



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of Police Accountability and Transparency

OPAT Commission Public Hearing

Minutes

Thursday, October 26, 2023 | 11:00 a.m.

Virtual via Zoom Webinar

Call to order at 11:00 a.m.

OPAT Commission Members Present: Internal Affairs Oversight Panel (IAOP) Chair Leslie Harris; Civilian Review Board (CRB) Chair Peter Alvarez.

Introduction

OPAT Commissioner Honorable Judge Harris (retired) opened the meeting by welcoming members of the public and introduced OPAT Commissioner Peter Alvarez.

Commissioner Harris explained that he would function as the Commission Chair *Pro Tempore* due to the absence of an OPAT Executive Director. Commissioner Harris established that a quorum was present.

OPAT Commission Regulations 1.00

Commissioner Harris gave a brief overview of the proposed OPAT Regulations 1.00:

As promulgated, 1.01 requires the party with the burden of proof to demonstrate that an allegation or argument is far more likely to be true than false.

As stated in 1.02, to avoid duplication of effort, the OPAT shall not run parallel investigations with the Boston Police Department (BPD) or Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission into civilian complaints of police misconduct.

1.03 states that the OPAT Staff will consider a complaint incomplete if it is missing two or more pieces of necessary information; that information being specific date/time/location of the incident alleged, specific misconduct being alleged to have been committed by a BPD employee, and other descriptive and identifying



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information regarding the BPD employee named in the complaint. OPAT Staff will reach out to the complainant to retrieve information, and the complainant will be given 7 days to respond.

1.04 states that shall members of the Internal Affairs Oversight Panel (IAOP) or the Civilian Review Board (CRB) be unable to fulfill their roles due to a conflict of interest, it will be referred to the OPAT Commission for review and recommendation.

1.05 requires that the OPAT Commission shall set the meeting calendar of the CRB, IAOP and the OPAT Commission each December for the next calendar year.

1.06 establishes a Youth Advisory Council to advise the Executive Director and the members of the IAOP and the CRB to give youth a space to be heard and where they can discuss issues in their communities.

Public Comment

Commissioner Harris opened the meeting to public comment. The OPAT Commission received public comment via Zoom. The OPAT Commission will also continue to receive public comment on the proposed regulations through to the end of the day via email; these comments will be included as part of the public record.

After thirty minutes with no new comments and no new attendees in the public hearing, Deputy Director Steies suggested that the Commission move to adjourn the meeting after a period of fifteen minutes. Commissioner Harris agreed and clarified that the Commission would continue to accept public comment via email.

Adjournment

Commissioner Harris motioned to adjourn the public hearing, Commissioner Alvarez seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.