



December 2020 COB Executive Director's Report

Executive Summary

Teleconference Meetings: The COB will continue to have virtual Board meetings in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order extension that allows for electronic meetings until December 27th. The MNCO has established a dedicated phone line for Community members to leave a public comment for Board meetings. The telephone number is 629-255-1906 and the voice mail prompts will walk them through the process.

MNCO Office: The MNCO office remains closed for December. With an increase of COVID-19 positive cases in the county, we will continue to monitor the safety of having in-person appointments. The MNCO staff primarily telecommute but may occasionally work in the office to conduct specific duties. ED Fitchard and AD Clausi established safety protocols for employees who need to work in the office. The video camera installation is complete and investigative staff will schedule training on the equipment.

MNCO Personnel Update: The MNCO investigator position remains unfilled due to a Metro Government hiring freeze.

MNCO Training: MNCO staff continue to participate in various trainings related to Criminal Justice, Racial & Equal Justice, Diversity & Inclusion, Policing Reform and Social Justice issues.

Complaints/Contacts: MNCO continues to receive calls from the public to initiate complaints of alleged misconduct by MNPD officers as well as calls for other non-related misconduct calls. The MNCO received one investigative complaint and assisted with 1 non-complaint calls since the last Board meeting in October.

Community Outreach: The holiday card campaign continued this year with MNCO Community Liaison, Brensey Thompson, creating specially designed cards. The Nashville General Hospital was selected to be a part of the MNCO's holiday card give away, thanking them for their hard work and dedication to the community during the national Covid-19 Pandemic.

We continue to work on educational outreach endeavors to make the public aware of the services of the MNCO, specifically around how to file complaints, the process, and the difference between administrative and criminal investigations.

MNCO Research: The MNCO Research Analysts are working on the research advisory report initiated by the NAACP. The report will focus on the hiring procedures of the Metro Nashville Police Department.

MNPD In-Custody Death: Thursday, December 3, 2020— The MNCO investigative staff received a Department of Emergency Communication notification at 11:55 PM indicating that a taser deployment and a subject was in custody. At 2:40 AM, Director Fitchard received a call from Deputy Chief Mike Hagar regarding an in-custody death. Director Fitchard was given a brief update and told Captain Jason Starling would call with more details as he is the Field Commander. Captain Starling and Director Fitchard spoke at approximately 2:55 AM, and he briefed her on the pertinent details of the incident.

Director Fitchard contacted Asst. Director Chris Clausi to give an update on the situation. At approximately 3:55 AM, Director Fitchard arrived at the scene of the incident and was briefed by Captain Starling.

The scene was preserved and handled by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigations. Director Fitchard was briefed by Agent Winkler, TBI Agent-in-Charge, at approx. 4:45 AM and then left the area.

At 11:30 AM, Director Fitchard received a call from Capt. Starling, who extended an invitation to view the Body-Worn Camera footage from the incident that occurred in the 800 block of W. Sharpe Avenue in East Nashville where Mr. Larry Boyd was taken into custody and consequently pronounced dead upon his arrival at Nashville General Hospital.

Director Fitchard and Asst. Director Clausi arrived at MNPD HQ's at 1:00 PM and viewed BWC footage from multiple cameras and angles. The case is open and being actively investigated by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigations. Director Fitchard and Asst. Director Clausi will continue to seek updates on the outcome of TBI's investigation through the District Attorney General's office.

MOU Approval: Friday, December 11th—The Executive Committee voted to approve the updated MOU between the COB and MNPD on December 11, 2020. The signed copy was filed with the Metro Clerk's Office on December 14th. Special thanks to Board Member Phyllis Hildreth, who facilitated the negotiation of the final draft, and to all that participated in the negotiation process. The COB Members and MNCO staff, who worked diligently on the MOU, are also recognized for their dedication and hard work.

Year End Observation: The MNCO staff have worked hard and persevered through a natural disaster, pandemic, multiple leadership changes, Board Member roll-off, and numerous challenges within our city. It's been a tremendous year for our Nation and our city, one of great intensity, uncertainty, adversity, and reckoning.

The MNCO is thankful for our Board's leadership. Each Board Member sacrificed to give an enormous amount of time and effort to ensure the COB was successful.

We appreciate the many community members who stood with us in solidarity through this year and who hold us accountable to the mission of the agency. We thank you; we hear you; we see you and, we are here because of you.