



**CITIZENS POLICE REVIEW BOARD MEETING  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
CITY HALL 8<sup>th</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301  
Monday, August 13, 2018 - 6:00 P.M.**

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**1/2018 – 12/2018  
Cumulative Attendance**

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>A</b>
Christina Currie, Chair	P	5	0
Kevin Borwick, Vice Chair	P	3	2
Sgt. Collis Atkinson	A	2	3
Capt. Lynette Falzone [6:04]	P	3	2
Skeet Jernigan	P	4	1
Carol Ortman	P	3	1
Lt. Cecil Stone	P	4	1
Maxine Streeter	A	1	2
James Teague	A	4	1

**Staff**

Sgt. Luan Malushi  
Sgt. Tarek Bazzi, Internal Affairs, Fort Lauderdale Police Department  
Christa Cole, Administrative Aide and Board Liaison  
Sgt. Wilgienson Auguste, Youth Services Sergeant, Fort Lauderdale Police Department  
Brad Weissman, Senior Assistant City Attorney  
Jamie Opperlee, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

**A. Roll Call**

Chair Currie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and roll was called. It was noted that a quorum was present.

**B. Approve Minutes from July 8, 2018**

**Motion** made by Ms. Ortman, seconded by Lt. Stone, to approve the meeting minutes of July 8, 2018, with the following correction:

- Minutes approved were for the June 11 meeting, not May 14.

In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

## **C. New Business**

### **1. Youth Services Sergeant**

Sgt. Auguste spoke as Youth Services Sergeant, inviting the new Board members to the Community Police Forum. The program is a prerequisite to serving on the Board. He gave the Board members the application and shared that the program runs October 11 through November 8, meeting each Thursday, and includes a library of police-related topics.

Capt. Falzone pointed out the Community Police Forum has not run for two years due to low registration numbers. She suggested the Board encourage participation, as it is very helpful and educational. The minimum age is 18, and participants must reside within the City.

Sgt. Auguste explained he has been given the opportunity to revamp and rebrand the School Resource Officer (SRO) program within the department, making it more comprehensive, and will involve the juvenile citation program, youth intervention to identify key students who are struggling and need one-on-one mentorship with the police, bring back the Police Athletic League and Police Explorers, as well as more ways to bridge the gap between the police and the kids.

Chair Currie and other Board members expressed an interest in providing community support to the program.

Mr. Jernigan asked if this program is part of the mandate by the governor to add SRO programs throughout Broward County. Sgt. Auguste said a program was already in place, but in light of new things that have happened, the decision was made to revamp the program and really look at how police are interacting with students. There is a plan to integrate at all levels, including elementary, middle, and high schools.

Lieutenant Stone said the School Boards have taken on the challenge from the Governor to put officers in every school, through the Guardian program. The SRO program is separate. Sgt. Auguste said he has been tasked with meetings and training throughout not only Fort Lauderdale, but the County, and best practices will be shared across the program.

## **D. General Information**

### **1. Email auto-forwards**

Chair Currie asked if Board members are utilizing the City email addresses and explained that the auto-forward is simple. She offered to walk anyone having difficulty through the procedure. The auto forward allows the email to be received in the users personal inbox. The member would still need to log into the City email to reply if needed.

## **2. Communication from community member**

Chair Currie asked if Board Members had received the email from Michele Poling dated July 10. She asked the process when an email comes in, other than forwarding it to the Board. Sgt. Bazzi said the sender is contacted by Internal Affairs to gather any additional information on the complaint.

## **3. Board attendance**

Chair Currie reminded members the Board is set to have meetings the second Monday of every month. She asked that everyone put the next meeting, September 10, into their schedules at this time.

Ms. Cole explained attendance is important because three consecutive or four total absences in one year means the member may be removed from the Board.

## **4. Body cams**

Chair Currie asked for an update on the body cams. Sgt, Bazzi said the Department is still in the bidding process. Most likely an update will be available at the next meeting.

## **E. Review Internal Affairs Investigations**

### **1. IA Case 18-023**

Complainant:	Chief Rick Maglione (IA Case 18-023)
Allegation:	1) Unauthorized access, use, dissemination, sharing or copying of information from law enforcement databases or websites not related to legitimate business purposes.
Officer:	Steven Gelu
Disposition:	1) Sustained

**Motion** made by Lt. Stone, seconded by Ms. Ortman, to concur with the disposition of sustained of IA Case 18-023 regarding Officer Steven Gelu.

Sgt. Malushi explained the audit process. The offense was found by random audit of log-ins to the Driver and Vehicle Information Database (DAVID). Someone from the Department of Safety and Motor Vehicles comes down every two years, and a number of officers are randomly selected. This particular audit included ten (10) people who have access to the database.

Mr. Jernigan said if ten (10) were selected and one was randomly stumbled upon, he wondered if ten was sufficient. In the years he has been on the Board, he has seen

several, and he is concerned it is more of a widespread issue. Sgt. Malushi explained the Department follows the criteria recommended by the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety.

Capt. Falzone said DAVID has been revised, with criteria added for access, such as a case number. Sgt. Malushi expanded, explaining that each query requires reasons to be given, and with each page of information, there are additional reasons needed.

The Board discussed whether the additional criteria was adequate as a deterrent to abuse and talked about following up on abuse charges when they are found.

Sgt. Malushi explained at the time of the previous offense, Officer Gelu received a written reprimand, so this time there was progressive discipline, with a three (3) day suspension. Also, a letter must be sent to Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and there may be additional discipline to come from that process.

The Board discussed whether the punishment reflected the fact that the officer violated policy two different times. Sgt. Malushi explained the officer was punished progressively.

Chair Currie asked if this officer had any violations of this policy, other than the 2015 charge the Board saw. Sgt. Malushi said not that he was aware of. Chair Currie went on to ask if the Department checks up on people who have violations which show a propensity to abuse data. Sgt. Malushi said the Department has more than 500 employees. Because this officer has a pattern, he is being more looked at by supervisors, though it is difficult to see what is being done in the system without an audit. Ms. Cole noted DAVID is not the Department's system, it belongs to the State.

The Board discussed the viability of auditing the entire Department, and of continual monitoring of known offenders. They also discussed whether previous charges should be a part of the record for this case. Sgt. Malushi said the Florida Department of Law Enforcement may revoke his certification over this offense, making the discussion a moot point.

In a voice vote, the **motion** passed (6-0).

## **2. Discipline regarding IA Case 18-023**

**Motion** made by Mr. Jernigan, seconded by Chair Currie, to disagree with discipline in IA Case 18-023 regarding Officer Stevens Gelu and recommend that it is not enough.

Chair Currie surrendered her chair to the Vice Chair for the purpose of the discussion and vote.

The Board discussed whether a previous violation should be a factor in discipline and the reason behind there being one charge for two offense dates.

Ms. Cole explained the last time this officer was in violation, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement policy hadn't changed so he received another letter of reprimand. This time the Officer committed these violations after the policy changed, which is why the punishment went from a letter to three (3) days suspension.

In a roll call vote, the **motion** failed (2-4). Chair Currie and Mr. Jernigan voted in favor of the motion. Vice Chair Borwick, Capt. Falzone, Ms. Ortman, and Lt. Stone voted no.

### **3. Recommendation for alternative discipline regarding IA Case 18-023**

**Motion** made by Chair Currie, seconded by Mr. Jernigan, to have Officer Steven Gelu's DAVID use monitored by the Department for six (6) months.

The Board discussed whether the requested monitoring was possible. Sgt. Malushi said it would be up to the Department of Motor Vehicles. Mr. Weissman said unless things have changed, he believed the mechanism was in place to do so.

In a voice vote, the **motion** passed (6-0).

With no further discussion, Chair Currie entertained a motion by Vice Chair Borwick to adjourn at 6:57 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by C. Parkinson, Prototype, Inc.]