



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of Police Accountability and Transparency
Stephanie Everett, Executive Director

Internal Affairs Oversight Panel (IAOP) Public Meeting

Minutes

Thursday, October 20, 2022 | Scheduled for 11:00 a.m.

In-Person Meeting | 2201 Washington Street, Suite 102, Roxbury, MA 02119

Call to order at 11:03 a.m.

Internal Affairs Oversight Panel (IAOP) Members Present: Chair Leslie Harris; Allison Cartwright; Christina Miller; Julien Mundele.

Internal Affairs Oversight Panel (IAOP) Members Absent: Jassie Senwah.

Introduction

Chair Leslie Harris opened the meeting by welcoming members of the public and the IAOP members present; the Chair established that quorum was present. Chair Leslie Harris reminded the public that public comment would not be heard during this meeting and that any comments could be sent to opatboards@boston.gov.

Review & Approval of 8/17/2022 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented by a unanimous vote of the IAOP. No corrections were made.

OPAT Executive Director's Report

Chair Harris introduced OPAT Executive Director, Stephanie Everett, to provide a report on OPAT's work to date.

Director Everett reported to the IAOP on OPAT's progress in selecting a consultant to evaluate the hiring, retention, and promotion of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) employees of the Boston Police Department (BPD). OPAT received the funding for this consultant and sent out a Request for Proposal to eighteen (18) vendors on the City of Boston's supplier diversity list. Of these eighteen (18) vendors, two (2) responded with their proposals and presented these proposals to OPAT. OPAT intends to make a decision within 1-2 weeks and aims for the BIPOC consultant to begin their work in November 2022.



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Director Everett noted that OPAT has met with affinity group members within BPD and is working with BPD and the City of Boston's Equity and Inclusion Cabinet to complete these goals.

OPAT will host three (3) listening sessions during November and December 2022. These sessions are intended to provide the public with more information about OPAT and its work, as well as an introduction to BPD Commissioner Michael Cox. The first listening session will be held virtually. The second and third sessions will be held in person. The dates of the first and second sessions will be provided to the public soon. The third listening session will be held during the OPAT Commission's community meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 6, 2022. The OPAT Commission community meeting will run from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and will take place at the Adams Street Branch of the Boston Public Library.

Applications for the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) opened to the public on Thursday, October 20, 2022. With assistance from OPAT's YEE youth workers, the YAC now has a mission statement that will guide its development. Director Everett read the YAC mission statement to the IAOP. The YAC will hold its first meeting during the 2022 winter holiday break and will operate in addition to OPAT's year-long internship program for college and high school students.

Director Everett introduced the newest OPAT staff member: Diana Vergara, Investigator.

Director Everett noted that OPAT is actively hiring for a Community Mediator. Chair Harris asked if young adults aged 18-25 would also have an advisory voice within OPAT. Director Everett responded that if she could, all voices between the ages of 12-25 would be a part of YAC. However, she understood the complexity of having such a large group and the need to serve the 18-25 year old population. Given the importance of having quality over quantity, for now OPAT cannot accommodate a second advisory group but hopes that as YAC members age out that they move onto other boards to continue the work. Director Everett also noted that one (1) member of the Mayor's Youth Council will always serve on YAC and will help prevent overlap between the Mayor's Council and YAC's work.



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There were no further questions from the IAOP members present.

Other Business

No additional business was presented.

Case Disposition

The officer named by the complainant in Case #16 invoked their right to have the IAOP conduct their case review, discussion, and voting in the public meeting. The IAOP received and reviewed the OPAT-prepared case summary for Case #16. The Panel voted 4-0 (4 in the affirmative) to Agree with the IAD findings in this case.

Executive Session & Adjournment

Panelist Christina Miller motioned to go into Executive Session, pursuant to Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c.30A, §§ 21, to discuss complaint appeals brought against and/or by Boston Police Officers in the matter of Cases #37, 39, and 74. The motion was seconded by Panelist Allison Cartwright. The motion was unanimously agreed upon by the Panel. The Panel conducted a second vote and unanimously agreed to close the public meeting.

The executive session began and the public meeting closed at 11:40 a.m.

Approved on January 19, 2023

Benjamin Tillman, Administrative Assistant