

**COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION**

**Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Sharp Park Golf Course Clubhouse**

**2800 Fourth St.**

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A. Chair Hammontree called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL** – Current membership is at 5 (Full Board). Three commissioners are needed for quorum.

A. Present: Christy Davis, David Hammontree (Chair), Vittoria Jimerson (Vice Chair), Thaddaus Williams.

B. Excused: Salena Taylor, Shalanda Hunt (City Council Liaison, Ward 5).

C. Staff: Chief Christopher Simpson, Jackson Police Department.

D. Guests: Councilmember Will Forgrave (Ward 6), attending informally.

**3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

A. Motion by Davis to adopt the agenda; supported by Jimerson. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. CITIZEN COMMENTS**  
(3-Minute Limit)

A. Citizen Comment Guidelines: Individuals will state their name and have three (3) minutes to address the Commission. Persons may only address the Commission once under this public comment opportunity and may not yield their time to others. Commissioners will not debate or answer questions at this time.

B. Two citizens addressed the Commission. The key concerns were:

- i. Lack of publicly available police policies and procedures, specifically use of force.
- ii. Interest in the city's civilian oversight process.
- iii. Questions about transparency and whether complaint reviews should occur behind closed doors.
  - 1. Commissioners invited citizens to stay afterward for informal discussion.

## **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Approval of January 8, 2026 Minutes
  - i. Motion by Williams; supported by Davis. Approved unanimously.
- B. Approval of 2025 CPOC Report to Council
  - i. Motion by Jimerson; supported by Williams. Approved unanimously.
    - 1. Chair Hammontree will send the report to City Council.

## **6. CHIEF'S REPORT**

- A. Incidents
  - i. Homicide on Michigan Ave. / On Street. Open murder warrant issued; suspect not yet in custody. Multiple teams are actively searching.
  - ii. Armed robbery involving juveniles (late 2025 incident). Four suspects arrested; prosecutors seeking adult charges.

Prior juvenile homicide referenced; a 13 year old suspect remains in custody.
- B. JPD Updates
  - i. Staffing:
    - 1. 3 new officers hired.
    - 2. 1 officer did not complete FTO.
    - 3. 1 current academy recruit.
    - 4. Planning to send 5–7 recruits to the August academy in anticipation of retirements (1 lieutenant, 2 sergeants, 2 detectives, 1 officer).
  - ii. Crime Statistics (2025):

1. Shootings down 18%.
2. Part I and II crimes down, overall crime down 14%.
3. JPD responded to 33,000 calls for service.

iii. Budget:

1. Department anticipates adjustments, including impacts from upcoming retirements.

C. Community Outreach

i. Citizens Police Academy

1. April 15 – June 3, Wednesdays, 6–8 p.m.
2. Commissioners encouraged to attend.

ii. Police Reserve Academy:

1. Currently underway.
2. 12 trainees total across area agencies.
3. JPD currently holds 19 active reserves.

iii. Use of Force Training for Commissioners:

1. Chief will offer targeted small group sessions to accommodate schedules.

iv. Explorers Program:

1. Newly authorized for ages 13–20, pending final budget confirmation.

D. Policy Spotlight

**7. COMMISSION UPDATES**

A. Outreach

i. Traveling City Ward meetings in 2026:

1. May 14 – Ward 5 – Carnegie Branch JDL (244 W. Michigan Ave.)
2. July 9 – Ward 4 – Calvary United Methodist (925 Backus St.)

3. Sept 10 – Wards 2 & 3 – Boos Recreation Center (210 Gilbert St.)
  4. Nov 12 – Ward 1 – King Center (1107 Adrian St.)
    - a. Commission emphasized intention to engage residents directly in their wards.
    - ii. Davis & Jimerson will lead the Community Outreach committee. Looking at an information table initiative at community events.
      1. Will coordinate with City Hall Communications for printed meeting schedules.
- B. Board of Development Activities.
- i. The Commission will use “gap months” to engage in:
    1. Policy briefings.
    2. Use of force scenario training.
    3. Complaint review committee work.
- C. Complaint Review Committee
- i. The February review session was canceled due to a citywide internet outage.
  - ii. Next Scheduled Session:
    1. April 9, 2026, at JPD Headquarters. Participants: Thaddeus Williams and Christy Davis. Backup: Hammontree.
  - iii. Caseload: 11 complaints pending review.
  - iv. Regarding the CRC, commissioners discussed:
    1. Their advisory role.
    2. The fact that JPD completes investigations before CPOC review.
    3. How reviews educate the Commission on policy (e.g., search and stop procedures).
    4. Possibility of future ordinance revisions for earlier involvement.

## **8. UNFINISHED ITEMS**

- A. Ordinance Review – Sec. 21 102.

- i. Hammontree read the ordinance preamble, highlighting:
  - 1. Focus on trust building.
  - 2. Addressing racial disparities.
  - 3. Transparency.
  - 4. Community oriented policing.
- ii. Discussion covered:
  - 1. Structure of oversight in comparable cities (Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Lansing).
  - 2. Michigan's restrictive transparency laws.
  - 3. Relationship to the citywide Racial Equity Audit (Phase 2 pending additional town hall participation).

## **9. OPEN DISCUSSION (NEW ITEMS/CONCERNS)**

- A. A lengthy, constructive discussion centered on youth violence, trauma, social support needs, and gaps in youth programming.
- B. Key Issues Raised:
  - i. Youth disconnectedness, lack of supervision, trauma histories.
  - ii. Declining enrollment at High School.
  - iii. Limited after school options; transportation barriers.
  - iv. Impact of social media on youth behavior.
  - v. Need for community wide coordination across schools, nonprofits, police, and families.
  - vi. Housing stability issues affecting families and youth.
    - 1. Commissioners, guests, and Chief Simpson emphasized collaborative solutions.

## **10. CITY COUNCILMEMBER LIAISON COMMENTS**

- A. Although Liaison Hunt was absent, Councilmember Forgrave offered reflections on:
  - i. The value of multi sector collaboration.
  - ii. Willingness to discuss follow up issues individually.

## **11. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

- A. No individual closing comments, but commissioners reiterated:
- B. Interest in improving transparency around complaint review and policy awareness
- C. Desire to explore ordinance amendments that limit stops for minor infractions
- D. Support for expanding youth academy models
- E. Emphasis on community facing outreach and presence at events

## **12. CHIEF COMMENTS**

- A. Chief Simpson clarified and reiterated:
  - i. Only limited policy sections are posted online due to tactical and safety concerns.
  - ii. Full policies may be accessed through FOIA.
  - iii. Complaints can be submitted by phone, online, mail, directly to JPD, to Councilmembers, HR, or the Mayor's Office.
  - iv. All complaints must be investigated under departmental order.
  - v. Body cameras must remain on, and failures trigger policy consequences.
  - vi. Criminal allegations are investigated by outside agencies.
  - vii. JPD welcomes continued partnership with CPOC and community organizations.
  - viii. Confirmed commissioners should have received invitations to the May 22<sup>nd</sup> Police Banquet and will resend if needed.

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

- A. Chair Hammontree adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.
- B. Informal discussion with the public continued after adjournment.

## **2026 MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS**

### **May 14 – Ward 5**

Jackson District Library Carnegie Branch – 244 W. Michigan St.

**July 9 – Ward 4**

Calvary United Methodist Church – 925 Backus St.

**September 10 – Wards 2 & 3**

Boos Recreation Center – 210 Gilbert St.

**November 12 – Ward 1**

Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center – 1107 Adrian St.