

# CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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<b>TO:</b>	Board of Charles County Commissioners
<b>THRU:</b>	Mark Belton, County Administrator <i>Office of the County Administrator</i>
<b>THRU:</b>	Wes Adams, County Attorney <i>Office of the County Attorney</i>
<b>FROM:</b>	Danielle Mitchell, Associate County Attorney <i>Staff Attorney, Police Accountability Board</i>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Annual Report- Police Accountability Board (July 1 -Dec. 31, 2022)
<b>DATE:</b>	January 25, 2023

The Police Reform Act of 2021, codified at Maryland Annotated Code, Public Safety Article, Title 3, Subtitle 1, requires that the Police Accountability Board for each county submit a report to the governing body of the county by December 31 for each year that:

1. Identifies any trends in the disciplinary process of police officers in the county; and
2. Makes recommendations on changes to policy that would improve police accountability in the county.

Due to the recent establishment of the Charles County Police Accountability Board (“PAB”), and the myriad of priorities associated with initiating such a body, the PAB cannot offer information related to disciplinary trends nor recommendations for policy changes during this inaugural reporting period. Additionally, no complaints of misconduct were submitted to the PAB during the reporting period.

As the County Commissioners are aware, the effective date of the Act was July 1, 2022. The PAB convened meetings on July 7 and July 14, 2022, focused on the drafting of Rules of Procedure and Bylaws, that were subsequently approved by the Board of County Commissioners on July 26, 2022. The PAB also used those initial meetings to review and approve the appointment of two members to the Charles County Administrative Charging Committee (“ACC”). On July 28, 2022, and October 27, 2022 the PAB convened two roundtable meetings with representatives of the Charles County Sheriff’s Office and La Plata Police Department, as required by the Act. Those meeting largely centered on outlining processes for engagement with one another during subsequent meetings when substantive issues were addressed, and processes for investigatory files to be transmitted to the ACC.

In September of 2022, the ACC, comprised of appointees from both the Board of County Commissioners and the PAB, were appointed. The Act provides that before serving as a member of the ACC, each member of the ACC is required to receive training on matters relating to police procedures from the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission. Each ACC member successfully attended the training October 17, 2022, through October 21, 2022, in Calvert County, Maryland. This was the first training offered to ACCs in the State by the MPTSC.

The ACC will begin considering complaints in CY2023. It is anticipated that the next reporting period will provide the PAB with an opportunity to ascertain a more comprehensive understanding of policing in Charles County that will lead to tangible policy recommendations and observable trends in policing as required to be reported by the Act.

cc: Ms. Brigitte Proctor, PAB Chairperson  
Mr. Richard Campbell, PAB Member  
Mr. Granville Johnson, PAB Member  
Mr. Jon Norris, PAB Member  
Mr. David Saunders, PAB Member  
Jamila Smith, PAB Member  
Ms. Tia Spencer-Blake, PAB Member  
Mr. Derrick Terry, PAB Member  
Mr. Charles Williams, PAB Member  
Mr. Brian Eley, Chief of Staff, Charles County Sheriff's Office  
Mr. Jerome Spencer, General Counsel, Charles County Sheriff's Office  
Mr. Carl Schinner, Chief of Police, La Plata Police Department