

June 9, 2020

AN OPEN LETTER TO TUCSON'S MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

The Tucson Community Police Advisory Review Board's oversight is ineffective due to the following reasons:

1. A real or self-imposed scope restriction.
2. A lack of training.
3. Failure to use committees.

This letter will address each of the preceding reasons in more detail, and then address CPARB's voting record.

CPARB's REAL OR SELF-IMPOSED SCOPE RESTRICTION

CPARB members and TPD's representative to CPARB believe that reviews are limited to citizen's complaints investigated by TPD's Office of Professional Standards. Therefore CPARB does not review incidents which create community concern or controversy.

Incidents which create community concern or controversy are referred to as "sentinel events" which are reviewed by boards established by TPD. Examples of sentinel events include police shootings, police pursuits with serious injury or death and controversial events or activities that cause potential loss of public confidence in the police, according to the city's website.

City of Tucson's Code Sec. 10A-88(d) could be interpreted to allow for CPARB's review of sentinel events. The code states "Request from the city police department a review of completed action taken by the department on a citizen complaint *or a review of incidents which create community concern or controversy.*"

Please make it clear that CPARB can review sentinel events and change the city's code if appropriate. Also, please encourage CPARB members to review outlandish sentinel events.

LACK OF TRAINING

Members of CPARB are "required to pursue forty-eight (48) hours of educational opportunities annually." However, CPARB members have routinely failed to complete their educational requirements.

Please encourage CPARB members to complete activities that would help them recognize substandard investigations and to serve on committees. Work on board committees is allowed to count towards their educational opportunities, per Sec. 10A-94(b)(3).

FAILURE TO USE COMMITTEES

CPARB very rarely forms committees. With one exception, the formation of committees is not required, but the use of committees can help CPARB accomplish their duties outlined in Sec. 10A-89.

One committee, "the board's training committee" is mentioned in Sec. 10A-94(a). However, CPARB has not had a training committee for a long time.

Please encourage CPARB members to form committees to fulfill their duties and to meet their educational requirements.

CPARB's VOTING RECORD

CPARB finds every case they review to be fair and thorough, except when Derrick Goodrich was chairperson. Goodrich chaired CPARB meetings from April 2016 through May 2017. During that time, CPARB reviewed 44 cases and found three of them (about 7%) not to be fair and thorough.

Since Goodrich's tenure, CPARB reviewed 90 cases and found every case to be fair and thorough. Prior to Goodrich's tenure, available records list 133 cases reviewed with each case deemed fair and thorough. In total, 223 cases were reviewed and 100% were found to be fair and thorough.

Please encourage CPARB members to complete educational activities that would help them learn to recognize substandard investigations.

Very truly yours,

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