

Johns Hopkins University Police Accountability Board
Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Meeting Attendance

Accountability Board members

Noah Patton	Absent
Cynthia Gross	Present
Edward Kangethe	Present
Sonja Merchant Jones	Present
Doris Minor Terrell	Present
Pritika Parmar	Present
Lorraine Dean	Present
Amancio Romero-Sackey	Present
P. Logan Weygandt	Present

Johns Hopkins staff present:

1. Branville G. Bard, Jr
2. LaTicia Douglas
3. Liam Haviv
4. Rianna Matthews-Brown
5. Jennifer Mielke

Meeting Discussion

Opening

A regular meeting of the Johns Hopkins University Police Accountability Board was called to order at 6:03 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, via Zoom. The meeting was broadcast live via toll-free call-in and on the [Accountability Board meetings live-stream webpage](#).

Welcome & Introductions

Branville Bard, Johns Hopkins 'vice president for public safety, welcomed everyone to the meeting, provided an overview of the meeting agenda, and introduced new Johns Hopkins Public Safety staff member, LaTicia Douglas, Special Assistant to the VP. LaTicia will be working closely with the JHPD Accountability Board and will reach out to schedule individual meetings with Board members over the next few weeks.

Approval of March 24th meeting minutes

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes from the meeting on Thursday, March 24, 2022. Six (6) Board Members voted to approve the minutes, one (1) Board member abstained (due to her absence at the March 24, 2022 meeting), and one (1) Board member did not vote.

Johns Hopkins University Police Accountability Board

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Discussion of Bylaws Draft Template

At the request of the Board, Johns Hopkins staff drafted a bylaws template document that indicates how the JHU Police Accountability Board compares to peers in key respects based on statutory requirements and current operations in practice. Liam Haviv provided a brief overview of the bylaws draft template.

Below is a list of key questions considered by the Board a summary of Board feedback and decisions on each question.

Officers

Should the Board consider creating elected officer positions?

- The Board should consider thinking of ways to create its governance structure uniquely and differently, in a way that suits what we are trying to do. Specifically, developing a flat structure in which all members have equal say. A hierarchical structure is not necessary. (L. Dean)
- The Board should consider different language other than chairperson or officers, for example, a spokesperson or moderator as a point person to ensure the Board moves the agenda forward. (P. Logan Weygandt)
- The Board should develop subcommittees for agenda-setting as opposed to having a single leader be responsible for decision making, although subcommittee meetings may be subject to the Open Meetings Act. (A. Romero-Sackey)
- Rianna Matthews-Brown clarified that if formal committees are established to conduct Board business, the meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Act. Ad hoc meetings would not be subject to the Open Meetings Act. This was previously confirmed by the Open Meetings Act expert.
- The Board approved amending the question as follows: Should the Board consider creating elected positions?
 - Eight (8) Board members voted to approve.

Should the Board create a formal or ad-hoc agenda-setting committee?

- P. Logan Weygandt asked if some Board members would be allowed to meet regularly as a small, ad-hoc agenda-setting committee.
- Due to questions around what was defined as “ad hoc” and the applicability of the Maryland Open Meetings Act, Rianna-Matthews-Brown offered to share the contact information for an OMA expert so that Board members can reach out to them directly for guidance.
- The question was restated as follows: Is it the desire of the Board to have a committee for setting agendas?
- Five (5) Board members voted to approve, and three (3) abstained.

Ethics

Should the Board consider adopting a code of ethics for the Board?

- Eight (8) Board members voted to approve.

Johns Hopkins University Police Accountability Board

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Should the Board also hold “special” meetings in addition to the quarterly meetings required in statute? All Board meetings must comply with the Open Meetings Act.

- Eight (8) Board members voted to approve.

Should special meetings require agreement by the majority of the Board?

- Eight (8) Board members voted to approve.

Discipline

Should the Board consider including a clause on removal and discipline of members?

- There are concerns about the legal ramifications of disciplining and removing Board members who have been appointed by elected officials. The Board should consider legal counsel on this question. (G. Gross) (L. Dean)
- In order to make it a fair process for everyone on the Board, the process for removal and discipline of members should apply to all positions and not exclude those in appointed seats. (P. Parmar)
- Rianna Matthews-Brown stated that the Board can seek guidance on processes for removal and discipline from the Attorney General’s office if desired.
 - Six (6) Board members voted to approve, one (1) voted to abstain and one (1) voted not to approve.

Quorum and Voting

What would qualify as a quorum for meetings?

- Are the standards for what qualifies as a quorum for meetings mandated by the state? (C. Gross)
- Rianna Matthews-Brown stated that the Open Meetings Act is triggered when there is a meeting with the majority of Board members. However, the Board has the discretion to determine whether there should be a higher threshold for Board votes.
- The Board approved amending the question as follows – does the Board agree that a quorum of the majority of the members present at a full Board meeting can pass a vote?
 - Seven (7) Board members voted to approve and one (1) abstained.
 - The Board opted to hold on establishing the threshold for Board approval of a matter.

Recusal

Should the Board consider a process for recusal?

- Eight (8) Board members voted to approve.
- The Board will develop suitable language around recusal.

Johns Hopkins University Police Accountability Board

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Training Commitments

Should the Board consider training commitments?

- Eight (8) Board members voted to approve.

Duties of the Accountability Board

Are there additional requirements the Board should be responsible for?

- The Board decided to hold on considering this question.

Amendments

What is the process for the approval of the bylaws and amendments to the bylaws?

- The question was amended as follows: Should the process for approval of the bylaws require a 2/3 or greater vote by the full Board as of the date of the vote?
 - Eight (8) Board members voted to approve.
- Should the threshold for amendment of the bylaws require a minimum of 3/4 or greater vote by the full Board as of the date of the vote?
 - Eight (8) Board members voted to approve.

Open Discussion

Dr. Bard made a motion to extend the meeting until 8:00 p.m. to allow the Board to have an open discussion.

- The question was asked, what are the next steps for the bylaws draft template? (C. Gross)
 - Dr. Bard stated that detailed notes were drafted and will be disseminated to the Board for further comments and edits.
- Rianna Matthews-Brown asked if the Board would like to set up a bylaws committee and an agenda-setting committee that will set the agenda for the next meeting?
 - At the suggestion of L. Dean and D. Minor Terrell, the Board agreed to work as a full Board to further develop the bylaws.
 - L. Dean, D. Minor Terrell, E. Kangethe, and C. Gross, volunteered to work on setting the agenda for the June meeting.
 - Rianna Matthews-Brown advised the Board to contact the Open Meetings Act expert for guidance on the agenda-setting committee. Johns Hopkins staff will resend the contact information to the Board.
- A motion was made for the full Board to meet in June.
 - Eight (8) Board members voted to approve.
 - Johns Hopkins staff will send a poll to the Board to finalize the date for the June meeting.

Johns Hopkins University Police Accountability Board

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Closing

Dr. Bard thanked everyone for their time and engagement. He noted the Board's next quarterly meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2022, at 6:00 pm. We will reach out with a poll to determine if that date is still feasible for all. The web hosting and call-in information will remain the same, and the agenda and materials will be posted on the [Accountability Board website](#). For anyone needing other accommodations, contact AccountabilityBoard@jhu.edu. The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

For Future Meetings

Action Items/Next Steps

The next step is for the Board to develop a governance structure.

Items Being Tracked for Future Meetings/Discussions

Currently, no items are being tracked for future discussions.

Agenda Topics Proposed by Board Members for Future Meetings

- Maryland Legislative Landscape, incl. Law Enforcement Officer's Bill of Rights and relevant changes
- JHPD/Baltimore City MOU (timeline and process)
- JH's ongoing public safety interventions and efforts
- Organizational Chart and Structure
- Further discussion on benchmarking / peer efforts
- Crime Data Tracking
- Discussion and Follow-up Questions from JH Public Safety Town Halls
- Invite a CRB representative to discuss the CRB's relationship with the JHPDAB

Accountability Board Upcoming Meeting Schedule (2022 calendar year)

- Quarterly Meeting: June 13, 2022 6:00 – 7:30pm (tentative)
- Quarterly Meeting: September 12, 2022 6:00 – 7:30pm
- Quarterly Meeting: December 12, 2022 6:00 – 7:30pm

Accountability Board Meeting Minutes Approval

Current as of June 27, 2022

Meeting: May 18, 2021

Meeting Attendee	Affiliation	Yay	Nay	Abstain	No Response
Sonja Merchant Jones	Community Member	X			
Edward Kangethe	Community Member	X			
Noah Patton	Community Member	X			
Cynthia Gross	Mayoral Appointee	X			
Doris Minor-Terrell	Council Pres. Appointee	X			
Lorraine T. Dean	Faculty	X			
Paul Logan Weygandt	Faculty	X			
Pritika Parmar**	Student				X
Kwame Amancio Romero-Sackey**	Student				X

* - board voted at the commencement of the June 27, 2022 Meeting

** - Resigned upon graduating, May 2022