The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm.

WELCOME
Mr. Clopton, CPC Co-chair, opened the meeting by recognizing the nearly one-year anniversary of the shooting of Tamir Rice, given that the CPC meeting was held at Cudell Recreation Center. Mr. Clopton commented on the role that tragic occurrence, along with others in the Cleveland community, played in the formation of the Cleveland CPC. The CPC is responsible for helping to bridge the gap and restore trust and accountability between the community and the Cleveland Division of Police.

OPENED EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT & DIALOGUE
Commissioners asked the public to comment on the issues of bias-free and community policing.

- A community member shared her experience of bias and police violence through examples of how her presidential campaign had been oppressed by the Cleveland police and others.

- Councilperson Dona Brady expressed support for the reinstatement of community police stations in neighborhoods. She compared officers engaged in community policing to city council members.
  - At one time, there was one community-policing mini-station in each of the 21 wards in Cleveland (locations included recreational centers, community development corporations, and store fronts). The stations housed two officers and their presence in the ward was like having a councilperson in the ward; interactions were low tech, and involved community and quality of life issues affecting ward residents. Alternatively, police officers that are responsible for monitoring the entire city were compared to at-large council members for whom it is impossible to get to know a community at an individual level.
  - One Commissioner asked Councilwoman Brady when, the mini-stations were in service, did community members express any sentiments of feeling “occupied” by the police? The councilwoman responded, No. In response to this question and the councilwoman’s response, another Commissioner asked a follow-up question inquiring how many mini-stations existed, and were they in every school, recreation center, public spaces, etc. She answered, there were 1-2 mini-stations in each ward, and they did not exist in every school, recreation center, etc.. The mini-stations were dismantled in 2005, and it was stated that both security and quality of life had worsened in the ward since then. It was recommended that the CPC read, “Community Policing: It Really Works,” by Bob Guttu. A copy of the report was left with the Commissioners.
The participant expressed her opinion that people of color are not perceived as sources of constructive solutions and community assets. The panel was asked to investigate false police reports and the proper application of the law by the prosecutor’s office.

A previous gang member and current youth worker focused on gang violence prevention advised that those engaged in this work need to stay focused on the “big picture,” the monumental task beyond any one person, and asked that the Commission value all perspectives when making decisions and recommendations. His experiences have taught him that the community only wants the best for the community and that it does not hate any one group within the community.

A recommendation was made to provide police officers with a pre-recorded voice message that would announce a police officer’s arrival to the scene and provide automated instructions to the civilian being approached.

A representative of the New Black Democratic Party announced its intention to wage a war on the white Democratic Party of Cuyahoga County to end white supremacy.

Concern about the quality of crisis intervention training provided to police officers was expressed by Jasmine Johnson, the sister of Tanisha Anderson. It was also shared that the Division of Police needs a mechanism to ensure that the training received is implemented in appropriate situations, because officers do not consistently use the training they receive (exemplified by the Tanisha Anderson case). Officers also need to address their own mental health issues before joining, and while on the force.

A former resident of the neighborhood shared that she left the neighborhood because of the amount of violence that her family was exposed to while in the city. She mentioned shootings in front of her home and on her block. She expressed full support of the police.

Michelle Thomas, an aunt of Tamir Rice, commented that the anger and hurt expressed at community meetings, such as this one, is a reaction to personal experiences with individual officers and not a comment on the entire Cleveland Division of Police. She addressed Det. Loomis, also a Commissioner, on this point. That being said, we need to make sure that only good police officers are on the force. Additionally, she expressed concerns with the hiring process and, in particular, the hiring of Timothy Loehman, as well as the “hardening” on the job that prevents officers from using love and logic when engaging citizens.

Latonya Goldsby, a cousin of Tamir Rice, expressed her desire to talk about bias-free policing. She raised issues regarding: How do you plan on holding officers accountable, especially with bias free policing, when the county prosecutor is biased? We should conduct evaluations to identify bias during the hiring process. Police should be subject to the same laws as citizens.

The community needs the CPC's and the CDP’s cooperation to establish trust with community members.

It was recommended that all officers present when deadly force is used, even if they aren’t the officer who directly engaged in the uses of force, should be considered an accessory to the situation and charged.

A participant asked how will the community know that the CPC’s recommendations are being given to, and implemented, by the CDP, and if they are having impact? Dr. Rhonda responded to say, we won’t know up front, however there are some of us working hard, who are committed, and hope there is a possibility of change.
Advice was given for the public to stay involved and hold the City and Commission accountable. The CPC will also share information about its work and recommendations throughout the entire process. It was stated that the CPC should not be viewed as a panacea, but a tool that needs to be leveraged and helped by the community to lend weight to its recommendations.

The CPC will produce an annual report of its activities, which the City of Cleveland will post on its website.

- An opinion was expressed stating that Cleveland is the most racist city in which the resident had lived and that multiple public systems, not just the police department, practice bias and racist policies.

- A participant commented that we must be in the position of preserving all lives, not just black or blue, and that without tangible consequences, behaviors and actions won’t change. Dr. Rhonda asked for an example of “tangible consequences.” To change police officer behaviors, it was recommended that the CDP consider implementing tangible consequence for rogue police officers, including fines and penalties affecting an officer’s pension (up to and including complete removal of an officer’s pension).

- As a former teacher, the participant shared the need for patience when engaging with youth. Officers need to practice the same patience that teachers practice when managing conflicts with youth. If officers don’t have the skill sets to engage with youth, then they should not be hired.

- It was commented that the venue of tonight’s meeting is called Cudell Commons because this location is intended to serve as a common place for all members of the community. The grounds memorialize Tamir Rice, and two officers who lost their lives on the grounds years ago. The community initiated the “butterfly project” to help heal community wounds caused by Tamir Rice’s death. The CPC has a unique opportunity because the community is hungry for common ground.

- The Commission should define community policing in a way that other progressive communities have defined it. It was stated that the CDP needs to establish a single rule book for how community policing is defined and practiced throughout Cleveland. The CPC followed up on his comments with additional questions about community policing:

  - A Commissioner asked: What is your definition of community policing?
    Answer: It is a police department that is responsive to the interest and needs of the community. They have an established method to report on criminal instances and quality of life concerns observed while on duty. The outcome would be to close the distance between the police and community through dialogue. There needs to be a constructive design for real community policing. Districts need to have an open door policy to residents. Residents need to organize and engage to monitor their community as well. They need to say something when they see something.

**CO-CHAIR UPDATES**

The meeting minutes for the Oct. 28th full commission meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

The CPC Co-Chairs announced the CPC website (www.clevelandcpc.org), which includes the full commission and committee meeting schedule, and activity updates.
They then reminded the Commissioners that it needed to confirm individual members to serve as official CPC liaisons to various groups mentioned in the Consent Decree. The Co-chairs will circulate an email to the commissioners requesting volunteers for two liaison positions: Community Relations Board and Training Advisory Committee.

They updated the commission on past and future meetings held by the co-chairs, which included the following:

- The co-chairs held a second meeting with the Office of Professional Standards (OPS) and the Chair of the Police Review Board. OPS has been very helpful in providing feedback about how the process currently works.
- Tomorrow, Nov. 12th, the Co-Chairs are meeting with Councilman President Kelly to discuss the City Council’s current views of the police review board and potential changes.
- Friday, Nov. 13th, there will be a meeting with the chairs, Mr. Fisher, and the DOJ to discuss timelines mandated in the Consent Decree, particularly the timeline pertaining to recommendations about bias-free policing. They will request an extension of the deadline for recommendations on bias-free policing policies.

CPC BY-LAWS

Mr. Clopton presented a draft of the Mission Statement, Responsibilities Section, and Articles I, III, IV, V, VIII, IX, X of the CPC Bylaws. It was agreed to review and approve each section individually.

The CPC Mission Statement

The Commissioners discussed the draft mission statement, as presented. Highlights of the discussion included the following points:

- Commissioners discussed the need to explicitly address specific groups of people by including the phrase -- “the most aggrieved and vulnerable” -- in the mission statement. It was vigorously debated whether or not such mention was reiterative or if it referred to the reasons that the CPC was formed and its mandated work. Some members of the commission viewed the language as biased. Others, including Rhonda Y. Williams [who asked to be named], insisted that the language was not biased, that it explicitly recognized a group often overlooked, that the omission of the language would replicate this practice, and could result in the under representation of groups, their concerns, and acknowledgment of the disparate impact of policing on groups that are known to be least included in policy formation. Moreover, it was noted that the language presented in the draft is consistent with terminology used by the Presidential Taskforce on 21st Century Policing, as well as currently appeared on the CPC website and the CPC’s comment forms.
- Some commissioners expressed the opinion that the mission statement should be a high level summary of the spirit of the commission and not a reiteration of the mandates of the consent decree.
- Some commissioners shared the perspective that not all of the CPC’s work would be derived directly from the consent decree and that the CPC can, and should, achieve legitimacy without directly quoting the consent decree in every document.
- It was agreed that any language quoted from the consent decree should be marked by quotations and footnoted in the document.
- Some commissioners discussed a perceived “unnecessary editorializing” in the mission statement. Others disagreed that recognizing a reality was “editorializing.”
- One commissioner raised a concern about the submission of last minute suggestions when documents have been under review and discussion for weeks with ample time provided for input.
Mr. Clopton and Mr. Loomis were asked if they would work together to reconcile the language presented in the respective drafts.

A motion was made to approve the mission statement, as it read in the presented draft. The motion did not pass (Yay-5; Nay-7; Abstention-1). Rhonda Y. Williams, who asked to be named in the record, voted “yay” to support the language in the mission statement.

**Article III: Meetings**

Commissioners decided to postpone discussion of the section of Article III pertaining to the removal of a commissioner. A motion was made to approve Article III, excluding the section pertaining to the removal of a commissioner. The motion carried.

RESOLVED, that Articles III of the CPC bylaws, excluding all language pertaining to the removal of a commissioner, be approved. (Yay-12; Nay-0; Abstention-1)

**Article V: Committees and Workgroups**

Mr. Fisher, Co-chair of the Policy and Procedure Assessment Committee, commented that Article V, as presented, conflicted with the operating procedures designed and approved by the Policy and Procedure Assessment Committee to govern its interactions with the community. Specifically, the draft bylaws and the committee’s operating procedures contained two different policies pertaining to workgroup membership. As a solution to the conflict, the CPC agreed that committee operating procedures should be consistent with the CPC bylaws.

The following resolutions to amend and accept Article V were unanimously approved.

RESOLVED to amend the Work groups subsection of Article V of the CPC Bylaws to read: “workgroups, by majority vote of the commission members of the workgroup, may include up-to three community members who are not commissioners.”

RESOLVED to approve Article V as amended.

**Open Discussion**

The CPC Co-chairs requested that continued discussion of the remaining articles of the bylaws be conducted more efficiently. Comments should be submitted via the shared google document by next Wednesday, November 18, 2015.

The following motion was approved by majority vote:

RESOLVED, that the CPC will table its review of the remainder of the bylaws’ articles. (Yay-10; Nay-2, Abstention-1)

**Committee Reports**

*Budget, IT and Infrastructure Committee*

Mr. Rodas, Chair of the Budget, IT and Infrastructure Committee, provided the committee report. The committee is working on finalizing the proposed budget for FY2016. The deadline to submit the CPC budget to the City’s finance department is Nov. 20th, 2015.
Communications Committee
Mr. Clopton provided the Communications Committee report.
 ● The CPC received nine emails and five phone calls to the email account. Two of the communications were meeting requests and three inquiries were press inquiries. The rest were general comments.
 ● The CPC tweeted 10 times since the last meeting. They have 22 followers and one “like” on twitter.
 ● info@clecpc.org is the CPC’s new public email address, to be used for general inquiries and media contacts. The website continues to be updated with new information and meeting dates.
 ● Aubin Pictures, a non-profit video production company that promotes cultural and social awareness and change, is videotaping today’s meeting with the approval of the CPC.

Community Engagement and Outreach Committee
Rev. Conner, Co-Chair of the Community Engagement and Outreach Committee, provided the committee report.
 ● The committee met on Nov. 7th. Suggested communications and outreach activities for the rest of the CPC were posted in the committee’s folder in the CPC shared files.
 ● Monday, Nov. 16, 2015, from 6-8pm, is the CPC’s first town hall.
 ● Saturday, November 14, 2015, from 8am to 1pm, is a neighborhood block club and district liaison meeting at Cuyahoga Community College. It’s a way for the commissioners and the community to make connections with the CPD. Most of the commissioners have made a commitment to attend.
 ● The next community engagement committee meeting is Nov. 21st at the Hough Library.

Policy and Procedure Assessment Committee
Mr. Lee Fisher, Co-Chair of the Policy and Procedure Assessment Committee with Rhonda Y. Williams, provided the committee report.
 ● The committee agreed to form three workgroups: bias free policing, police review board, and use of force. All work group meetings are open to the public.
 ● All recommendations for additional workgroups can be sent to the committee co-chairs.
 ● Workgroup membership is as follows:
   o Police Review Board (PRB) Work Group: Dr. Rhonda Williams, Chair; Craig Boise; Tim Higgins; Steve Loomis; Max Rodas; Dylan Sellers
   o Bias-Free Policing Work Group: Lee Fisher, Co-Chair; Dr. Rhonda Williams, Co-Chair; Anthony Body; Mario Clopton; Dr. Yvonne Conner; Lynn Hampton; Amanda King; Steve Loomis; Dr. Kathy Clegg
   o Use of Force Work Group: Chair TBD by WG; Anthony Body; Craig Boise; Kathy Clegg; Mario Clopton; Lynn Hampton; Dr. Rhonda Williams

Future Agenda Items
 ● Dr. Clegg has been attending the monthly mental health advisory committee meetings and would like to provide an update to the commission
 ● Approval of the remaining articles of the bylaws

Other Updates/Business
 ● United Pastors in Mission sent their greetings to the Commission. From Nov. 22nd to 29th, the United Pastors in Mission is asking the city to abstain from all violence.
 ● Mr. Clopton reminded the committee of his offer to host a technology training session.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.