

Civilian Oversight Citizen Focus Group

Summary of Proposed Changes as of June 24th 2020

All Police Commissioners Should be chosen by election with vacancies being filled by the next runner up, or by the remaining commissioners. Two elected at large. Seven elected from non-at-large districts. Must not have been DPD officer (Sections 3-105, 3-107, 3-109, 3-111, 7-802 would be amended for this purpose).

Modify, Ethical Standards of Conduct to include Police Commissioners by applying it to all public servants. (ARTICLE 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS. Sec. 2-106.1)

The Chief of Police shall hold no other office. (7-805)

Complaints must be resolved (and the outcome reported to the complainant) within 30 days. (Section 7-808)

Add the phrase “serve” to the description of the duties of the Police Department (Section 7-801).

Set each commissioner’s term to 4 years, not 5. (Section 7-802)

Each commissioner shall have a budget and a dedicated office space (room or cubicle) in which to meet with constituents and securely store documents. The office space shall be equipped with a networked computer. They shall also have a secure monitored meeting room with secured cabinets. Compensation for expenses resulting from meetings would be required. (7-802)

“Unless required by state law, ~~elected~~ members shall not be entitled to salaries, retirement benefits, health benefits or other fringe benefits.” (7-802).

Permit the BOPC to establish policies, rules and regulations without Mayoral consent. (Section 7-803)

Require that commissioners make minutes of all committee meetings and closed sessions available to all other commissioners and that all minutes be made available to the general public. Identifying and personal information may be redacted unless the involved person approves the release of the information. (section 7-803)

Have qualified citizens shadow the commissioners for one year. (Section 7-804)

Add a third staff category: Member Staff. Each board member shall have a part-time staff member to help the member address constituent concerns, and assist the member in the performance of his or her duties. (Section 7-804)

Have the Board of Police Commissioners choose the Police Chief. (Section 7-805)

Require a shorter reporting time by the Chief Investigator, or have the Chief Investigator report the need for time-sensitive subpoena at the next board meeting. *This is essential since videos are often deleted after a short cycle of time.* (Section 7-808)

Add to Section 7-807 Discipline: “Police may only engage in the following actions for protection of themselves or the public, under circumstances identical to those under which any civilian would also be permitted to do so, with the same burden of proof requirements: Holds or means of restraint that impair respiration including choke holds, sustained chest compression, or compressing blood vessels in a manner that prevents oxygen from reaching the brain. Punching with a closed fist in a manner that is likely to cause injury. Violation of this policy will be grounds for dismissal and the Detroit Police Department will advise the courts to treat the officer involved with the same due process and standards as would be applied to a civilian acting in a similar manner.

All police shootings, and any allegation of police use of force (beyond the existence of an arrest), shall be investigated by the Board of Police Commissioners. (7-803 & 7-808).

All city-possessed video and body-cam video shall be made accessible to the Board of Police Commissioners by the subsequent meeting (within 5 business days). Unedited copies of all video of police interactions shall be provided to the Board, simultaneous to receipt by the Detroit Police Department. These videos shall be catalogued and stored in a secure location only available to the Board. (Section 7-808)

Require police officers to live in Detroit as a condition of employment. (Section 7-812)

Add to Article 7, Chapter 8 of the charter as section 7-819: "All contracts entered into by the Detroit Police Department must have the clause, 'Nothing here-in shall be construed to permit violations of the Detroit City Charter, and any language here-in that violates the Detroit City Charter shall be void.' Any contracts between the Detroit Police Department and contractors, labor unions, or other parties, that omits this clause, shall be void."