



COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 13, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to order by Chair Hammontree at 6:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

- A. Commissioners Present: David Hammontree (Chair), Thaddeus Williams (Vice Chair), Shalanda Hunt, Vittoria Jimerson
- B. Excused: Salena Taylor
- C. City Councilmember Liaison: Christy May Davis (5th Ward)
- D. Staff Present: Christopher Simpson (Chief of Police)

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Hunt, supported by Williams. Motion passes 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. Board members will not debate or answer questions at this time.
- B. No citizen comments.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of January 9, 2025 Minutes

Motion to approve by Jimerson, supported by Williams. Motion passes unanimously.

6. REGULAR ITEMS

A. Incidents

Chief Simpson provided updates on recent incidents. He also committed to providing a more detailed briefing to the Commission at the May 8th meeting.

B. JPD Updates

The following items were discussed: new police academy recruits, new transfers to the Jackson Police Department, and various recruiting methods currently in place to attract and retain qualified personnel.

7. NEW ITEMS

A. Complaint Review Committee from 2/12/2025, Recap

Chair Hammontree and Councilmember Davis shared their impressions of the first Complaint Review Committee meeting. They provided insights into the committee's functioning and initial observations.

Committee Composition and Rotation: The ordinance language specifies that the Complaint Committee is composed of two members of the Commission (Sec. 21-106-h). Commissioner Hammontree recommended a rotation of commissioners for this Committee throughout the year, based on availability. He plans to make a motion regarding this rotation at the May meeting if required.

B. Goal Setting for 2025

ii Review of Oversight Basics with Specific Attention to a Review-Focused Model

The committee reviewed the basics of oversight with a specific focus on a review-focused model. The goal is to achieve a more focused and effective approach to oversight activities.

Priority topics for 2025 were identified, informed by the Department's strategic goals and areas of greatest community concern. Topics of discussion included: traffic stops, sex trafficking awareness resources, overall communication and outreach strategies, and data gathering.

iii Informational Committee:

A motion was made by Chair Hammontree to create an Informational Committee was made to explore the gathering and dissemination of statistical information related to priority topics. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Committee Members: Commissioner Hammontree nominated Commissioners Hunt and Jimerson to comprise the Informational Committee for 2025. This nomination was supported by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously.

Committee Responsibilities: The Informational Committee will coordinate with Chief Simpson to request and gather the desired information. They will report progress during each CPOC meeting to ensure transparency and continuous improvement.

iv Questions for the Chief:

Rehabilitative Services and Requirements: The impact of rehabilitative services and requirements on drug-related and violent crime was discussed. The conversation highlighted the importance of effective rehabilitation programs in reducing crime rates.

Violent Crime in Jackson: Questions were raised about the Group Violence Initiative (GVI), federal crime statistics, and current gang-related indictments in Jackson. The discussion focused on understanding the scope and nature of violent crime in the city.

Parolee Retraining and Services: The availability of services for parolee retraining was discussed, including GVI services and programs offered by Nation Outside. The importance of providing support and resources for parolees to reintegrate into society was emphasized.

JPD Continuing Training and Learning Issues: The ongoing training and learning initiatives within the Jackson Police Department (JPD) were reviewed. Topics included the use of MCOLES (Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards) funds and other resources for specialized training to enhance the department's capabilities.

City/County Citizens Police Academy: Inquiries were made about the upcoming City/County Citizens Police Academy. The discussion covered the goals, structure, and benefits of the academy for community engagement and public safety education.

8. UNFINISHED ITEMS

A. CPOC and Community Outreach Events

The role of the CPOC and the planning of community outreach events were discussed. The importance of CPOC's involvement in community engagement and outreach was highlighted.

B. Policies and Procedures

- i Chapter 1 is available on the Department's website which includes overviews of Law Enforcement Authority, Chief Executive Officer, Oath of Office, and an overview of the Policy Manual.
- ii The Complaint Committee has access to specific complaints and the policies related to complaints.

The Chapter 1 policies were reviewed.

Complaint Committee Access: The Complaint Committee's access to specific complaints and related policies was discussed. This ensures that the Committee can effectively address and solve complaints within the framework of established policies.

C. CPOC Relationship with Advocates and Leaders for Police and Community Trust (ALPACT)

ALPACT Overview: Chief Simpson provided a summary of ALPACT and its role at both the state and community levels. He noted that there is a role for CPOC in ALPACT and committed to keeping commissioners updated on the next meeting. Commissioner Hammontree suggested that commissioners could attend these meetings on a rotational basis, depending on their availability. Commissioner Jimerson will contact Chief Simpson regarding the ALPACT meeting in April.

9. CITY COUNCILMEMBER LIAISON COMMENTS

Councilmember Davis highlighted several upcoming issues and expressed a desire for increased community engagement. She suggested collaborating with other City commissions to enhance community involvement.

10. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- A. Commissioner Hunt expressed gratitude for the productive conversation and looked forward to receiving more information.
- B. Commissioner Jimerson appreciated the open dialogue and looked forward to the upcoming year. She voiced concerns about economic challenges and crime rates, emphasizing the importance of the Jackson Police Department's outreach efforts. She cited examples such as the Trunk or Treat events in October as effective community engagement initiatives.
- C. Vice Chair Williams expressed excitement about being present and was pleased to hear about the complaint committee meeting and the rotating participation. He stressed the importance of addressing topical issues, no matter how small they may seem, and advocated for giving complaints the necessary space, time, and energy.

- D. Chair Hammontree welcomed Chief Simpson and new commissioners Hunt and Jimerson. He thanked Vice Chair Williams for his focus on the on-the-ground goals of the commission. He also encouraged Councilmember Davis to keep asking questions and engaging the commission with ideas for outreach.

11. STAFF COMMENTS

Chief Simpson emphasized the importance of attention to detail and encouraged commissioners to do their due diligence in understanding what works well in Jackson. He invited commissioners to bring all their ideas to the meetings, with the shared goal of addressing and resolving problems. He also offered to provide his contact information for any further inquiries or requests for information.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Williams to adjourn at 7:33 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2025.