

FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

Dawn Oram, Chair
Sarah Ambrosio, Executive Administrator
Jennifer M. Keefer, Assistant County Attorney

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2022

TO: Jessica Fitzwater, Frederick County Executive
Frederick County Council
Michael O'Connor, Mayor, City of Frederick
Nathan Brown, Mayor, City of Brunswick
John A. Kinnaird, Mayor, Town of Thurmont
Larry Hushour, Mayor, Town of Mount Airy

FROM: Frederick County Police Accountability Board

DATE: December 29, 2022

RE: 2022 Annual Report

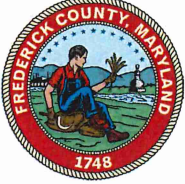
Pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, Public Safety Article, Title 3, Subtitle 1. *Police Accountability and Discipline*, as well as Chapter 1-2, Article XVIII of the Frederick County Code, the Frederick County Police Accountability Board (“Board”) is required to submit a report annually on or before December 31st to the Frederick County Executive and the County Council, as well as to each municipality located within Frederick County that maintains a police agency. Within that report, the Board has a duty to identify any trends in the disciplinary process of police officers in the county, and to make recommendations on changes to policy, training, or supervision that would improve police accountability in the county.

For your education and clarification, please see the attached flow chart, which should help illustrate the process, as well as the roles fulfilled by both the Board and the Administrative Charging Committee (“Committee”).

As you know, the legislation establishing the Board went into effect on July 1, 2022. This inaugural Board was appointed by the County Executive and affirmed by the County Council on July 5, 2022. We held our first meeting on August 24, 2022, and we have met monthly since. Our meetings to date have consisted primarily of taking steps to establish our rules of procedure, interviewing and selecting our two appointments to the Committee and receiving presentations from the law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction in Frederick County.

Members of the Committee (along with County staff and two members of the Board) attended the State-mandated training provided by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission during the week of December 12th through the 16th. This training will now enable the Committee to begin its statutory duty of reviewing investigations and making determinations and recommendations as to whether (and how) to administratively charge and discipline an accused law enforcement officer.

As of the date of submission of this report, the Board has received 11 complaints from members of the public. Six of those complaints met the threshold criteria for forwarding to the




Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

Dawn Oram, Chair
Sarah Ambrosio, Executive Administrator
Jennifer M. Keefer, Assistant County Attorney

appropriate law enforcement agency for investigation.¹ Once completed, those investigations will then be provided to the Committee for review and recommendation. We have not yet received the outcome of any disciplinary matters considered by the Committee, and so we are not yet prepared to identify any trends or make recommendations on changes to policy, training, or supervision at this time, but we look forward to fulfilling those duties over the next year. While we expect future annual reports to be vastly different from this one, please accept this document as the first annual report prepared by the Board.

DocuSigned by:

BE3181EBE7F641C...

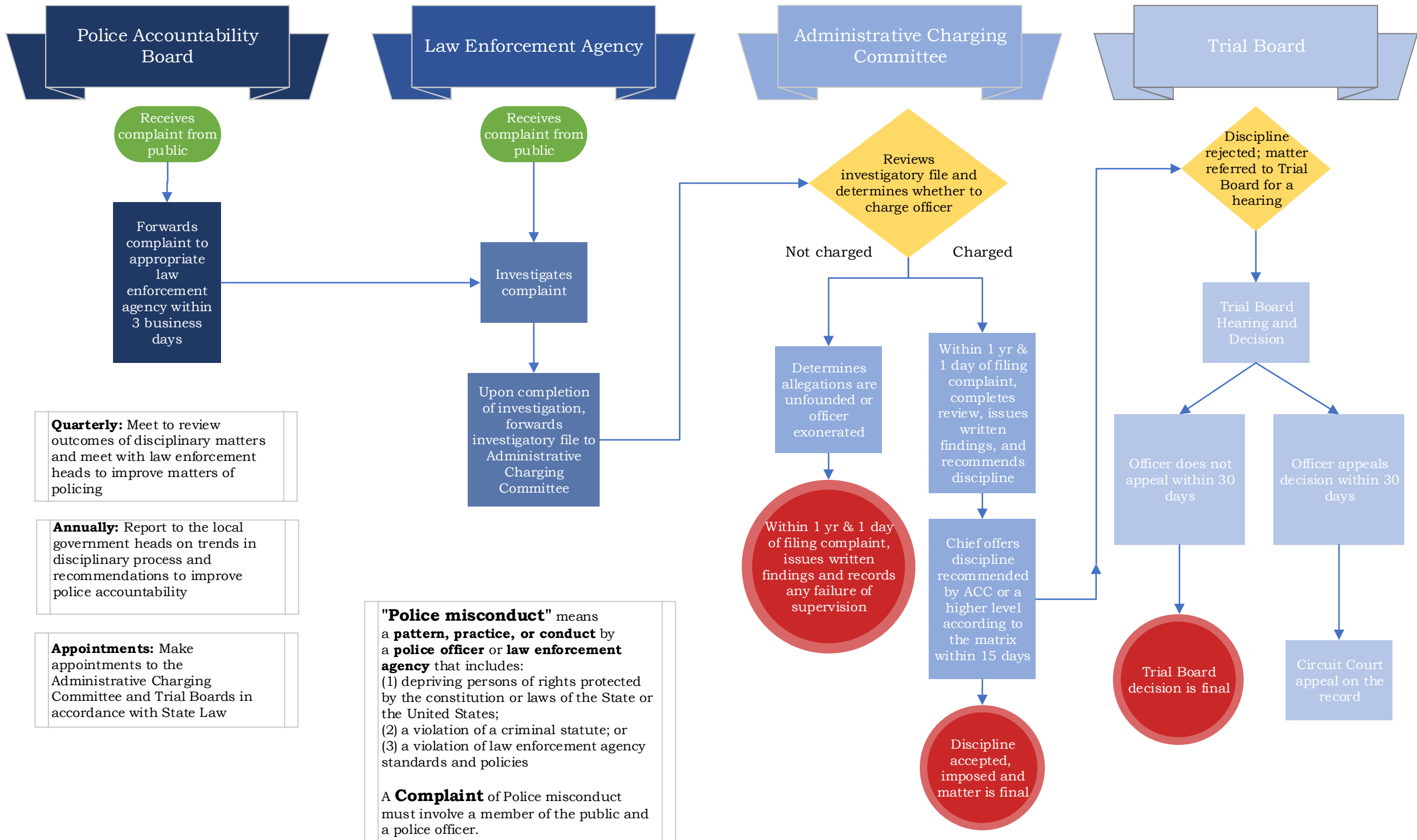
Dawn Oram, Police Accountability Board Chair

Sarah Ambrosio

[Sarah Ambrosio \(Dec 27, 2022 07:23 EST\)](#)

ATTEST: Sarah Ambrosio, Executive Administrator

¹ Two of the six complaints will be handled by the City of Frederick Police Department (“FPD”) under the process established through their collective bargaining agreement (“Agreement”). Complaints against FPD officers will not be handled by this Board and Committee until the expiration of the FPD Agreement in June of 2024.



Quarterly: Meet to review outcomes of disciplinary matters and meet with law enforcement heads to improve matters of policing

Annually: Report to the local government heads on trends in disciplinary process and recommendations to improve police accountability

Appointments: Make appointments to the Administrative Charging Committee and Trial Boards in accordance with State Law

"Police misconduct" means a **pattern, practice, or conduct** by a **police officer** or **law enforcement agency** that includes:
 (1) depriving persons of rights protected by the constitution or laws of the State or the United States;
 (2) a violation of a criminal statute; or
 (3) a violation of law enforcement agency standards and policies

A **Complaint** of Police misconduct must involve a member of the public and a police officer.