



CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW BOARD

September 9th, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW BOARD

MEMBERS

Billy Sharp, Chair
Brandon Brown, Vice Chair
Diana Cyganovich
David Gatian
Chenoa Miller
Kenneth Mountcastle
Glenn Parker III

LEGAL COUNCIL

Lillian Hall, Asst. Director of Law
Michael Hess, Asst. Director of Law
Dalia Oprian, Asst. Director of Law

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Kristen Traxler, Interim Administrator
Jessyca Watson, Interim General Manager
and Investigator
Vince Funari, Senior Investigator
Art Bowker, Investigator
Adam Eisen, Investigator
LJ Green, Investigator
Hamza Khabir, Investigator
Tammi Lampkin, Investigator
James Ouk, Investigator
Joseph Szymanski, Investigator
Alayne Koenig, Investigative Assistant
Katerina Metheney, Investigative Assistant
Mary Smith-Moore, Investigative Assistant

MEETING AGENDA

I. Call to Order

Brandon Brown
Chair

1. Chair Brown called the September 9, 2025, hearing to order at 9:15 a.m.
2. Roll Call
 - a. Member Sharp arrived at 9:50 a.m. as the board went into Executive Session.

II. Approval of Minutes

Brandon Brown
Chair

1. April 30, 2025
 - a. Minutes & agenda have not yet been posted – need to be posted
 - i. Vice Chair Mountcastle made a **motion** to approve the Agenda from April 30, 2025. Motion **seconded** by Member Cyganovich. Motion **carried**.



- ii. Vice Chair Mountcastle made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from April 30, 2023. Motion **seconded** by Member Cyganovich. Motion **carried**.

2. August 12, 2025

- a. Member Cyganovich made a **motion** to amend Meeting Minutes from August 12, 2025, regarding grammatical errors. Motion **seconded** by Vice Chair Mountcastle. Motion **carried**.
- b. Member Cyganovich made a **motion** to approve the Meeting Minutes from August 12, 2025, upon the previously mentioned amendment. Motion **seconded** by Vice Chair Mountcastle. Motion **carried**.

III. **Public Comment**

- a. No members of the public were present for public comment.

IV. **Presentation of Investigations with Citizens
or CDP Subject Employee Present**

Kristen Traxler
Interim Administrator

OPS2022-0185

Complainant: Hawkins (Present)

Presented by: Investigator Green

P.O. Deonte White, #437

Allegation A: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

Allegation B: Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

Summary of Case Presentation: Ms. Hawkins called for a wellness check on her father. It took officer three hours to respond. She alleged P.O. White was rude when contacting her. It was noted that the call to service originated out of Shake Heights and then transferred to Cleveland.

Board Discussion Summary: Member Gatian asks Investigator Green if the phone number Ms. Hawkins provided did belong to P.O. White. Investigator Green confirmed it's P.O. White's work cell and the calls were noted in his report. Chair Brown asks if the neighbors/witnesses were interviewed. Investigator Green advised WCS footage shows police interaction with the neighbors and checking with maintenance. Chair Brown asked about police procedure for wellness check response time. Investigator Green informed it was classified as a priority 2 call and there were other calls at the same time. Member Gatian asked if the complainants have full access to the investigative report. Interim Admin. Traxler advised they can make a public records request, but information will be redacted.



Additional Information to Note: Ms. Hawkins was present. She stated officers mocked her and are robbers in cop uniforms and do not deserve the badge. Ms. Hawkins claimed the officers robbed her from the last minutes with her dad. Chair Brown asked if the officers were unprofessional with neighbors. Investigator Green informed the complainant she can complete a public records request to retrieve the documents from the case. Chair Brown informed that identifying information and visuals of deceased individuals is typically redacted/censored for public viewing. Asst. Director of Law Hall informed Ms. Hawkins she can provide her with a phone number. Member Cyganovich advised Ms. Hawkins that EMS was the one to pronounce her father's death, not the police. Ms. Hawkins asks if the board thinks it's okay for an officer to say "Hey, come get this body. We ain't trying to be here all day." Chair Brown said that it is not professional and asks if there is anything else Ms. Hawkins wants to add to her complaint. Ms. Hawkins stated the officers are overworked and inquired if there is anything the board can do. Chair Brown acknowledged that struggle and suggested Ms. Hawkins reach out to the CPC to present that issue as it is outside of the CPRB's purview. Member Miller advised the complainant that cases are reviewed with sensitivity to the complainant and gave her condolences.

Case Findings:

P.O. Deonte White, #437

Allegation A: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

OPS Recommendation: Insufficient Evidence

CPRB Recommendation: Insufficient Evidence

Preponderance of the evidence does not establish whether or not the alleged conduct occurred.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Miller

Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Carried

P.O. Deonte White, #437

Allegation B: Lack of Service: Insufficient service

OPS Recommendation: Exonerated

CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated

Investigation supports a finding that the alleged conduct did occur, but the officer's actions were consistent with law, CDP's GPOs, trainings, and procedures.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Miller

Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Carried



****Chair Brown noted that the alleged conduct is “absolutely unacceptable”, however, the evidence does not show the alleged conduct occurring.**

V. Presentation of Investigations

Kristen Traxler
Interim Administrator

DEPARTURES

OPS2024-0075

Complainant: Anonymous

Investigator: Art Bowker

Case was discussed at last CPRB meeting (August 12th, 2025). Chair Brown provided the reminder that Specification #7, an allegation of Unprofessional Behavior/Misconduct be **SUSTAINED**. Board asserted that on or about April 8, 2024, **P.O. Kyle Paridon, #983**, posted in a Facebook group an image of himself in a CDP uniform, next to two zone cars pointing at the sky with his firearm while wearing eclipse blocking glass, which invited racially insensitive comments to the Facebook group. The CPRB specifically pointed out the subsequent social media posts within the group concerning an acorn falling, which was a reference to a news story about a white officer who claimed he had mistaken an acorn falling for a gunshot when he fired repeatedly at a black male suspect, in violation of Manual Rule 5.01. The board classified this as a **Group Three violation**. The Public Safety Director’s Departure stated the following, “The Facebook post noted in Specification #7 contains insufficient evidence to support a determination that you invited racially insensitive comments. Therefore, I depart from the Civilian Police Review Board’s finding for Specification #7 and as such, I “Dismiss” Specification #7.”

Motion made that the CPRB does not accept with the Public Safety Director’s finding of departure and move forward with original finding of **SUSTAINED** for Specification #7, as the Public Safety Director did not provide clear and convincing evidence to change the board’s original finding.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Friendly amendment by: Member Cyganovich

Second by: Member Miller

Motion Carried/Failed: Carried

****Member Sharp asked for a follow-up report be put on the agenda in relation to the final discipline in this case.**



OPS2024-0130

Complainant: Anonymous

Investigator: Art Bowker

CPRB heard this case on June 10, 2025, and **SUSTAINED** two allegations (Specification #7: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct and Specification #9: Improper Procedure) against **P.O. Demetrius Woods, #2127**.

Case heard by the Chief on July 28, 2025. Chief recommended **Specification #7** be dismissed per GPO 5.12.06, which explicitly states, “officers on an Executive Protection Detail shall be exempt from wearing the Wearable Camera System”. She also recommended **Specification #9** be dismissed as there is no date on EAC-1 to indicate when the form was submitted as part of this crash investigation, there is insufficient evidence to find that it was submitted late and outside of policy.

Specification #7: Chair Brown asks Investigator Bowker if he as looked over the GPO brought up by the Chief. Investigator Bowker informed OPS and CDP were both unaware of this GPO. Member Gatian asked how it was missed. Investigator Bowker advised OPS does not get live updates on GPOs as they did previously and noted that CDP was not aware of the GPO either. Member Sharp pointed out that this case is an example of clear and convincing evidence. Member Miller stated that it is concerning that OPS was not aware of the CDP. Investigator Bowker once again stated OPS conferred with CDP and they were also unaware. Member Miller inquired as to what could facilitate this confusion. Senior Investigator Funari added there have been issues with SharePoint. Interim Administrator Traxler advised she talked to the administrator of CDP’s SharePoint and OPS was dropped from their SharePoint during their transition.

Motion made to accept the Chief’s departure on specification, as the Chief provided clear and convincing evidence through a GPO that the board was previously uninformed of at the disposition of the determination.

Motion by: Member Sharp

Friendly amendment by: Member Cyganovich

Second by: Vice Chair Mountcastle

Motion Carried/Failed: Carried

Specification #9: Investigator Bowker confirmed it was not submitted immediately, as required by the GPO, and was submitted approximately a month later. Investigator Bowker advised that



he informed the Chief how OPS and CPRB how reach the conclusion. GPO states the report should be submitted immediately.

Motion to proceed with original finding of **SUSTAINED** in that the Chief did not provide clear and convincing evidence. The Chief's assertion that simply because there was no space for a date and there was no date on the form does not meet the level of clear and convincing evidence.

Motion by: Chair Sharp

Second by: Vice Chair Mountcastle

Motion Carried/Failed: Carried.

OPS2023-0140

Complainant: Lars St. John

Investigator: Investigator Szymanski

CPRB heard this case on August 13, 2024, and **SUSTAINED** an allegation of Unprofessional Behavior/Misconduct against **P.O. Anthony Rice, #1886**. The CPRB asserted that on or about June 7, 2023, P.O. Rice exhibited Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct when displaying a nonverbal sign of being discourteous and rude while interacting with Mr. St. John. Group One violation.

Case heard by the Chief on July 28, 2025. Chief recommended the allegation be dismissed as "The complainant had much of his face covered and Patrol Officer Rice "displayed a non-verbal sign" that he would like the complainant to lower his face covering while they talked. The complainant became upset by this, and Patrol Officer Rice thought it best to de-escalate the situation by having another officer (Patrol Officer Anthony Longer #2452) interview the complainant. Patrol Officer Longer then interviewed the complainant. The "non-verbal sign" of asking someone to lower a facemask does not rise to the level of being discourteous. Also, after the complainant became upset with Patrol Officer Rice, he employed the de-escalation technique of having another officer speak to the complainant."

Chair Brown noted that the board has been working on focusing rationale and making sure those are robust. He further stated this case is an example of written rationale not encompassing the entire rationale that the board went through during the meeting. Chair Brown advised that the behavior P.O. Rice extended was beyond a hand gesture – it included the verbal communication and overall communication with the complainant. Member Cyganovich voiced concern with the Chief focusing on the gesture but did not address the other rudeness that occurred. She thinks the Chief missed it and did not provide clear and convincing evidence that the officer was not rude. Member Gatian agreed that the board's rationale may not have been clear. He further stated the major and discourteous behavior was when the complainant had an exchange



with P.O. Rice in the lobby where P.O. Rice turned his back on the complainant and walked away without communicating. Member Sharp voiced that the board may have put the Chief in a bad spot with the rationale that they supplied.

Senior Investigator Funari informed that the Chief wants more specifics on what behavior is being considered “rude” when presenting. Asst. Director of Law Hall asked to table this matter so the legal department could review the language OPS presented to the Chief and see if it accurately reflects what was said in the CPRB hearing.

Motion to table case until October meeting pending finding out more information on the case so the board can determine if they will accept the Chief's departure, as well as obtain clarification on the board's ability to clarify.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Friendly amendment by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Carried/Failed: Carried

NEW CASES

OPS2022-0281

Complainant: Stephon Vernet-Vancol (Not Present)

Presented by: LJ Green

P.O. Karen Dotson, #1041

Allegation A: Excessive Force

Allegation B: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

P.O. Brian Fixler, #1360

Allegation A: Excessive Force

Allegation B: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

P.O. Jessica Ortiz, #2178

Allegation A: Excessive Force

Allegation B: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

P.O. Connor Semonin, #1891

Allegation A: Excessive Force

Allegation B: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct



Summary of Case Presentation: OPS reviewed all WCS footage recordings from responding officers. The incident that Mr. Vernet-Vancol alleged took place on November 2, 2022, did **not** occur and the incident was recorded in its entirety using CDP issued WCS. All responding officers used appropriate language, remained professional, and courteous through the encounter with Mr. Vernet-Vancol and his mother per Manual Rules 5.02 and 5.03. The complainant was not placed on the ground, nor was he hit or struck. Responding officers did not draw weapons of any kind. A police report was made for property lost and Mr. Vernet-Vancol was transported by CDP to St. Vincent Hospital for mental health services at the request of his mother.

Board Discussion Summary: N/A

***Additional Information to Note:** Investigator Green noted the WCS footage of this incident had been deleted due to retention. OPS had the footage at one point, but it was lost when there was a cyber-attack. Investigator Green had previously transcribed the WCS footage, and those transcriptions were included. The allegations against **P.O. Stephen Johnson, #305**, have been **administratively dismissed** as P.O. Johnson separated from CDP on December 21, 2023.*

Case Findings:

P.O. Karen Dotson, #1041

Allegation A: Excessive Force

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

There is no evidence of excessive force – it was a mental health crisis and classified as a Crisis Intervention Response for GPO 5.11.03. The complainant's mother requested CDP to place the complainant in handcuffs. There was no violation of GPO 2.02.03 – excessive force. Friendly amendment by Member Cyganovich that only de minimis force was used in handcuffing the complainant.

Motion by: Member Gatian

Second by: Member Parker

Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Motion Carried

P.O. Brian Fixler, #1360

Allegation A: Excessive Force

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

Same rationale as previously stated.



Motion by: Member Gatian
Second by: Member Parker
Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Motion Carried

P.O. Jessica Ortiz, #2178

Allegation A: Excessive Force

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

Same rationale as previously stated.

Motion by: Member Gatian
Second by: Member Parker
Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Motion Carried

P.O. Connor Semonin, #1891

Allegation A: Excessive Force

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

Same rationale as previously stated.

Motion by: Member Gatian
Second by: Member Parker
Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Motion Carried

P.O. Karen Dotson, #1041

Allegation B: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

No evidence seen or identified by OPS in their review of the WCS.

Motion by: Member Gatian
Second by: Member Parker
Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Motion Carried

P.O. Brian Fixler

Allegation B: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

Same rationale as previously stated.

Motion by: Member Gatian
Second by: Member Parker



Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Motion Carried

P.O. Jessica Ortiz, #2178

Allegation B: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

Same rationale as previously stated.

Motion by: Member Gatian

Second by: Member Parker

Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Motion Carried

P.O Connor Semonin, #1891

Allegation B: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

Same rationale as previously stated.

Motion by: Member Gatian

Second by: Member Parker

Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Motion Carried

OPS2024-0291

Complainant: Aja Yearby (Not Present)

Presented by: Investigator LJ Green

Det. Timothy S. Cramer, #346

Allegation A: Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

Summary of Case Presentation: Ms. Yearby alleged Lack of Service: Insufficient Service of Det. Timothy S. Cramer in November 2024. She stated she made multiple calls and Det. Cramer failed to communicate with her regarding the homicide investigation of her brother, Rayshaun Yearby. The case was originally assigned to Det. Devin Wyn as a felonious assault but then assigned to Det. Cramer after Mr. Yearby passed away – classified as delayed homicide.

Board Discussion Summary: N/A

Additional Information to Note: *This is Ms. Yearby's second complaint. Her first complaint was already heard by the board.*

Case Findings:



Det. Timothy S. Cramer, #346

Allegation A: Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

OPS Recommendation: Exonerated

CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated

The preponderance of the evidence to include Det. Cramer's logs and other documentary evidence indicated Det. Cramer was consistent next of kin GPO 6.01.02 and consistent with Manual Rule 4.18 and therefore was not in violation.

Motion by: Member Cyganovich

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Passed/Failed (Member Gatian abstained as he stepped out during the presentation.): Motion Carried

OPS2024-0269

Complainant: Keisha McCain (Not Present)

Presented by: Investigator Jessyca Watson

Sgt. Christopher Hoover, #9235

Allegation A: Lack of Service: No Service

Allegation B: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

Allegation C: Biased Policing

Allegation D: Harassment

P.O. David William Myers, #2297

Allegation A: Lack of Service: No Service

Allegation B: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

Allegation E: WCS Violation

Summary of Case Presentation: On November 2, 2024, officers were dispatched to a dispute between Ms. McCain and political canvassers outside her house. Upon arrival, P.O. Myers, P.O. Longstreet, and Sgt. Hoover attempted to defuse the situation. Ms. McCain informed P.O. Myers she had doorbell footage of the incident but refused to share it with him because she did not want the help of the police. This interaction was not recorded as P.O. Myers' WCS died earlier in his shift. There is no evidence that P.O. Myers reporting his WCS, thus violating GPO 4.06.04. Ms. McCain alleged P.O. Myers and Sgt. Hoover failed to provide service, and Sgt. Hoover, specifically, was racially biased against her. WCS footage shows both officers being professional in their interaction. Despite multiple attempts, Ms. McCain failed to cooperate in giving Sgt. Hoover her information, thus preventing him from filing a report. During the course of the investigation, Ms. McCain alleged she saw Sgt. Hoover drive past her house the day after the incident. Sgt. Hoover



denied going back to Ms. McCain's house or retaliating against her when she said she would be filing a complaint with OPS.

Board Discussion Summary: Vice Chair Mountcastle asked for clarification. Investigator Watson relayed that P.O. Myers does not remember reporting that his WCS died. She confirmed with Member Sharp that there was no evidence to support P.O. Myers reported his WCS dying. Investigator Watson advises Sgt. Hoover's duty report and that does not indicate P.O. Myers' WCS dying nor did Sgt. Hoover recall if P.O. Myers reported it or not. It was further added that P.O. Myers' last video of the day does not show him telling dispatch his WCS is dying – it just dies.

Additional Information to Note: N/A

Case Findings:

Sgt. Christopher Hoover, #9235

Allegation A: Lack of Service: No Service

OPS Recommendation: Exonerated

CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated

Based on a preponderance that the officer was in accordance with Manual Rule 4.18, which is verified through crime reports, 911 calls, and duty reports.

Motion by: Member Sharp

Friendly amendment by: Member Cyganovich

Second by: Member Miller

Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Motion Carried

P.O. David William Myers, #2297

Allegation A: Lack of Service: No Service

OPS Recommendation: Exonerated

CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated

Same rationale as previously provided.

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Miller

Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Motion Carried

Sgt. Christopher Hoover, #9235

Allegation B: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

Based on a preponderance of the evidence that the officer was in accordance with Manual Rules 5.08 and 5.09, and in reviewing WCS there is no indication of unprofessional conduct.

Motion by: Member Gatian

Friendly amendment by: Member Cyganovich



Second by: Member Parker

Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Motion Carried

P.O. David William Myers, #2297

Allegation B: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

Same rationale as previously provided.

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Parker

Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Motion Carried

Sgt. Christopher Hoover, #9235

Allegation C: Biased Policing

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

Based on the preponderance of the evidence and that Sgt. Hoover was in accordance with GPO 1.07.08.

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Miller

Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Motion Carried

Sgt. Christopher Hoover, #9235

Allegation D: Harassment

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

Based on a preponderance of the evidence, Sgt. Hoover was in accordance with GPO 1.07.07.

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Parker

Motion Passed/Failed: Motion Carried

P.O. David William Myers, #2297

Allegation E: WCS Violation

OPS Recommendation: SUSTAINED

CPRB Recommendation: SUSTAINED

Based on the preponderance of the evidence, P.O. Myers was in violation of GPO 4.06.04 and Manual Rules 5.08 and 5.09, and there is no evidence of P.O. Myers reporting his WCS was dying.

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Parker



Motion Passed/Failed: Motion Carried

Group Level: Group one (WCS – Improper Use).

P.O. David William Myers, #2297 violated GPO 4.06.04. In reaching this recommendation for corrective action, the Board has determined that it is consistent with CDP's disciplinary matrix.

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Parker

Motion Passed/Failed: Motion Carried

MEETING RECESS

Departed at 12:25 p.m. and returned at 12:46 p.m.

OPS2022-0182

Complainant: Quartiz Long (Not Present)

Presented by: Investigator James Ouk

P.O. Kirstein Beringuel, #691

Allegation A: Excessive Force

Allegation B: Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

P.O. Robert Bjekic, #693

Allegation A: Excessive Force

Allegation B: Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

P.O. Claire Fredriks, #562

Allegation A: Excessive Force

Allegation B: Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

P.O. Connor Lynch, #265

Allegation A: Excessive Force

Allegation B: Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

P.O. Jonnatan Sanchez, #966

Allegation A: Excessive Force

Allegation B: Lack of Service: Insufficient Service



P.O. Jonathon Selleny, #1873

Allegation A: Excessive Force

Allegation B: Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

P.O. Brittany Vajusi, #16

Allegation A: Excessive Force

Allegation B: Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

Summary of Case Presentation: Complex case. Mr. Long alleged that on July 23, 2022, the officers pulled him out of his car, hurt his knee, and took him to jail without providing medical attention. He alleged that the officers' actions caused him to have pain throughout his body including his collarbone, knee, shoulder, and a burn mark. The investigation found that Mr. Long was visually impaired, attempted to operate his vehicle, and has outstanding warrants. Officers gave Mr. Long 20 minutes to leave his vehicle, to which he resisted and refused to exit. P.O. Selleny pulled his taser out and arched it at Mr. Long when he refused to comply with lawful commands. Officers used de minimis force to remove Mr. Long from his car. Mr. Long refused EMS service, prior to police arriving on scene. He was later taken to St. Vincent Charity Hospital, where he once again refused medical treatment.

Board Discussion Summary: N/A

Additional Information to Note: The complaint also listed **P.O. Jamieson Ritter, #1176**, and **Sgt. Saladin Sudberry, #9244**, in Allegation A: Excessive Force and Allegation B: Lack of Service: Insufficient Service. The complaints against these officers are **administratively dismissed** as P.O. Ritter separated from CDP on July 4, 2024, and Sgt. Sudberry separated from CDP on January 8, 2024.

Case Findings

P.O. Kirstein Beringuel, #691

Allegation A: Excessive Force

OPS Recommendation: Exonerated

CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated

The preponderance of the evidence shows that the conduct did occur - force was used against the complainant in carrying out an arrest - but did not rise to a level of violation. Force is found to be de minimis and consistent with CDP GPOs, trainings, and procedures.

Motion by: Chair Brown



Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Motion Carried

P.O. Robert Bjekic, #693

Allegation A: Excessive Force

OPS Recommendation: Exonerated

CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated

Same rationale as previously stated.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Motion Carried

P.O. Claire Fredriks, #562

Allegation A: Excessive Force

OPS Recommendation: Exonerated

CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated

Same rationale as previously stated.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Motion Carried

P.O. Connor Lynch, #265

Allegation A: Excessive Force

OPS Recommendation: Exonerated

CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated

Same rationale as previously stated.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Motion Carried

P.O. Jonnatan Sanchez, #966

Allegation A: Excessive Force

OPS Recommendation: Exonerated

CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated

Same rationale as previously stated.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Passed/Failed: Motion Carried

P.O. Jonathon Selleny, #1873

Allegation A: Excessive Force

OPS Recommendation: Exonerated



CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated

Same rationale as previously stated.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Passed/Failed: Motion Carried

P.O. Kirstein Beringuel, #691

Allegation B: Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

A preponderance of the evidence indicates that the allegation did not occur.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Motion Carried

P.O. Robert Bjekic, #693

Allegation B: Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

Same rationale as previously stated.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Motion Carried

P.O. Claire Fredriks, #562

Allegation B: Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

Same rationale as previously stated.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Motion Carried

P.O. Connor Lynch, #265

Allegation B: Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

Same rationale as previously stated.



Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Motion Carried

P.O. Jonnatan Sanchez, #966

Allegation B: Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

Same rationale as previously stated.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Motion Carried

P.O. Jonathon Selleny, #1873

Allegation B: Lack of Service: Insufficient Service

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

Same rationale as previously stated.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Motion Carried

OPS2023-0213

Complainant: Adacia Douglas (Not Present)

Presented by: Investigator James Ouk

Sgt. Stephen Beitel, #9014

Allegation A: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

Allegation C: Excessive Force

Sgt. Carma Crosby, #9316

Allegation A: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

Allegation B: Lack of Service: No Service

Allegation D: Improper Procedure: Arrest

Allegation E: Lack of Service

P.O. Cassandra Grace, #229

Allegation A: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

Allegation B: Lack of Service: No Service



P.O. Elbert Jordan, #230

Allegation D: Improper Procedure: Arrest

Summary of Case Presentation: Complex case with allegations of excessive force, lack of service, improper procedure, and unprofessional behavior. Complainant filed several complaints alleging misconduct by members of CDP. Mr. Douglas alleged that on August 31, 2023, P.O. Grace and Sgt. Crosby were unprofessional and failed to provide service. Evidence shows the officers provided service by completing a police report and their line of questioning towards the complainant was not unprofessional. It was alleged that on September 8, 2023, Sgt. Beitel used excessive force and unprofessional behavior by using profanity. There is no evidence that this interaction occurred. Mr. Douglas also alleged that on September 8, 2023, he was unlawfully detained by Sgt. Crosby and P.O. Jordan. Mr. Douglas was detained, but for a properly signed probate warrant. He was taken for medical treatment in accordance with the warrant.

Board Discussion Summary: Member Miller asked Investigator Ouk if he was able to get into contact with Mr. Douglas given the severity of the allegations. Investigator Ouk relayed it is an interesting case as Mr. Douglas is banned from the office – Investigator Ouk and Senior Investigator Funari met with him outside to sign a HIPAA form. Mr. Douglas was not interested in providing information to OPS or doing an interview.

Additional Information to Note: N/A

Case Findings:

Sgt. Stephen Beitel, #9014

Allegation A: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

OPS Recommendation: Insufficient Evidence

CPRB Recommendation: Insufficient Evidence

Preponderance of the evidence does not conclusively show whether the alleged conduct did or did not occur.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Miller

Motion Passed/Failed: Carried.

Sgt. Carma Crosby, #9316

Allegation A: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded



Preponderance of the evidence including the officer's WCS, supports a finding that the alleged conduct did not occur.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Miller

Motion Passed/Failed: Carried.

P.O. Cassandra Grace, #229

Allegation A: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

Same rationale as previously stated

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Miller

Motion Passed/Failed: Carried.

Sgt. Carma Crosby, #9316

Allegation B: Lack of Service: No Service

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

Preponderance of the evidence including the officer's WCS, supports a finding that the alleged conduct did not occur.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Miller

Motion Passed/Failed: Carried.

P.O. Cassandra Grace, #229

Allegation B: Lack of Service: No Service

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

Same rationale as previously stated

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Miller

Motion Passed/Failed: Carried.

Sgt. Stephen Beitel, #9014

Allegation C: Excessive Force

OPS Recommendation: Insufficient Evidence

CPRB Recommendation: Insufficient Evidence



Preponderance of the evidence does not conclusively show whether the alleged conduct did or did not occur.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Miller

Motion Passed/Failed: Carried.

Sgt. Carma Crosby, #9316

Allegation D: Improper Procedure: Arrest

OPS Recommendation: Exonerated

CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated

Preponderance of the evidence gathered throughout the investigation supports that the alleged conduct did occur in that the arrest was made but the officer's actions were consistent with the law and CDP GPOs, trainings, and procedures.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Miller

Motion Passed/Failed: Carried.

P.O. Elbert Jordan, #230

Allegation D: Improper Procedure: Arrest

OPS Recommendation: Exonerated

CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated

Same rationale as previously stated.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Miller

Motion Passed/Failed: Carried.

Sgt. Carma Crosby, #9316

Allegation E: Lack of Service

OPS Recommendation: Exonerated

CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated

Preponderance of the evidence gathered throughout the investigation supports that the alleged conduct did occur in that the arrest was made but the officer's actions were consistent with the law and CDP GPOs, trainings, and procedures.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Miller

Motion Passed/Failed: Carried.



OPS2022-0272

Complainant: Nija VanDer Horst (Not Present)

Presented by: Investigator Joseph Szymanski

P.O. Christopher Bush, #220

Allegation A: Improper Procedure: Stop

Allegation B: Improper Procedure

Allegation C: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

Summary of Case Presentation: Officers conducted a traffic stop as they observed the complainant violate several traffic laws. Officer Schmitz provided justification for the stop and completed a stop form in accordance with divisional policy and procedures. The officers left her unloaded firearm on the front passenger floor when they returned to their zone car – a common practice for officer safety and within CDP divisional procedures and Ohio law. During the encounter, officers remained calm and did not show any unprofessional behavior/conduct.

Board Discussion Summary: Chair Brown clarified that the complainant had issue with the officers confiscating her firearm and inquired if officers are allowed to order people to hand over their firearms during a traffic stop. Complainant surrendered her firearm. Member Gatian asked if the officers left the complainant's firearm loaded – officers unloaded it. Investigator Szymanski stated the complainant did give consent for officers to take her weapon out of her car.

***Additional Information to Note:** P.O. Steven Schmitz, #1875, was also named in the Allegations A, B, and C, but those complaints have been **administratively dismissed** as P.O. Schmitz was terminated on July 3, 2025, therefore he is no longer a member of CDP.*

Case Findings

P.O. Christopher Bush, #220

Allegation A: Improper Procedure: Stop

OPS Recommendation: Exonerated

CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated

Preponderance of the evidence shows that the event did occur, but the officer was in accordance with GPOs 2.02.01 and 2.02.05.

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Miller

Motion Passed/Failed (Member Parker abstained as he knows one of the officers):

Carried.

P.O. Christopher Bush, #220

Allegation B: Improper Procedure



OPS Recommendation: Exonerated

CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated

Preponderance of the evidence shows that the event did occur, but the officer was in accordance with GPOs 2.02.01 and ORC 2923.163.

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Miller

Motion Passed/Failed (Member Parker abstained as he knows one of the officers):

Carried.

P.O. Christopher Bush, #220

Allegation C: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

Preponderance of the evidence shows that the P.O. Bush was in accordance with Manual Rules 5.01 and 5.09.

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Miller

Motion Passed/Failed (Member Parker abstained as he knows one of the officers):

Carried.

****Chair Brown made a statement advising that moving forward members should notify the board if they plan to abstain before the case is presented. He also reminded the board that the requirements to abstain is, “when you think you should sustain”.**

OPS2024-0279

Complainant: Sharon Drummonds (Not Present)

Presented by: Investigator Tammi Lampkin

P.O. Joseph Fitchwell, #134

Allegation A: Biased Policing

Allegation B: Lack of Service

P.O. Neil Pesta, #981

Allegation A: Biased Policing

Allegation B: Lack of Service

Summary of Case Presentation: Ms. Drummonds approached a parked zone car and requested they drive her to the casino to charge her phone. The officers asked her if she was in danger or



needed medical attention, to which Ms. Drummonds indicated she did not. Officers declined to provide her with a ride. Mr. Drummonds accused the officers of denying her a ride because she was black. Courtesy rides are standard services offered by CDP and are typically reserved for situations where officer or citizens well-being is a concern. Numerous attempts were made to contact Ms. Drummonds but were unsuccessful.

Board Discussion Summary: Member Sharp clarified with Investigator Lampkin, that Ms. Drummonds approached a parked zone care to request a ride. When she approached the zone car, officers asked is she was in danger or needed to go to the hospital, the complainant denied. The officers denied providing Ms. Drummonds with a ride as they were finishing a report for a domestic violence transport to a safe and secured shelter that they had just completed. There is no radio traffic due to the DV and situation of that case.

Additional Information to Note: N/A

Case Findings

P.O. Joseph Fitchwell, #134

Allegation A: Biased Policing

OPS Recommendation: Insufficient Evidence

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

The preponderance of the evidence including the background information that the police were made a domestic violence report and have good reason for not having WCS and the request from Ms. Drummonds was to simply to have a ride to charge her phone and she was not in an unsafe situation.

Motion by: Member Cyganovich

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Passed/Failed: Carried.

P.O. Neil Pesta, #981

Allegation A: Biased Policing

OPS Recommendation: Insufficient Evidence

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

Same rationale as previously stated.

Motion by: Member Cyganovich

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Passed/Failed: Carried.



P.O. Joseph Fitchwell, #134

Allegation B: Lack of Service

OPS Recommendation: Exonerated

CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated

The request for service was to have a ride to the casino to charge a phone. The complainant was not in any kind of unsafe situation and did not need any kind of police help; therefore, the officer was not in violation of GPO 3.01.01 and 4.80

Motion by: Member Cyganovich

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Passed/Failed: Carried.

P.O. Neil Pesta, #981

Allegation B: Lack of Service

OPS Recommendation: Exonerated

CPRB Recommendation: Exonerated

Same rationale as previously stated.

Motion by: Member Cyganovich

Second by: Member Sharp

Motion Passed/Failed: Carried.

OPS2024-0289

Complainant: Sharon Drummonds (Not Present)

Presented by: Investigator Tammi Lampkin

P.O. Aaron Thompson, #511

Allegation A: Lack of Service

Allegation B: Biased Policing

Summary of Case Presentation: The complainant alleged Lack of Service and Biased Policing of P.O. Thompson on November 24, 2024. Ms. Drummonds became upset at a gas station because she had to move her vehicle from the gas pump after a failed transaction. She proceeded to threaten the gas station attendant who informed her he had a taser and had called CDP. Ms. Drummonds asked for the officers' names and badge numbers, as well as began recording them and she made a comment about race. The investigation found that P.O. Thompson offered Ms. Drummond service by attempting to gather her statement and provided the officers' names and badge numbers. Numerous attempts were made to contact Ms. Drummonds and all of which were unsuccessful.



Board Discussion Summary: Member Sharp asked if a second meeting occurred between P.O. Thompson and the complainant. The district was across the street from the gas station, and the complainant was walking down the street as the officer parked – they met inside the lobby to get her side of the story. She became upset when hearing the backstory provided by the gas attendant. The lack of service allegation was due to Ms. Drummonds wanting the gas station attendant arrested.

Additional Information to Note: N/A.

Case Findings

P.O. Aaron Thompson, #511

Allegation A: Lack of Service

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

The preponderance of the evidence indicates the officer was in accordance with Manual Rule 4.11, noting P.O. Thompson went over and beyond in his service and still providing information to the complainant.

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Parker

Motion Passed/Failed: Carried.

P.O. Aaron Thompson, #511

Allegation B: Lack of Service

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

The preponderance of the evidence indicates the officer was in accordance with Manual Rules 5.08, 5.09, and 5.11, P.O. Thompson again went over and beyond in his duties, and did not exhibit any indication of bias policing.

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Member Parker

Motion Passed/Failed: Carried.

OPS2024-0300

Complainant: Terry McGrady (Not Present)

Presented by: Investigator Tammi Lampkin

Sgt. Albert Oliver, #9220



Allegation A: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

Summary of Case Presentation: Complainant alleged Sgt. Oliver was rude, sharp, and condescending when he called the 4th District to report a property dispute regarding the removal of his fence. WCS footage shows Sgt. Oliver actively listening and engaging in the conversation. Sgt. Oliver explained that he did not receive the transferred call in a timely manner due to his extensive work schedule that day but immediately followed up the next day. He further explained the concern is a civil matter and suggested Mr. McGrady make a damage to property report.

Board Discussion Summary: There is no knowledge of a policy indicating how long an officer has to return a call of a non-emergency civilian, but Sgt. Oliver did prioritize this call in his strenuous work schedule.

Additional Information to Note: N/A

Case Findings

Sgt. Albert Oliver, #9220

Allegation A: Unprofessional Behavior/Conduct

OPS Recommendation: Unfounded

CPRB Recommendation: Unfounded

The preponderance of the evidence indicates the alleged conduct did not occur in the Sgt. Oliver's communication was courteous, attentive, and respectful.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Second by: Member Cyganovich

Motion Passed/Failed: Carried.

OPS2024-0075

Complainant: Joanne James (Not Present)

Presented by: Investigator Joseph Szymanski

P.O. Joshua Doerner, #2181

Allegation A: Lack of Service

Summary of Case Presentation: In connection to a fatal MVA involving the complainant's son that occurred on July 1, 2023. Ms. James alleged P.O. Doerner did not report to the correct scene of the incident. She further claimed that she made several attempts to contact P.O. Doerner, and he did not return any of her calls. The investigation revealed that P.O. Doerner did respond to the



correct scene. During an interview with OPS, P.O. Doerner said he had not been in contact with Ms. James as he believed other officers had been in contact with her. Lt. Dust stated P.O. Doerner told him, he had been in contact with Ms. James. Both Sgt. Harhay and Lt. Dust stated they took messages from Ms. James and advised P.O. Doerner to contact her. Lt. Dust indicated that at no time did they instruct P.O. Doerner to cease communication with Ms. James.

Board Discussion Summary: Board asked what the officer's rationale was for not reaching out to the complainant. P.O. Doerner claimed he was told not to contact her, but his supervisors said they never told him to cease communication. Appears as though P.O. Doerner was insubordinate and lying. Discussion as to whether the board could suggest IA look into these matters – decided against making that recommendation.

Additional Information to Note: N/A

Case Findings:

P.O. Joshua Doerner, #2181

Allegation A: Lack of Service

OPS Recommendation: SUSTAINED

CPRB Recommendation: SUSTAINED

Preponderance of the evidence shows that P.O. Doerner did not make contact with the complainant after the MVA incident occurred, as well as after he was notified to do so by both his Sergeant and Lieutenant. Evidence includes conversations with P.O. Doerner, Sgt. Oliver, and Lt. Dust. P.O. Doerner offered an explanation that he was told not to make contact, which was refuted by Sgt. Oliver and Lt. Dust.

Motion by: Chair Brown

Friendly Amendment by: Member Gatian

Second by: Member Miller

Motion Passed/Failed: Carried

Group Level Two – Conduct Unbecoming

The board discussed the aggravating factor (telling multiple lies) in deeming this matter Group Level Two instead of Group Level One. In reaching this recommendation for corrective action, the Board has determined that it is consistent with CDP's disciplinary matrix.

Motion by: Member Sharp

Second by: Vice Chair Mountacastle

Motion Passed/Failed (note abstentions here): Carried



VI. Executive Session

CPRB

- a. Chair Brown moved to enter executive session, out of regular order to accommodate HR employees' schedule at 9:50 a.m. to consider personnel, employment, and discipline matters, as well as an OPS dashboard update. Vice Chair Mountcastle seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- b. The board returned from executive session at 11:05 a.m.

VII. OPS Status Report

Kristen Traxler

Interim Administrator

- a. For the month of July, OPS received 22 new complaints. Of those 22 complaints, 3 were dismissals.
- b. For the month of August, OPS received 22 new complaints. Of those 22 complaints, 11 were dismissals.

VIII. Old Business

1. Discontinuing In-person Live Stream

- a. Board is required to record the hearing in some manner. Concern that there are live stream technical issues that hold up in-person hearings.
 - i. Chair Brown made a **motion** for OPS to include in a statement that advises in the public notice that "if there are technical difficulties with the live stream, the meeting will not be live streamed but will be posted at a later time". Motion **seconded** by Member Miller. Motion **carried**.

2. OPS Dashboard

- a. Working with other divisions within the city to ensure accordance with all city policies. Dashboard will be designed to provide the public with up-to-date information on regarding:
 - i. CPRB's status in adjudicating cases
 - ii. Data on how many cases have been adjudicated
 - iii. Types of cases the CPRB has adjudicated
 - iv. Number of cases open

3. OPS Office Hours Update

- a. Chair Brown made a **motion** for OPS to establish the core working hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Motion **seconded** by Member Sharp. Motion **carried**.
- b. Chair Brown made a motion for OPS to have general public office hours from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Motion **seconded** by Member Sharp. Motion **carried**.

4. Hearing Cancellation Notifications



- a. If a hearing is canceled, Chair Brown will notify CPRB board members and Interim Administrator Traxler will notify OPS.
- 5. General Manager of Administrative Services Role
 - a. Interim General Manager Watson to assume HR duties.
- 6. NACOLE registrations are complete and booked.
- 7. ****Addition**** Pre-Disciplinary Hearings
 - a. Chair Brown made a **motion** for the board and HR to move forward with pre-disciplinary hearings for Kristen Traxler, Lachickia Green, Brandie Hall, and Kimberly Maxwell. Motion **seconded** by Vice Chair Mountcastle. Motion **carried**.

IX. New Business

Brandon Brown
Chair

- A. Full time Administrator Position
 - a. Interim Administrator Traxler ran into an issue with posting the full time Administrator position on NEOGOV as it asks for the hiring manager, and the only hiring manager available in NEOGOV for OPS is Interim Administrator Traxler. Interim Administrator voiced that she believes it would be a conflict of interest for her to review the resumes.
 - i. Chair Brown made a **motion** for applications for the administrator position be immediately forwarded to the Administrator Search Subcommittee (Member Gatian, Member Sharp, and Member Miller).
The motion was **seconded** by Vice Chair Mountcastle. Motion **carried**.
 - b. The position will be posted for the longest time period available.

X. Adjournment

Kenneth Mountcastle
Vice Chair

- A. Before adjourning:
 - a. Chair Brown announced Member Hardy's (not present) last day was August 16, 2025. Member Sharp facilitated the board getting a commendation for Member Hardy in recognition for her hard work and service to the CPRB.
 - b. New board members, Edwin Moore and Waverly Willis, were sworn/affirmed into the CPRB.
- B. Member Cyganovich made a **motion** to adjourn. Motion **seconded** by Member Gatian. Motion **carried** and the board adjourned at 3:01 p.m.