the policy manual. Chair Moss asked whether the statement in Chief Stewart's letter, "*EPD has a separate, stand-alone policy for de-escalation, citing Section 300.36*", was accurate, based on the fact that such a section was not provided to the CPRC as part of the Department's policies. Chair Moss asked whether the statement was actually referring to Section 300.3.6, which is a sub-part of the Department's Use of Force Policy. Chief Stewart indicated that she was not sure whether this reference in the letter was an error or not.

Commissioner Strickland asked questions regarding the body worn camera policy, specifically about the ability to review the footage before an interview. Commander Glew and Sargent Hart responded that there had been an instance of improper

communication from a Sargent, but that issue has been resolved. Sargent Hart indicated that the video is not locked and officers can always look at their own video. They have made efforts to make sure everyone is aware of the video access.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**NB1.** Commissioner Fishman made a motion to begin discussion on the update on the training materials and schedule as well as the materials that the Commissioners should receive. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Reed.

Chair Moss indicated that the Commission did not have a copy of the full Lexipol policy. Commander Glew emailed a copy of the entire policy to all of the Commissioners during the meeting.

Commander Wernick recommended that the training be held on a Saturday, rather than trying to add it as an agenda item during a regular CPRC meeting. He also indicated that they are looking for a web based solution for the implicit bias training. Staff indicated that they could provide the training on the other 5 topics during a 2 to 3 hour training session. The Commissioners agreed that the first training will be held on June 10, 2023 at 10:00am. Additional training dates will be made available after new members are appointed to the Commission and for any of the current Commissioners that are unavailable to make the training on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Commander Wernick will provide DCM Stoneback with an update on how Commissioners will be able to sign up for a ride along and DCM Stoneback will share that with the Commissioners. It is hoped that all the ride alongs can be completed by August 31, 2023.

**NB2.** Commissioner Reed made a motion to begin discussion on the recommendations for changes to Title 2, Chapter 15 of the Evanston City Code forming a "Citizen Police Review Commission". The motion was seconded by Commissioner Strickland.

Chair Moss expressed concerns between 2-14-1, to promote thoughtful policy recommendations and a systematic means to achieve continuous improvement in citizen and police interactions and 2-14-5, power and duties, which implies the purpose of the Commission is to determine if the completed internal investigation, prior to any final decision on discipline made by the Chief of Police, is complete, thorough, objective and fair. The Commission would like to get more information on the process and clarify procedures. Can the Commission hear testimony on something that isn't on the

agenda? Can they ask the Police Department for more information? Ultimately, they would like to get clarity from the Mayor if their duty is more than reviewing complaints. How does the Commission blend review of the complaint process into the Commission's purpose? Chair Jones will craft a document to share with the Commission at the next meeting with his thoughts on this topic.

Police Staff cautioned on the desire to expand the role of the Commission and potentially loss of focus on the review of the internal investigations. Sargent Hart indicated that there are currently 5 ongoing investigations and that there could be 2 to 3 investigations to review at the upcoming meetings.

Commissioner Fishman made a motion to move the July meeting from the current scheduled date of July 5, 2023 to July 12, 2023. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Lule. The motion was unanimous approved with 5-0 vote.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Moss adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.