

FORT LAUDERDALE CITIZENS POLICE REVIEW BOARD MINUTES
Ft. Lauderdale Police Department
City Hall – 8th Floor Conference Room
100 N. Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida
June 11, 2007 - 7:00 P.M.

Board Members	Attendance	1/07 – 12/07	
		P	A
Steven Muffler, Chair	P	5	0
Roosevelt Walters, Vice Chair	P	5	0
Capt. Karen Dietrich	A	3	2
Lt. Mike DiMaggio	A	3	2
Ted Fling	P	5	0
Sgt. Eric Brogna	A	3	2
Linda Shallenberger	P	5	0
Alan Stotsky	P	5	0
George Trodella	P	5	0

Staff and Guests

Sergeant L. Alvarez
Deborah Balshem, Recording Clerk, Prototype, Inc.

A. Roll Call

Chair Muffler called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

B. General Information

The minutes from the previous meeting were not available for review.

Motion made by Vice Chair Walters, seconded by Mr. Stotsky, to carry over the approval of the May 2007 minutes until the next meeting (July). In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The Board then discussed using the new ordinance form. All felt the old form was more complete and contained certain wording (specifically an entire paragraph) that was inadvertently left off the new form. The Board also wanted the wording “all complaints” changed to just “complaints.”

Motion made by Mr. Stotsky, seconded by Vice Chair Walters, to have Chair Muffler craft a new sample version of the form on behalf of the Board and to ask Harry Stewart or another representative of the City Attorney’s Office to attend the next meeting (July) to discuss the new form and see if it is acceptable to all interested parties. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Review the following Internal Affairs investigation:

1. Complainant: Bruce G. Roberts, Chief (I.A. Case #07-025)
Allegations: 1) Conduct prejudicial disruptive to the good order of the Department
2) Engaging in conduct unbecoming a Police Officer/Police Department Employee
Officer: Shane Calvey
Disposition: 1) Sustained
2) Sustained

Ms. Shallenberger asked Sgt. Alvarez if Officer Calvey had any previous discipline. Sgt. Alvarez responded that Officer Calvey had one other official incident in September 2006 regarding a violation for conduct unbecoming a police officer. The incident also involved Officer Calvey's use of alcohol, and a violation was found to have occurred. Officer Calvey received a 40-hour suspension, which was reduced to a 24-hour suspension. Approximately three months later is when this current incident took place.

The current incident involved a fight between Officer Calvey, who was off-duty at the time, and another off-duty officer. Both officers had been at a nearby bar and were driving home together when they stopped on the roadway, got out of the car and proceeded to fight in the street. Although Sgt. Alvarez noted that Officer Calvey did not receive a blood alcohol test, it was apparent to the responding officers that Officer Calvey was very intoxicated.

After an internal investigation, Sgt. Alvarez noted that Officer Calvey voluntarily signed a "last chance agreement," which allowed him to remain on the force as long as he completed an alcohol rehabilitation program.

Ms. Shallenberger noted that Officer Calvey would have been dismissed by the Police Department if he had not "voluntarily" signed the last chance agreement. While she did not condone an alcohol problem if that was the case, she wanted to ensure the incident merited a permanent mark on Officer Calvey's record, since he was a young cop just starting out. She noted that the complaint stated that Officer Calvey, although he had been drinking, was off-duty and was not combative, argumentative, or using profanity. Mr. Shallenberger also pointed out that Officer Calvey wasn't driving, but rather the passenger in the car.

Sgt. Alvarez clarified that there were conflicting statements and there was still a question as to who was driving the car, and that Officer Calvary could have been the driver. Mr. Stotsky added that that alone was worthy of discipline, since they had to assume he was driving and could have killed someone. Both Vice Chair Walters and Mr. Stotsky agreed that Internal Affairs' proposed discipline was more than fair, as it allowed Officer Calvey to both receive help for his alcohol problem and remain on the force.

Mr. Fling mentioned that the complaint stated Officer Calvey believed someone might have drugged his drink, but Sgt. Alvarez responded that there was no evidence to support that claim. Mr. Fling also noted that he believed implementing the recommended discipline would actually benefit Officer Calvey, since addressing his alcohol problem would give him the best chance for not only staying on with the Police Department, but remaining with the Department long term. Mr. Fling added that he knew of several other officers with alcohol problems who attended this rehab program and went on to become stellar police officers.

Sgt. Alvarez agreed, stating that the reason they "forced" Officer Calvey to get help and didn't just dismiss him is because the Police Department believed he was "salvageable" and if he did not attend this rehab program, that another incident was likely.

Motion made by Vice Chair Walters, seconded by Mr. Stotsky, to accept the findings and recommendations of Internal Affairs. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.