

Carol DeSoto

From: applications@charlescountymd.gov on behalf of Charles County Government
<applications@charlescountymd.gov>
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Subject: *NEW SUBMISSION* Police Accountability Board

Police Accountability Board

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Public Hearing Comment Form

Questions or More Information (301) 645-0570

Name

Ongisa Ichile-Mckenzie

Address

PO Box 705
Bryans Road, MD 20616

Phone

2406409577

Email

somd4racialequality@gmail.com

Are you:

Neutral

Comment

As Director of Southern Marylanders for Racial Equality, I am submitting the same recommendations for the Police Accountability Board that our organization presented to the County Commissioners in 2020. Attached is our proposal for a Civilian Review Board, and it is summarized in the following bullet points: The sheriffs, police, law enforcement unions, or any other affiliated organizations should NOT have any participation in the selection of the PAB. PAB should investigate complaints including but not limited to use of excessive force, abusive language, harassment, false arrest, and false imprisonment, preventable death, neglect as a first responder to medical/mental health needs. The PAB should be created using the investigator-focused model, and receive training from the MPSTC. The PAB should have subpoena powers and full investigative powers, including the ability to call witnesses and review evidence, including bodycam footage. The PAB should have a staff of at least two attorneys and two investigators, also unaffiliated with law enforcement agencies. The PAB should have the authority to make public disciplinary recommendations, including retraining, demotion, demerits and termination of officers. The process for citizen complaints should be formalized and publicized immediately, offering many different ways for citizens to register complaints, online in writing and in person. There should be a determination of a "pattern of behavior" for individual LEO's brought before the PAB and found to be in violation, a number of

instances beyond which they will automatically be terminated. (3 strikes) Police misconduct payouts to victims should be deducted from the police budget. We suggest a board comprised of 9 civilian members for terms of 3 years each. Also each citizen should be limited to one term.

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Thank you,
Charles County, MD

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