Cleveland Community Police Commission (CPC)  
Gunning Park Recreation Center  
16700 Puritas Ave., Cleveland, OH  

Wednesday, May 25, 2016 Minutes  
5:30-8:30 p.m.

**Attendees:** Kathleen Clegg, Mario Clopton, Yvonne Conner, Lynn Hampton, Steve Loomis, Rhonda Y. Williams

**Absences:** Anthony Body, Lee Fisher, Deirdre Jones, Amanda King, Dylan Sellers

The meeting was called to order at 5:42pm

**Welcome/Review Agenda**  
Mr. Clopton welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda. He recognized Councilpersons Keane and Kazy who attended the meeting.

**Overview of Commission Meeting Structure & Flow**  
Dr. Williams provided an overview of meeting structure and flow, as well as previewed the ground rules for the public comment period.

**Co-Chairs Report**  
Mr. Clopton provided status updates on the RFQ Facilitator (active), ED search, commissioner vacancies, and next meeting on June 8 at Church of the Covenant, 11205 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland.

**Cleveland Police Foundation: Introduction**  
Charles “Chas” Lane and Grant Dinner presented on the Cleveland Police Foundation, and provided a brochure, “Investing in a Safe Community.”

Dinner explained the foundation is an umbrella program that is concerned with aspects of community-policing. It is a neutral foundation: independent 501c3, mission driven, not pro-police or anti-police, pro-community or anti-community.

Chas shared that within the foundation’s budgetary constraints, it has several focus areas, for instance, working with youth and sponsoring bike co-ops at Harvey Rice Elementary School.

Rev. Conner asked if the foundation, through its work, was also touching the broader family as they worked with the kids? The answer: Yes. Gave an example of also working with seniors and families; when a family in district 2 got burned out of its house, the foundation connected them to charitable and programs. He mentioned, however, that the programming is pretty basic. The foundation does more facilitation right now than running programs itself.
Det. Hampton asked if there were any events or fundraisers people needed to know about? Det. Loomis stated let him know when the next fishing trip is, because he has a boat.

**OPS/CPRB Work Group**

Dr. Williams gave an update on the ordinance, presenting the Revised Draft Charter Language as of May 25, 2016, as well as the Revised Draft Chart of the CPRB-OPS Charter Amendment Recommendations prepared by the Cleveland CPC. Discussion was had and minor adjustments requested. Dr. Williams agreed to make those adjustments and notations where requested, and then let everyone know an e-vote would go out May 26, 2016 so that work product could be delivered to Councilperson Matt Zone by Friday, May 27, 2016.

**CDP Staffing**

Commander Heffernan sent Commissioners, as requested, several reports: (1) Cleveland Police Department Sworn Police Officers as of May 16, 2016, (2) Patrol Officer Staffing Analysis, (3) Supervisor Staffing Analysis, and (4) Neighborhood District Patrol Staffing Analyses.

Discussion ensued on the reports. Questions included:
- What could the CDP do, that it is not doing now?
- Impact on Bureau of Community Policing?
- Are there any federal grant dollars to cover costs for staffing?
- How do you apply to get into specialty units?
- What are special details? How are the special details decided? Why are people placed on special details or what are the different reasons? What’s the criteria and is there vetting, or are their backgrounds/records checked to make sure those placed are appropriate for those positions?
- What’s the deployment of officers on desk duty each shift? Are there officers who are on desk duty that would be better used on patrol? Are there desk duty tasks that are better suited for civilians to place more officers on the streets?

Commander Heffernan offered some comments about the staffing report and in response to Commissioners’ questions:
- Attrition of Community Policing Bureau began in the early 2000s
- When we went from six districts to five districts calls for service were used to determine the need for staffing
- Every district has a unit of officers that mainly responds to complaints from citizens as recorded by members of City Council. Most are traffic or speed related.
- Within the districts there are zones. Typically one patrol car per zone
- There are criterion for specialty units like SWAT. Notice of open spaces in specialty units are done through Divisional Notices.

**Community Engagement Assessment Tool**

Mr. Clopton began the conversation, sharing that he reached out to numerous people as a way to beginning gathering from the city’s perspective where it thinks community-police relations
work is going on. He also took a look at Toronto’s PACER program as a starting point that encapsulated what a community-engaged police focus looks like. He provided a handout, “Building an Organizational Structure of Community Engagement at the Toronto Police Service,” by Tony Veneziano, Chief Administrative Officer, Toronto Police Service. The document had four sections: “Givens,” “What is Community Engagement?,” “Why is Community Engagement Important … the Benefits,” and “How do we infuse effective community engagement into police organizations?”

The Commissioners and attendees broke into several groups to review the questions and principles and belief statements underneath, and expressing whether they agreed those principles were important and/or should be a part of how community problem-oriented policing and engagement might be conceptualized in Cleveland. A representative from each group then reported out the highlights of their group’s discussion.

**Community Outreach & Engagement Update**

Discussion of a CCPC Proposal for Expanding Commission Outreach was tabled due to time and the absence of Commissioner Anthony Body, who was to present a draft plan.

**Public Comment Period**

- Community member expressed that he appreciates hearing the positive things, but as a reminder the Commission and community is here because of a 58-page document from the Department of Justice outlining systemic violations that showed no signs of being improved voluntarily. He mentioned 70+ references to discipline or disciplinary procedures. He raised concerns about the Collective Bargaining Agreement and disciplinary decisions being made by arbitrator.
- Community member asked if anyone on the Commission has done ride alongs with any two man cars? Also expressed curiosity about how anonymous complaint reports would work? How will they be used and how will investigators be able to find fact on it, mete out discipline, and assess financial repercussions, if anonymous? Finally, asked if any Commissioners have gone through the Citizens Academy, and expressed her feeling that people can’t have a real sense of what the police officers do unless they have a sense of what officers deal with.
- Community member expressed the need for a mandatory moratorium on hiring any more white police males or females, and proposed recruiting 300 black cadets to what he described as an all-white police department. He further stated that the money to pay the salaries can be subtracted, in part, from the $5 million the DOJ is paying the Monitor.
- Dr. Rhonda read some stats about what the force breaks down based on race and gender, as an indication that the CDP is not an all-white police force, but a majority white police force. It is important to give some facts about what the police force looks like right now when we are assessing these issues.
- Community member inquired whether the Commission was asking the Mayor how did we get into this trouble? How did our system let us down like this. She acknowledged CPC and other forms of community engagement as positive, stated that the CPD has
done some positive things, and then questioned, however, “when will they show up in all communities?”

- Community member expressed that unless the Consent Decree drastically reduces the role of the arbitrator, the decree will have very little power. Also mentioned that he filed a complaint to the Monitor regarding Sean Smoot on the Monitor Team and read excerpts from the report as filed.
- A representative from a CDC for Ward 16 stated that as a neutral third party, he deals with conflicts as part of the everyday life in the city. Offered that to decrease police involvement, people should think about how to offer a way to resolve conflict through mediation, ways the community can learn along with the police officer de-escalation, and solve conflicts on the block, etc.

Submitted/Written Comments via Feedback Form:
- “Steve Loomis must attend workgroup meetings and/or meaningful email exchange with co-commissioners so that he may thoroughly address his concerns with work product in the proper forum, without delaying full commission meetings.”
- All on same comment sheet:
  - It would be great if the Commission could visit the CDP specialized units (city-wide) not just districts to see who is doing, what? (or not)
  - When did “the police”/police officers become separate from “the community”? This plays right into an “us” vs “them” mindset on both sides. Police are a “part” of the community. Police are members of the community w/ special duties, but members nonetheless.
  - Dedicated zones--police officers should be assigned to zones and allowed to work that zone and not be shuttled around. “Back in the day” officers were dedicated to a particular beat (zone), they got to know the citizens, citizens got to know them. There was “ownership”. We need to return to that.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.