

Citizen Complaint Authority
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 27, 2025

Attendees Present

CCA Board Members

Samuel Burbanks, IV, Chair
Bill Burwinkel, Member
Rosa Cama, Member
Clarice Warner, Member

Attendees Absent

John Williams, Vice Chair
Louis Arnold, Member

Staff

Cathy Bailey, Assistant City Manager (ACM)
Dena Brown, Interim Director
Andrew Alanis, Investigator
Jessalyn Goodman, Investigator
Ronald Pugh, Investigator
Arnie Slaughter, Investigator
Robert Stephens, Investigator
Joseph Vesper, Investigator
Brandon Upchurch, Sr. Administrative Specialist
Shurdina Mitchell, Administrative Specialist
Mark Burns, Internal Investigation Section Captain, CPD
David Sturkey, Assistant City Solicitor, Law Department
Steve Sobel, CitiCable General Manager
Tom Potter, CitiCable Production Manager
Darius Jones, CitiCable Programming Manager

Chair Burbanks, IV called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

Minutes from Previous Meeting

Member Burwinkel moved and Member Warner seconded a motion to accept minutes from the December 2024 meeting. (Agree 4 - Oppose 0 - Abstain - 0). **Motion passed**

Director's Report

Interim Director Dena Brown presented the Director's Report to the Board.

The Board was presented with 8 new fully vetted CCA investigation reports.

The Board Chair requested the Director provide a report on the backlog of cases over 90-days old. As of December 24, 2024:

- 1) Seventeen cases are **90-180 days old**
 - a) 17 – are awaiting CPD records
- 2) Eight cases are **180-365 days old**
 - a) 1 – is awaiting CPD records
 - b) 1 – is pending officer interviews
 - c) 1 – is being written
 - d) 2 – are on legal hold
 - e) 3 – were submitted to the Director for review
- 3) One case is **1-year old-2-years old**
 - a) 1 – is written but under revision
- 4) One case is **over 2-years old**
 - a) The case involves discharge of firearm allegations. Due to the nature of the incident, CCA is awaiting records.

Interim Dena Brown also presented a report on behalf of City Manager Long regarding her direct response to CCA recommendations on case numbers 22228, 24117 and 24171. City Manager Long memos were addressed to Chief Theresa Theetge.

CCA Case 22228

The memo reads as follows: “The purpose of this memo is to provide my follow-up to Sustained CCA Case that was reviewed on December 2, 2024 by the CCA Board.

This is in response to the CCA case involving Officer Herring and the sustained finding of improper procedure. BWC footage serves not only as a safeguard for our officers but also as a vital tool for residents and a cornerstone of our commitment to transparency.

I have observed several incidents where there has been a failure to reactivate BWC footage or to capture the entirety of interactions with suspects. This is a concern, as consistent use of BWC ensures accountability and trust between officers and community.

I believe this is an opportune moment to have captains retrain or remind officers about the critical importance of BWC activations, particularly during all interactions with individuals. Reinforcing this practice will help ensure compliance and maintain the standards of professionalism we expect.”

CCA Case 24117

The memo reads as follows: “The purpose of this memo is to provide my follow-up to Sustained CCA Case that was reviewed on December 2, 2024 by the CCA Board.

his is in response to the CCA case involving Officer Landrum and the sustained finding of discourtesy. I acknowledge that this was a highly stressful situation involving youth and a suspicion of theft at a

Target store in Clifton. The teenagers involved were visibly agitated, using foul language, and displaying behavior typical of youth. Despite these challenges, Officer Landrum was observed engaging in a heated discussion with a resident who was observing the situation.

The manner in which she aggressively argued with the individual and the words exchanged fell short of the expectations we set for our officers. While I recognize the difficult circumstances, it is critical that our officers maintain professionalism and uphold the highest standards of conduct, even in tense situations.

I recommend that we show Officer Landrum the video of this incident as part of a constructive learning opportunity. This review should include a discussion on how she might apply the training we have provided to engage with the public in a more customer-service oriented and professional manner moving forward.”

CCA Case 24171

The memo reads as follows: “The purpose of this memo is to provide my follow-up to unfounded CCA Case that was reviewed on December 2, 2024 by the CCA Board.

Regarding the CCA investigation, which was ultimately unfounded, Howard raised a valid point that warrants further review. The VCS unit frequently conducts traffic stops together; however, in this particular situation, Officers Buck and Perkins initiated a traffic stop for misdemeanor traffic violations, which resulted in a large number of officers responding.

While I fully support ensuring both community and officer safety, I believe it’s important to evaluate the response-to-charge ratio to avoid the perception of over-policing. If this issue cannot be addressed in the short term, we may need to incorporate this question into a broader review via SEIT.

Given the ongoing challenges with officer recruitment and the need to maximize efficiency within our shifts, we must be intentional about how and when officers are deployed. Ensuring that responding officers are necessary and not needed elsewhere is critical to addressing these challenges.”

Public Comment

Cincinnati Black United Front (CBUF) member Mrs. Iris Roley spoke. Mrs. Roley acknowledged City Manager Sheryl Long’s memos that have shared with CCA and the board. Mrs. Roley also commented on CCA cases becoming compliant within 90 days.

Old Business

Investigator Ronald Pugh presented an update on CCA case number 24127 Terry Griffin. ACM Hampton and the Chief’s office gave Mr. Griffin information on how to move forward. This case was closed and voted on at December 2024 Board meeting.

Investigator Ronald Pugh presented an update on CCA case number 24135 Stanford Poole. Mr. Poole along with two CCA investigators went to IIS to review BWC’s and it was found that honey was not poured on clothes or any other items. This case was closed and voted on at December 2024 Board meeting.

Investigator Arnie Slaughter will present an update on CCA case number 23278 Qijuan Rogers during the March 3, 2025 Board meeting.

New Business

1. **CCA Case Number 24090:** Member Warner moved and Member Burwink seconded a motion to accept CCA's findings and recommendations, if any. (Agree 4 - Oppose 0 - Abstain 0). **Motion passed.**

2. **CCA Case Number 24094:** Member Warner moved and Member Cama seconded a motion to accept CCA's findings and recommendations, if any. (Agree 4 - Oppose 0 - Abstain 0). **Motion passed.**

3. **CCA Case Number 24042:** Member Warner moved and Member Burwink seconded a motion to accept CCA's findings and recommendations. Agree 3 - Oppose 1 - Abstain 0). Member Burwink opposed. **Motion passed.**

4. **CCA Case Number 24080:** Member Warner moved and Member Burwink seconded a motion to accept CCA's findings and recommendations, if any. (Agree 4 - Oppose 0 - Abstain 0). **Motion passed.**

5. **CCA Case Number 24081:** Member Burwink moved and Member Warner seconded a motion to accept CCA's findings and recommendations, if any. (Agree 4 - Oppose 0 - Abstain 0). **Motion passed.**

6. **CCA Case Number 24071:** Member Burwink moved and Member Cama seconded a motion to accept CCA's findings and recommendations, if any. (Agree 4 - Oppose 0 - Abstain 0). **Motion passed.**

7. **CCA Case Number 24119:** Member Warner moved and Member Cama seconded a motion to accept CCA's findings and recommendations, if any. (Agree 4 - Oppose 0 - Abstain 0). **Motion passed.**

8. **CCA Case Number 24213:** Member Warner moved and Member Cama seconded a motion to accept CCA's findings and recommendations, if any. (Agree 4 - Oppose - Abstain 0). **Motion passed.**

All CCA reports will be forwarded to the City Manager for review and final disposition.

Announcements

Mrs. Iris Roley read the proclamation celebrating the life of CCA's 5th Executive Director Kim Neal. Executive Director Neal recently passed away and will be missed deeply.

Closing

Member Warner moved and Member Burwinkel seconded a motion to adjourn the Board meeting. The meeting ended at 7:02 p.m. (Agree 4 - Oppose 0 - Abstain 0). **Motion passed.**

The next meeting will be held on **Monday, March 3, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.**

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