

**COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION**

**Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Jackson District Library – Carnegie Branch**

**244 W. Michigan Avenue**

**AGENDA**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Chair Hammontree called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. and welcomed commissioners, staff, and members of the public.

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

- A. Commissioners Present:
  - i. Christy May Davis, David Hammontree (Chair), Vittoria Jimerson (Vice Chair), Salena Taylor, Thaddeus Williams. Full Board, Quorum Established.
  - ii. City Council Liaison Present: Shalanda Hunt (Ward 5).
  - iii. Staff Present: Chief Christopher Simpson.

**3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

- A. Motion to adopt the agenda made by Commissioner Williams, supported by Commissioner Davis. 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. No citizen comments.

## **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Approval of March 12, 2026 Minutes
  - i. Chair Hammontree noted that minutes had been distributed in advance.
  - ii. Motion to approve by Commissioner Williams; supported by Commissioner Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

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

- A. Incidents
  - i. A recent shooting involving 4 individuals were reported; all victims survived.
  - ii. Investigation remains ongoing with assistance from ATF and JNET.
- B. Personnel and Staffing
  - i. Current staffing stands at 50 officers out of an authorized 52.
  - ii. Upcoming retirements (approximately 6 positions) are anticipated within several months.
  - iii. Promotions are being prepared to maintain operational continuity.
  - iv. Cadet miller graduate and will begin service following leave; one recruit is currently in the academy.
- C. Community Outreach
  - i. Recruitment efforts included multiple job fairs and community outreach events
  - ii. Plans to send additional recruits to the academy in August.
  - iii. Citizens Police Academy cancelled due to low enrollment.
- D. Community Programs
  - i. Reserve academy is ongoing.
  - ii. Officer Stallworth received recognition for school-based service.
- E. Budget Updates
  - i. Approximately \$1.4 million in reductions impacted capital projects and contracts.
  - ii. Personnel levels were maintained.

- iii. Grant funding opportunities are being pursued.

## **7. COMMISSION UPDATES**

### **A. Outreach Committee**

- i. Three outreach events completed, including a community resource event and public health panel.
- ii. Upcoming Youth Employment Fair planned.

### **B. Board of Development Activities**

- i. Use of Force training scheduled for June, including policy review, demonstrations, and simulation.

### **C. Complaint Review Committee**

- i. April 16 meeting reviewed 5 of 11 complaints.
- ii. Complaints largely resulted in exonerated or unfounded findings.
- iii. Committee members reported increase understanding of procedures and policies.

## **8. UNFINISHED ITEMS**

### **A. Ordinance Review**

- i. The Commission reviewed Section 21-102 outlining its purpose Discussion reinforced the Commission's role in oversight, community engagement, and policy recommendation.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. City of Jackson, Michigan, Racial Equity Audit (Phase 1): Initial Findings and Recommendations Memo.**

- i. Discussion focused on Phase 1 findings.
- ii. Identified lack of demographic data collection in traffic stops.
- iii. Chief indicated interest in improved data systems pending funding availability.

## **10. OPEN DISCUSSION (CONCERNS)**

### **A. Public Safety and Crime Trends**

- i. Discussion acknowledged recent violent incidents and seasonal trends.

- ii. Chief Simpson noted that crime typically<sup>7</sup> increases during warmer months.
- B. Homelessness and Community Impact
  - i. Commissioners discussed increased visibility of homelessness downtown.
  - ii. Concern included aggressive panhandling and safety perceptions.
  - iii. Chief emphasized that homelessness requires a multi-system response beyond law enforcement.
- C. Mental Health and Crisis Response
  - i. Mental health identified as a key underlying factor in many incidents.
  - ii. Ongoing partnership with a Lifeways mental health professional was highlighted as effective.
- D. Youth Engagement and Prevention
  - i. Commissioners emphasized the value of youth programming and positive police interaction.
  - ii. School resource officers and youth outreach initiatives were discussed as impactful.
- E. Staffing and Resource Constraints
  - i. Department staffing remains below optimal levels.
- F. Transparency and Complaint Oversight
  - i. Complaint review process continues to support transparency and community trust.
  - ii. Commissioners discussed opportunities for improved access to complaint information.
- G. Data and Policy Development
  - i. Need for improved data collection and tracking systems was emphasized.
  - ii. Equity and accountability considerations remain ongoing priorities.

**11. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Following approval (Motion by Jimerson, Support by Williams. Motion passed unanimously) of a second public comment period, multiple

residents addressed the Commission.

A. Safety Concerns

- i. Residents expressed concerns about feeling unsafe downtown.
- ii. Incidents included aggressive encounters, property damage, and visible disorder.

B. Homelessness and Community Conditions

- i. Increased homelessness and unfamiliar individuals were reported.
- ii. Some residents described aggressive behavior and discomfort in public spaces.
- iii. Others emphasized compassion and the need to avoid generalizing all homeless individuals.

C. Mental Health Needs

- i. Speakers identified mental health challenges as a major contributing factor.
- ii. Requests were made for more accessible services and community education.

D. Community-Based Solutions

- i. Residents proposed nonprofit programming, youth activities, and prevention initiatives.
- ii. Interest expressed in collaboration across organizations and sectors.

E. Observations of Criminal Activity

- i. Commissioners acknowledged observations and encourage reporting concerns through appropriate channels.

F. Requests for Collaboration

- i. Multiple speakers called for broader, coordinated community response involving city government, nonprofits, and residents.

## **12. CITY COUNCILMEMBER LIAISON COMMENTS**

- A. Councilmember Hunt thanked attendees and encouraged continued public participation and engagement with the Commission.

### **13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

- A. Commissioners reflected on:
  - i. Importance of public participation.
  - ii. Complexity of homelessness and housing availability.
  - iii. Need for collaborative, community-wide solutions.
  - iv. Value of outreach and dialogue.

### **14. CHIEF COMMENTS**

- A. Chief Simpson emphasized:
  - i. Continued commitment to community relationships.
  - ii. Importance of communication and trust.
  - iii. Openness to feedback and collaboration.

### **15. ADJOURNMENT**

- A. Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Williams. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:25 p.m.

### **2026 MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS**

#### **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.