

Police Accountability Board (Thursday, August 21, 2025)

Generated by LEGAL ACCPAB on Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Members present

Nickolas Cromwell
Michelle Dowleyne
Leslie Everett
John Lydon
Dr Linda Lymas
Charles Shilling
Bruen Kidd
Jenna Aubert

John Sterling Houser, Deputy County Attorney
Gillian Bacon, Legal Assistant, II
Sgt. William Ray, SMCSO Representative

Members Absent

Thomas Phelan

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Call to Order: A. Call to Order

Nickolas Cromwell, Chair, called the August 21, 2025, meeting of the Police Accountability Board to order at 6:30pm Chesapeake Building Meeting Room, Governmental Center.

2. ROLL CALL

Action: A. Approval of Agenda

I move to approve the agenda as submitted.

Motion by Dr Linda Lymas, second by Charles Shilling.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nickolas Cromwell, Leslie Everett, John Lydon, Dr Linda Lymas, Charles Shilling, Bruen Kidd, Jenna Aubert

Not Present at Vote: Michelle Dowleyne

3. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion, Information: A. Maryland Police Accountability Act - Impact Report

The Board reviewed the most recent phase of the Police Executive Research Forum ("PERF") study on the statewide implementation of the Maryland Police Accountability Act ("MPAA"). Among other objectives, PERF sought to determine whether officers are charged with misconduct more frequently, face more severe disciplinary actions, or are more likely to have charges sustained under the MPAA compared to the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights ("LEOBR"). The PERF report noted significant challenges in collecting consistent data, citing variations in record-keeping practices and differing definitions of misconduct and outcomes across jurisdictions.

Discussion: B. 2025 Annual Report

The Board began discussions on the upcoming 2025 Police Accountability Board Annual Report, due to the St. Mary's County Commissioners by December 31st. Discussions included the possibility of requiring complainants to swear to the accuracy of their statement and implementing a "cooling-off period" after a complaint is filed, allowing time to decide whether the individual wishes to proceed with their complaint. SMCSO representative, Sgt. Ray, noted to the Board that once an allegation of police misconduct is submitted, the SMCSO Office of Personnel Management investigation continues regardless of whether the complainant chooses to pursue it or not.

Discussion: C. Review of ACC Dispositions

Nickolas Cromwell, Chairman, provided a brief summary of the dispositions for the following Administrative Charging Committee investigatory files: OPR2024-3469, OPR2024-2844, OPR2024-3365, OPR2024-3637, OPR2024-3939, OPR2024-4426, OPR2024-4425, and OPR2024-3951.

4. ADJOURN

Action: A. Motion to Adjourn

I move to adjourn the August 21, 2025, meeting of the Police Accountability Board.

Motion by Nickolas Cromwell, second by Jenna Aubert.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nickolas Cromwell, Michelle Dowleyne, Leslie Everett, John Lydon, Dr Linda Lymas, Charles Shilling, Bruen Kidd, Jenna Aubert

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.