

COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE

PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

9 February 2018

Present at the meeting were Community Oversight Task Force (COTF) members Marvin McKenstry (chair), Ed Jackson (co-chair), Daniel Levine (secretary), Jeff Anderson, Denise Duval, Ralph Hughes, Ray Kelly, and Andrew Reinel.

Also present were:

- Donna D. Brown, No Boundaries Coalition
- Chavonne Epps
- Vernay Shuler

Summary of motions adopted:

- 22 January minutes adopted with minor revisions
- Denise Duval appointed as co-chair

I. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 6:13PM.

II. Adoption of 22 January 2018 Minutes

Daniel Levine noted that some of the last names on the sign-in sheet were difficult to read, and other COTF members were able to provide correct spellings for the minutes. Jeff Anderson moved to adopt the minutes with the spelling fixes, was seconded by Ray Kelly, and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Gun Trace Task Force Corruption Trial

Mr. Kelly argued that the corruption trial ongoing at the time of the meeting demonstrated the necessity of the COTF's work, as all the worst fears that the community had regarding conduct in the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) without effective oversight were being realized, and publicly.

Marvin McKenstry noted that, thus far, the COTF had not gone out of its way to attract public attention to its work, but asked whether it made sense for the COTF to make a public statement regarding the trial. Andrew Reinel pointed out that a COTF statement might be especially appropriate, given that the Independent Monitor had been asked publicly about the trial and responded, in part, that its role was to ensure consent decree compliance, not to make policy recommendations – which *is* a role of the COTF. Daniel Levine suggested that the fact that it was (as Mr. McKenstry had noted) implausible that the Gun Trace Task Force's actions represented only the actions of a "few bad apples" meant that the trial could provide an illustration of why some of the broader and more systematic recommendations the COTF was contemplating were needed. Ralph Hughes reminded the Task Force that, when the Civilian Review Board (CRB) was first conceived, part of its mandate was to investigate police corruption, but that that power did not make it into the final enabling legislation.

Denise Duval suggested, to general assent, that after the working session on Sunday, the COTF should select a subset of proposed recommendations focusing on the need for independent and comprehensive oversight to publicize.

IV. Public Discussion of Draft Recommendations

The COTF members discussed whether to discuss their individual draft recommendations in a public forum, or whether it would be possible and appropriate to seek a closed meeting, in the interests of not having a proposal that represented only the preliminary views of one member misunderstood as representing the position of the Task Force. It was ultimately decided to go forward with initial readings of proposals at the meeting.

V. Departure of Ed Jackson

Ed Jackson formally announced to the Task Force that the new acting BPD Chief, Darryl De Sousa, had asked him to return to the BPD as the Inspector General, a civilian position. In light of this, and the conflicts of interest it would pose, he would be resigning his position on the COTF. He noted that his new position would involve working to combat corruption within the BPD and working with the CRB and Independent Monitor. He assured the Task Force that he would remain a contact within the BPD, that he was a “citizen before [he was] a policeman,” and that he would seek to embody the idea of Robert Peel, that the police agency should belong to the people.

The Task Force members thanked Col. Jackson for his service, knowledge, and personal contributions to the COTF.

VI. Proposed Recommendations

Each member of the COTF had been asked by Mr. McKenstry to help concretize the discussions that had been had for the past several months, by listing the reforms that they would currently recommend. Members of the Task Force took turns reading out their lists of recommendations so that all members could consider them in advance of the upcoming working session where they would begin to be refined, and areas of agreement, disagreement, and incompleteness identified.

VII. Appointment of Denise Duval as Co-Chair

In recognition of her contributions to the COTF, Mr. McKenstry moved that Denise Duval be made co-chair in the wake of Col. Jackson’s departure. Dr. Levine seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Replacement of Ed Jackson

Mr. McKenstry invited any member of the COTF to make suggestions if they had them for a member to replace Col. Jackson.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59PM