

# THE BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD (PAB)

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

### AND MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR...**

*I am incredibly excited to officially begin my first term as Chair of the newly established Baltimore County Police Accountability Board (PAB/ the Board). As required by Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 – Police Discipline and Law Enforcement Programs and Procedures, each jurisdiction in the State must establish a PAB. In the Spring of 2022, Baltimore County began the process to establish a PAB, and on October 13, 2022, the Baltimore County Council confirmed the 9-member Board. In addition to the 7 members representing each councilmanic district, there are two At-large board members.*

*I was humbled to be asked by County Executive John Olszewski, Jr. to serve as the Board’s first Chairperson and graciously accepted. While I have no hands-on experience with the legislative process, I do have 24 years’ experience practicing the law.*

*I am confident that the citizens of Baltimore County and the State of Maryland will benefit substantially from the reported findings of the PAB. First, the Board’s independent review of the citizens’ complaints filed against police officers and of the discipline assessed for sustained police misconduct, will result in measured transparency into the appropriateness and equity of the police disciplinary process. Second, the commitment of the PAB to demonstrate to the citizens that its gathering and reporting of reported police misconduct will be as fully and completely disclosed as the laws will allow, resulting in increasingly improved and, over time, restored police and citizen trust*

*The Board has my full confidence that we can be successful in carrying out our duties and expectations. We are fortunate to be comprised of a diverse group of persons who bring, in addition to their vast knowledge and life-experiences, a degree of enthusiasm for this task that exudes success!*

*On behalf of the newly enacted and now serving, Baltimore County Police Accountability Board, let me say, “thank you” for trusting us to perform this task on behalf of the citizens of Baltimore County.*

#### **BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD (PAB) 2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

On May 27, 2022, the County Council of Baltimore County, Maryland enacted [Bill No. 24-22](#), establishing a Police Accountability Board (PAB), an Administrative Charging Committee (ACC), and Trial Boards to accomplish the following:

- To receive complaints of police misconduct filed by members of the public;
- Conduct investigations; and

- Recommend administrative charges for substantiated misconduct, and adjudicate certain charges in accordance with the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021, as amended...<sup>1</sup>

As required by Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 – Police Discipline and Law Enforcement Programs and Procedures, each local jurisdiction must establish a Police Accountability Board (PAB). Baltimore County Law Article 3-3-2601 - 2605 was enacted and defines and describes the composition and requirements of the PAB.<sup>2</sup>

In the Spring of 2022, Baltimore County began the process to establish a PAB, and on October 13, 2022, the Baltimore County Council confirmed the 9-member Board which includes seven members representing each councilmanic district and two at-large members.

### **MEMBERS AND PROFILES**

**District 1 – Peter Fitzpatrick** is a registered nurse with Children’s National Hospital where he supervises operations of the air and ground pediatric team. Prior to his position at Children’s National Hospital, Mr. Fitzpatrick spent 10 years at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He also served as a paramedic and firefighter with the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company. Peter resides in Catonsville.

**District 2 – Linda Shields (Chair)** is an attorney with more than 22 years of experience, most recently serving as an assistant city solicitor assigned to the Baltimore Police Department’s Internal Affairs and Public Integrity Division. Prior to practicing law, Ms. Shields worked for the Social Security Administration. Linda resides in Pikesville.

**District 3 – Bishop Ralph Dennis** is Senior Pastor Emeritus at Kingdom Worship Center where he served as senior pastor for 35 years before retiring. Bishop Dennis also worked in the private sector over 30 years with companies including Exxon/Mobile, Frito Lay, Inc. and Hanes DSD. Bishop Dennis served for 19 years on the Executive Board and vice president of fiscal affairs of the Joint College of African American Pentecostal Bishops Congress. Bishop Dennis resides in Sparks.

**District 4 – John Chambers** has more than 30 years of law enforcement experience and training. He began his career with the Baltimore City Police Department where he served in various capacities including patrol, neighborhood services as a community liaison, water patrol and TAC special operations. He is the current Senior Operations Supervisor for External Public Safety at Johns Hopkins Medicine. John is a Woodlawn native and resides in Randallstown.

### **District 5 – CURRENTLY VACANT**

**District 6 – Rev. Clare Petersberger** has served as minister with the Towson Unitarian Universalist Church since 1999. Reverend Petersberger spent over 10 years as a volunteer Chaplain for the Baltimore County Fire and Police Departments and is a former board member of Planned Parenthood of Maryland. Rev. Petersberger resides in Towson.

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<sup>1</sup> Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021-Police Discipline and Law Enforcement Programs and Procedures (HB-0670)

<sup>2</sup> Baltimore County Law Article §§3-3-2601-2605 (Bill No. 24-22)

**District 7 – Dawn Dishon-Feuer** is currently an office manager and personal assistant for Santoro Psychological Services in Howard County. She has more than 20 years of administrative and clerical experience. Ms. Dishon-Feuer is an active volunteer who serves on the board of the Essex Day Festival, Holabird Middle School PTSA, Dundalk Independence Day Parade Committee, Treasurer of the Eastern Regional Lions Club, and board member of the Dundalk Renaissance Corporation. Dawn resides in Dundalk.

**At-large**

**Kara White (District 6 resident)** – Kara White is a social worker with five years post-graduate experience in State services and homeless services. Prior to joining Baltimore County Adult Protective Services, Kara served as a case manager for AIRS and behavioral health therapist at Healthcare for the Homeless, both located in Baltimore. Kara received a Master’s Degree in social work from Widener University in 2017 and has experience leading DEI and LGBT elder trainings. Kara resides in Parkville.

**Nigeria Rolling-Ford (District 4 resident)** – Nigeria Rolling-Ford has nearly 20 years of experience working at national law firms and the private sector. She is currently a legal administrative assistant at Howell Lovells LLP. She is the current president of the Kings Park Homeowners Association and serves as the communications chair of the Randallstown NAACP. She is also active with the Deer Park Middle PTA. Nigeria resides in Randallstown.

There are additional personnel who assist with the administration of the PAB and may be present at the meetings. **Greg Gaskins, Esquire**, is a Baltimore County Attorney with the County Office of Law and serves as the PAB Legal Advisor. **Samantha F. O’Neil**, Senior Advisor, Office of the County Executive, serves as the PAB Administrative Advisor. **Rebecca Young, Esquire**, Deputy Administrative Officer for Public Safety, Office of the County Executive also serves as Administrative Advisor to the PAB.

**MEETINGS:**

PAB meetings are held monthly. PAB meetings are attended both in-person and via Webex. The meetings are open to the public. Scheduled meetings are announced on the Baltimore County Government website at: [baltimorecountymd.gov/boards-commissions/executive/PAB](http://baltimorecountymd.gov/boards-commissions/executive/PAB).

**MEETINGS HELD**

Prior to the seating of the 2022 PAB, two Police Accountability Board Community Input meetings were held to discuss all matters related to the PAB and the selection process. Those meetings were held on April 6, 2022 and April 7, 2022, respectively. Both meetings were recorded and are available on the Baltimore County PAB website.

**Meeting #1 - November 18, 2022**

The PAB held its inaugural meeting on Friday, November 18, 2022 at the Towson Historic Courthouse, Room 118, at 6 p.m. Each PAB member attended, as did the PAB Legal and Administrative Advisors. After providing a brief introduction of themselves, we proceeded to welcome all visiting the meeting, both in-person and via the WebEx meeting forum. The meeting was recorded and open to the public.

Present also, was Captain Dave Trivett, Commander, Internal Affairs Baltimore County Police Department. Captain Trivett provided an overview of the civilian complaint process. Captain Trivett briefly discussed several general topics, including, but not limited to informing the PAB it will be notified regarding schedules for the 40-hour condensed COMAR required Maryland State Police Training Course (ie Baltimore County Citizens' Police Academy) and the required police ride-alongs. The ride-alongs are to take place in January 2023.

Meg Ferguson, Sr. Policy Advisor for the Baltimore County Police Department was also present and provided an overview of the legislative changes related to the Baltimore County Police Department's Disciplinary process. She also discussed other topics, including her availability to return to the Board with future training and informational presentations; such as, Wellness and Mental Health and Use of Force.

County Executive Johnny Olszewski was present for a portion of the meeting to formally welcome the PAB and thanked each one for volunteering to participate in this important work to restore public trust in the police department and its officers and to create transparency regarding the police department's investigation of police misconduct and its related disciplinary system.

Members of the public also attended the meeting, both in-person and via the WebEx forum, and joined in the discussion.

The next PAB meeting was scheduled for Monday, December 12, 2022 at 12 noon at the Historic Baltimore County Courthouse.

### **Meeting #2 – December 12, 2022**

The PAB met on Monday, December 12, 2022 at the Towson Historic Courthouse, Room 118, at 12 noon. Each PAB member attended, either in-person or via the WebEx meeting forum. Members of the public also attended in person and via the WebEx forum. The meeting was recorded and open to the public.

Several administrative matters were discussed, including an update on filling the District 5 PAB Member vacancy and hiring the Baltimore County PAB Coordination Manager. There was an informative and spirited discussion related to the PAB Administrative Charging Committee designee and how that appointment was reached. After much discussion, by a majority vote, the PAB agreed to proceed with retaining the appointment and agreeing future matters should be more judiciously discussed with the board members.

Additionally, the Board discussed the structure of the annual report. PAB law requires the Board to submit an annual report to the governing body of the county by December 31 of every year. The Report is required to (1) identify any trends in the disciplinary process of police officers in the county; and (2) make recommendations on changes to policy that would improve police accountability in the county. Md. Code, Public Safety Section 3-102(a)(4)(i). The PAB may also include any additional information that it determines is in the public interest in its future reports.

The next PAB meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 23, 2023, at the Historic Baltimore County Courthouse.

### **STATISTICS**

According to publicly available data available on the Baltimore County Police Data Dashboard, BaCoPD, Internal Affairs Division (IAD) has reported receiving 20 citizens' complaints year-to-date. During the same reporting period, IAD conducted 18 Administrative Investigations. Additionally, 2 complaints were received and forwarded by the general PAB email account, [PAB@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:PAB@baltimorecountymd.gov), to the responding law enforcement agency. This account was established on July 1, 2022.

Effective July 2023, pursuant to Baltimore County Law Art. 3-3-2605, DUTIES OF THE BOARD, the PAB will:

(E) ON A QUARTERLY BASIS, REVIEW OUTCOMES OF DISCIPLINARY MATTERS CONSIDERED BY CHARGING COMMITTEES...

A full breakdown of complaints, including data of officer demographics, cases by allegation, complainant demographics including gender and race, and cases by disposition, can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

#### **STAFFING UPDATE**

1. The County's FY24 adopted budget included funding to support the PAB, including the necessary staff support as well as annual stipends for both the PAB and ACC members
2. The PAB Coordination Manager is scheduled to start on January 9, 2023

#### **PAB ACTIONS TO-DATE:**

1. The PAB has held 2 monthly meetings.
2. The PAB has appointed the PAB designee to the Administrative Charging Committee (ACC), as stipulated in statute.
3. Required ride-alongs and condensed training academy are scheduled to begin in early 2023
4. The PAB has submitted its annual report to the County Executive and County Council to be posted on the County's website.

Respectfully submitted: Linda L. Shields,  
PAB Chair