

**CITY OF COCOA
COCOA POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
October 12, 2022**

The Regular Meeting of the Cocoa Police Community Relations Advisory Committee was held on October 12, 2022 at City Hall, 65 Stone Street Cocoa, FL, as publicly noticed.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Edmond called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M

Chairperson Edmond led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Committee Member Boettjer provided the invocation.

<u>ROLL CALL:</u>	Alton Edmond	Chairperson
	Al Boettjer	Vice Chairperson
	Aldon Bookhardt	Committee Member
	Demetrius Thomas	Committee Member
	Kathy Hamilton-Brown	Committee Member
	Marlene Weiss	Committee Member
	Anthony Garganese	City Attorney

<u>ABSENT:</u>	Anthony Garganese	City Attorney
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STAFF PRESENT:

Stockton Whitten, City Manager; Alex Goins, Councilman – Call in; Evander Collier IV, Chief of Police; Pat Dovale, Commander; Chris Bradshaw, Sargent

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES:

MINUTES : REGUALR MEETING OF May 26, 2022:

Chairman Emond asked about the minutes for the meeting on May 26, 2022 and Sargent Bradshaw thought they had been sent to the members. The Board members decided to waive the reading of the minutes until the next schedule meeting.

AGENDA: REGUALR MEETING OF October 12, 2022:

- **MOTION by; Committee Member Thomas, SECONDED by Vice Chairperson Boettjer to approve the Agenda for the regular meeting of October 12, 2022.**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

III. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF CLOSED CITIZEN COMPLAINT CASES:

21-10-IA Excessive Use of Force:

Chairman Edmond opened the discussion to the committee on item #1. **Vice Chairman Boettjer** made a motion to except the findings, **SECONDED by Committee Member Thomas.**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

21-16-IA K-9 Death "Zena"

Chairman Edmond opened the discussion to the committee on item #2. **Vice Chairman Boettjer** after reading the report and the investigation by the State Attorney's office, the Cocoa Police Department and the office resigned he seen no reason to have a discussion. **Chairman Edmond** had a question for the command staff. When an officer is going to be disciplined and they resign before any action is taken what safe guards are taken to make other agencies aware. **Chief Collier IV** anytime an office is disciplined it is reported to the FDLE. FDLE will make the decision whether they will have to forfeit their certification or not and do an investigation whether they will move forward or not. **Vice Chairman Boettjer** made a motion to except the findings as is, **SECONDED by Committee Member Weiss.**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

21-20-IA Conduct Unbecoming and Negligence

Chairman Edmond opened the discussion to the committee on item #3. **Vice Chairman Boettjer** asked **Chief Collier IV** if the chemical inventory was checked so the same situation would not happen again. **Chairman Edmond** asked if he could explain how this has been corrected. **Chief Collier IV** stated that this situation would not happen again as they didn't have good policy or procedures at the time but they have been corrected. More discussion about how and why this wouldn't happen again. **Committee Member Weiss**, made a motion to except the findings as is, **SECONDED by Vice Chairman Boettjer**.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

21-22-IA Unprofessional Conduct

Chairman Edmond opened the discussion to the committee on item #4. **Chairman Edmond** apologized to the persons attending the meeting that they might be unaware of what the committee is for. He gave an overview of why they are discussing cases and voting on them. **Chairman Edmond** read from the report so the audience knew why and what the committee was voting on. **Chairman Edmond** felt they acted properly under the circumstances. **Vice Chairman Edmond** asked **Chief Collier IV** about the termination and he explained that Officer McGowan was on probation and his blood alcohol was over the legal limit and why he was terminated. The case was handled by the Brevard County Sheriffs office and only gave a citation. **Committee Member Brown** asked if he could continue to be a police officer. FDLE will determine whether or his certification will be pulled. More discussion between staff and the committee. **Committee Member Thomas**, made a motion to except the findings as is, **SECONDED by Committee Member Weiss**.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

22-01-CC Reporting Issue

Chairman Edmond opened the discussion to the committee on item #5. **Chairman Edmond** gave a brief overview of the case. **Committee Member Weiss** asked if there was any follow up. **Chairman Edmond** stated that in the report it was a scrivener's error and it was corrected. More discussion between staff and the committee. **Vice Chairman Boettjer**, made a motion to except the findings as is, **SECONDED by Committee Member Weiss**.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

22-02-CC Failure to Perform Duty

Chairman Edmond opened the discussion to the committee on item #6. **Chairman Edmond** gave a brief overview of the case. Officer Landis and Officer Guasch were exonerated. Discussion between staff and committee. **Committee Member Brown**, made a motion to except the findings as is, **SECONDED** by **Vice Chairman Boettjer**.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

22-03-CC Unprofessional Conduct

Chairman Edmond opened the discussion to the committee on item #7. **Chairman Edmond** gave a brief overview of the case. **Committee Member Brown** had questions for **Chief Collier IV** about how the officer was talked to and was he sent for more training. **Committee Member Weiss** about more training for the officers. **Chief Collier IV** explained that there is a training budget that has to be followed and training required by FDLE. If there are other means of training available it is offered to the officers. More discussion between staff and committee. **Vice Chairman Boettjer**, made a motion to except the findings as is, **SECONDED** by **Committee Member Weiss**.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

22-044-CC Excessive Use of Force

Chairman Edmond opened the discussion to the committee on item #8. **Chairman Edmond** gave a brief overview of the case. **Committee Member Weiss** stated that it was her understanding that the complainant reviewed the video and saw more where the officer was calming him. **Commander Dovale** explained the child gave a different story then what the body cam showed. **Committee Member Brown**, made a motion to except the findings as is, **SECONDED** by **Committee Member Bookhardt**.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

22-05-CC Unprofessional Conduct – False Statements

Chairman Edmond opened the discussion to the committee on item #9. **Chairman Edmond** gave a brief overview of the case. **Vice Chairman Boettjer** stated the Board needs to look at the complaint for what it really is. Mrs. Lynar has presented this same case at least 4 times. **Vice Chairman Boettjer** stated that she committed a crime she was arrested and unhappy about it. **Committee Member Weiss**, made a motion to except the findings as is, **SECONDED** by

Committee Member Brown.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

22-06-CC Failure to Perform Duty

Chairman Edmond opened the discussion to the committee on item #10.

Chairman Edmond gave a brief overview of the case. **Chairman Edmond** had questions about officer Denham in both cases being unfounded and was concerned about the citizens view. Asked if there was training for such occasions. **Chief Collier IV** explained why it happened. In this case it just happened to be the same officer and he didn't do anything wrong. **Commander Dovale** also went over that he has a spreadsheet (bar graph) that he keeps track of each officer as an early warning system as to excessive force or other types of warnings for each officer. More discussion between staff and committee. **Vice Chairman Boettjer**, made a motion to except the findings as is, **SECONDED by Committee Member Weiss.**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

V. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

Chairperson Edmond opened the floor to Citizens for open discussion.

Citizen: Attorney Thomas Yardley asked if he could have more than two (2) minutes because he is trying to clear the name of a good officer that has been slandered. Attorney Yardley wanted to explain that Officer Landis was not a racist. Things he did at the scene is how he was able to talk to the driver and get information from her about what happened. Officer Landis was able to talk to her about having a blood draw from her for evidence. More discussion between Attorney Yardley and committee. Attorney Yardley was able to speak again as the virtual citizens were unable to hear him. A vote to give Attorney Yardley 5 minutes to speak. **Committee Member Weiss**, made a motion to except the findings as is, **SECONDED by Vice Chairman Boettjer.**

MOTION DID NOT PASS (3-2) Ms. Brown and Chairman Edmon was Nay

A vote to give Attorney Yardley, Markita Lucas and Attorney Travis all 5 minutes to speak. **Vice Chairman Boettjer**, made a motion to except the findings as is, **SECONDED by Committee Member Weiss.**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Citizen: Markita Lucas got up and spoke about the case.

Citizen: Attorney Jessica Travis spoke about the case.

All documents turned in by each citizen & Attorney are public record.

Citizen: Markita Lucas got up and spoke about the case. Was able to speak for a second time but given 5 minutes. Ms. Lucas gave her view of how she felt the investigation went.

Citizen: Attorney Jessica Travis spoke about the case. Was able to speak for a second time but given 5 minutes. Attorney Travis spoke about how she felt documents and other items were handled with this case.

Chairman Edmond asked **Sargent Bradshaw** if he had anything to say about the case as his name was brought up in the meeting about joy riding while the investigation was going on. **Sargent Bradshaw** had no comment.

Committee Member Brown, made a motion to except the findings as is, **SECONDED** by **Committee Member Weiss**.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee Member Brown had questions about case #1 that she forgot to ask. Discussion between staff and committee.

Discussion between staff and committee about other issues.

Chairperson Edmond wanted to thank the City Manager Whitten, Mayor Blake, Councilman Goins, citizens and Alberta Wilson the former Central Brevard NAACP President.

MINUTES : REGUALR MEETING OF May 26, 2022:

- **MOTION** by; **Committee Member Thomas**, **SECONDED** by **Vice Chairperson Boettjer** to approve the Minutes for the regular meeting of May 26, 2022.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. NEXT MEETING DATE:

TBD

VII. ADJOURMENT:

With no further business to discuss, the Police Advisory Committee Meeting of October 12, 2022 was adjourned.

- **MOTION by Vice Chairman Boettjer; SECONDED by Committee Member Brown to adjourn the Regular Meeting of October 12, 2022.**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:04 P.M.



Alton Edmond, Chairperson

Respectfully Submitted By:



Darla Crowl, Recording Secretary

