

# City of Fort Lauderdale



## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

11:30 AM

**Joint Workshop with Citizens' Police Review Board**

**City Hall is Closed to the Public.**

**Access Workshop via:**

<https://fortlauderdale.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

[www.fortlauderdale.gov/fltv](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/fltv)

[www.youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale](http://www.youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale)

Cable Television - Comcast Channel 78 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99

## **CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP**

***FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION***

***DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor***

***STEVEN GLASSMAN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District II HEATHER***

***MORAITIS Commissioner - District I***

***ROBERT L. McKINZIE Commissioner - District III***

***BEN SORENSEN Commissioner - District IV***

***CHRIS LAGERBLOOM, City Manager***

***JOHN HERBST, City Auditor***

***JEFFREY A. MODARELLI, City Clerk***

***ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney***

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 11:38 a.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mayor Trantalis announced details regarding the virtual format of this meeting, including how members of the public can view and participate.

**ROLL CALL**

**Commission Members Present:** Commissioner Heather Moraitis (participated telephonically), Vice Mayor Steven Glassman (participated telephonically), Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie (participated telephonically), Commissioner Ben Sorensen (participated telephonically), and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

**Citizens' Police Review Board (CPRB) Members Present:**

Citizens' Police Review Board (CPRB) Members Present: Chair Christina M. Currie, Esq. (participated telephonically), Vice Chair Lieutenant Cecil Stone (participated telephonically), Paul Eichner (participated telephonically), Sergeant Nicole Graves (participated telephonically), Sergeant Matthew Mocerri (participated telephonically), Bernadette Norris-Weeks, Esq. (participated telephonically) and Carol Lee Ortman (participated telephonically)

**Citizens' Police Review Board (CPRB) Members Not Present:**

Marc Dickerman and Antonya Johnson

**QUORUM ESTABLISHED**

**Charter Officers Present:** City Manager Chris Lagerbloom, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Attorney Alain E. Boileau and City Auditor John Herbst (participated telephonically)

**INTRODUCTIONS**

At Chair Currie's suggestion, each member of the CPRB introduced themselves and explained their background and reasons for volunteering as a CPRB Member.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS****BUS-1** [20-0700](#)

Discussion - Current Events and Overview - Fort Lauderdale Police

## Department

Chair Currie acknowledged all attendees were aware of current events and concerns related to the Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLPD).

Mayor Trantalis said the City is part of national engagement taking place around the county on racial injustice, bigotry and gun violence. He confirmed the City had seen its own measure of these concerns, noting the importance of meeting and addressing these issues to create change and improve the City.

Mayor Trantalis expounded on his perspective, commenting on goals as we advance, including FLPD administration realignment, the commitment to make systemic changes and allowing input from all stakeholders. He will look to the CPRB to provide more citizen input, refining FLPD procedures and establishing trust and protection.

## **BUS-2** [20-0701](#)

### Discussion - Citizens' Police Review Board Expansion

Chair Currie recommended, after the CPRB presentation, CPRB members provide recommendations about adding to the scope of CPRB responsibilities. Additionally, Commission Members would give input on how they envision the CPRB. Mayor Trantalis concurred. Chair Currie narrated the CPRB presentation.

***A copy of the presentation can be found in the backup to these minutes.***

Mayor Trantalis requested input from CPRB Members.

Vice Chair Lieutenant Cecil Stone explained his understanding of what the public is requesting. Complaints received by FLPD are thoroughly investigated in an unbiased manner. The primary focus of the CPRB is to build trust. He discussed citizen and police officer input on cases, expounding on related details. Vice Chair Stone concurred with Chair Currie's request for Commission Member input to improve CPRB capabilities and build public trust by ensuring that police officer misconduct and discourtesy are investigated by FLPD Internal Affairs.

Board Member Carol Lee Ortman noted the encompassing nature of Chair Currie's presentation, stating perception is everything, i.e., all stakeholder perception. She remarked on the need to ensure police transparency.

Board Member Paul Eichner concurred with items addressed in Chair

Currie's presentation. Instead of minimal Statute requirements, he recommended public advertising of CPRB Meetings be elevated to the level of Commission Meetings to encourage public participation. Board Member Eichner commented on current heightened community sensitivity and expounded on his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued on ways to improve advertising CPRB Meetings, i.e., including CPRB Meeting notices on Commissioner email newsletters and the Division of Strategic Communications providing residents the option to sign up for CPRB Meeting alerts. Mayor Trantalis concurred, confirming he would place CPRB Meeting dates in his newsletters.

City Attorney Lagerbloom commented on notice levels, confirming he would discuss with City Clerk Modarelli for a more encompassing approach. He discussed the current practice of each Board that has a Board Liaison as a funnel point for current Board information, expounding on details.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, City Clerk Modarelli confirmed that CPRB Meetings are on the event calendar and the CPRB web page. There is also a link on the CPRB webpage for virtual participation, similar to Commission Meetings. Vice Mayor Glassman said Commission calendars are often included in Commission Newsletters.

Board Member Bernadette Norris-Weeks commented on her perspective, including Commission and CPRB desire to address the public's request for transparency, citing CPRB Meeting notice as an example. She also suggested including CPRB Meetings notices in mailers, water bills, and at neighborhood association meetings. Further comment ensued.

Interim Police Chief Karen Dietrich confirmed her openness to CPRB training, expounding on details and citing examples. Regarding the *Annual Use of Force Report (Report)*, Chief Dietrich was unaware of the reason for CPRB not receiving the *Report* and confirmed she would provide. She discussed the opportunity to provide the Report on the Police Department website, noting she would discuss with the City Attorney and confirm.

Each Commission Member thanked Chair Currie and the entire CPRB for their work.

Commissioner Moraitis discussed having a national police organization,

i.e., *The National Police Foundation (NPF)*, assisting in review of police policies to assure they are aligned with *Best Practices*. She requested an update from City Manager Lagerbloom. Commissioner Moraitis recommended participating as a group on the topic of racial inequities with Academy local training.

Commission Moraitis expounded on her perspective regarding the need to collectively move forward towards the goal of bringing all members of the community together, including police officers, to lift-up the community as a whole and in a collaborative manner. She expounded on related details.

Mayor Trantalis commented on his experience in the *Citizen Police Academy*, recommending all Commissioners participate. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman requested the status of expanding the scope of CPRB tasks and abilities, including a consultant working with the CPRB. Mayor Trantalis confirmed City Manager Lagerbloom would provide a report following Commission Member input.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on his positive perspective of the FLPD, noting everyone can always improve, the need to keep moving forward and the importance of striving for excellence.

Commissioner McKinzie discussed his perspective, commenting on the need for transparency and public trust. He commented on the positive CPRB work since recent incidents in the City. Commissioner McKinzie recommended giving the CPRB the ability and "teeth" to effect change as necessary. He noted his involvement with policing activities and good relationship with the FLPD. Commissioner McKinzie explained his perspective, commenting on his concern regarding how the CPRB currently functions and the need to get ahead of the current situation. He expounded on details regarding policing.

Mayor Trantalis commented on his prior experience as a CPRB Member, confirming the frustration of relying on FLPD Internal Affairs to supply the CPRB with necessary evidence allowing a balanced view to make a recommendation, expounding on details and citing examples. He noted the need for the CPRB to complement FLPD Internal Affairs. Adding to their investigatory procedures is the crux of the civilian approach and police approach to police officer violation investigations.

Mayor Trantalis expounded on his perspective, citing an example of a police violation incident, i.e., body-camera footage illustrating police officers provoking instead of mitigating situations, that should be examined and reported regularly for a more comprehensive understanding. He said this is what the CPRB is requesting. The Commission is eager to move in that direction, allowing a more complete investigation of police behavior and determining *Best Practices* going forward.

Chair Currie confirmed CPRB recommended items are the same as its goals. Reassurance needs to come from outside the CPRB, FLPD leadership. She requested change to educate FLPD addressing these concerns and related recommendations.

Chair Currie recommended focusing on how the Commission envisions CPRB tasks and abilities. She discussed and explained the following recommendations the CPRB would likely add to the scope of CPRB:

- Adding Category 2 police complaints (inadequate police service and any allegations towards a member of the police department that are not Category 1 complaints) to the CPRB Ordinance. This would need to be added to Ordinance 2-248 and CPRB purpose, 2-249 (a). She would like to see Ordinance changes tracked in the policy for Internal Affairs responsibilities to ensure nothing is lost anywhere and not relying on oral history;
- Adding department-wide training recommendation policy;
- Adding the ability to make training recommendations that may be beneficial to the police officer involved. The City Attorney needs to advise if the CPRB needs to explain the reason. The CPRB needs to be informed of the training menu.
- Chair Currie requested adding language to the CPRB Ordinance memorializing CPRB's review of annual reports, including:
  - Response to Resistance Reports
  - Annual Internal Affairs Summaries
  - Annual Administrative Review of Bias-Based Policing and Department Practices concerning Biased-Based Policing at the Department Level submitted to the Police Chief from FLPD Internal Affairs

- Administrative Review of Agency Policy and Practices for Biased-Based Policy
- Biased-Based Practices for Traffic Stops done by the Staff Inspections Office.
- All stakeholders having the ability to see these annual reports
- Bias-based police requirements for police officer training needs be more frequent than every four (4) years

Chair Currie reiterated the request for her recommendations be included in the CPRB Ordinance governing the CPRB and replicated in Internal Affairs responsibilities.

Board Member Eichner suggested amending the CPRB Ordinance regarding who can serve as Chair or Vice Chair of the CPRB. He said that due to the community's perception, a member of the FLPD should not fill these board positions.

Board Member Eichner confirmed CPRB membership should include members of the FLPD. Further comment ensued.

Board Member Ortman concurred with Chair Currie's recommendations.

Vice Chair Stone noted the Chair and Vice Chair are voted in by the entire CPRB, and CPRB Members should be allowed to vote for whomever they choose, expounding on his perspective.

Chair Currie commented on her viewpoint, confirming the CPRB Members appoint the Chair and Vice Chair. There are more civilians on the CPRB than Police Officers. The CPRB could address any concerns that may arise, noting the need for all members to work together in an environment where everyone feels empowered to challenge voices of authority.

Chair Currie discussed addressing the CPRB's reliance on the FLPD, commenting on related details and concerns. She said hiring an external objective third-party would provide an independent perspective. Comment and discussion ensued on reviewing all options.

City Manager Lagerbloom responded to Ms. Currie's recommendations. He said recommendations would be appropriate and not difficult to move forward and implement. City Manager Lagerbloom reserved the right to

consult with City Attorney Boileau regarding adding Category 2 complaints to ensure this would not impact police union collective bargaining agreements. Other recommendations do not cause major concern. He requested Chair Currie send him the list of recommendations. Chair Currie confirmed.

City Manager Lagerbloom commented on training and consulting, including City-wide training. FLPD has started procedural justice training at all levels, noting the first class began yesterday, August 31, 2020. He is in final negotiations with the National Police Foundation (NPF).

City Manager Lagerbloom said he shared the *Bobcat Report* with the NPF and they confirmed the *Bobcat Report* was a good previous assessment, commenting on subsequent changes in policing. The NPF would do an FLPD assessment against *President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing Report*.

City Manager Lagerbloom commented on the benefit of addressing policy and oversight, technology, community policing, crime reduction, training, evaluation, officer wellness and safety, professional, ethical and fair policing and other items. After working with the NPF, City Manager Lagerbloom said he would review findings and recommendations with Interim Police Chief Dietrich to determine FLPD implementation City-wide and County-wide through the *Broward County City Manager's Association*.

City Manager Lagerbloom said he is working with *Broward County Human Services Equity and Community Investment* to ascertain available training in a holistic manner across the board for elected and appointed officials and City employees. One (1) such immersion training program is the *Racial Equity Institute Groundwater Approach* that teaches an understanding of structural racism brought to Broward County and all City stakeholders. City Manager Lagerbloom expounded on additional training and continued dialogue.

Mayor Trantalis requested City Manager Lagerbloom confer with other Broward County municipalities to ascertain and report on engagement with outside investigators and practices. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed he would consult with City Attorney Boileau. City Attorney Boileau explained his understanding of related legal action on outside investigators in another jurisdiction, noting investigators of police complaints concurrent with FLPD Internal Affairs are not permitted in



Florida.

Mayor Trantalis commented that Miami-Dade County is implementing an investigator role, requesting City Attorney Boileau contact Miami-Dade County and discuss. City Attorney Boileau confirmed, commenting on a decision by the Florida Supreme Court on this topic.

Chair Currie recommended discussion of this topic not be married to the term "investigator", rather a "police practices expert" that could fill this role. Mayor Trantalis confirmed this needs to be pursued.

Mayor Trantalis noted tasks given to City Manager Lagerbloom, stating this topic would be on a future Commission Conference Meeting.

Commissioner Sorensen recommended reconvening a *Joint Commission Workshop with the Citizens' Police Review Board* in the next three (3) to five (5) months to evaluate progress. Mayor Trantalis concurred, commenting that the public would have an opportunity to comment on this topic at a future Commission Conference Meeting.

Mayor Trantalis said CPRB recommendations are well taken, commenting on his desire to review *Best Practices* of other jurisdictions to improve CPRB efforts.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on his perspective to do the right thing and the need to enact change independent of Broward County and address CPRB requests, including third-party services. Mayor Trantalis concurred.

Board Member Norris-Weeks suggested the third-party entity would not need to be a full-time employee, i.e., a consultant. Mayor Trantalis said this would be taken into consideration.

Chair Currie thanked the Commission Members and the CPRB, requesting the Commission consider the CPRB a resource to improve our community.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.