

Board of Police Commissioners

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45 Years of Civilian Oversight

Join the 2019 Board of Police Commissioners for a special event to celebrate the visionary leaders and activists responsible for the 1974 City Charter and the enduring mandate for community-led oversight of the police force on September 24, 2019 from 5-7 p.m. at the Renaissance Center Marriott. For more info, call 313,596,1830

Volunteers Wanted: You can help make the NACOLE conference and Detroit's 45th Anniversary Celebration a great success! To assist with event sign-in/registration, transportation, and other tasks, send your name, street address, telephone number, and days/times available to bopc@detroitmi.gov. Special thanks to our Detroit 45th Anniversary Partners (partial list)



Detroit Board of Police Commissioners IEWSLET Accountability Through Civilian Oversight Since 1974

Detroit ready to host first national conference for police oversight

Detroit and the Board of Police Commissioners are excited to welcome the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement and the 25th Annual Conference to our city for the first time. Hundreds of professionals working in police oversight around the globe will gather in Detroit September 22-26, 2019 when the BOPC hosts NACOLE, the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement.

"We are glad that NACOLE will see and experience the city spirit that has been the bedrock of community policing and civilian oversight," said Chair Lisa Carter. "Detroiters are very outspoken and hands-on, with deep roots in the kind of front-line activism that established organized labor unions and that made Martin Luther King Jr. deliver the first version of his I Have a Dream speech here. Detroit is known for civil rights and equality, and we are a very welcoming, fun city for conferences like this."

Detroit is fortunate to have immediate past BOPC Chair Willie E. Bell on the NACOLE Board of Directors. Bell was elected in 2018 to a three-year term. According to the Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau, hosting the NACOLE conference is a boost for Detroit. The conference will have \$550,000 in direct tourism spending for the city.



25th Annual NACOLE Conference Courage, Collaboration & Community When: September 22-26, 2019

Where: Marriott Hotel at the Renaissance Center

Registration: **nacole.org**

More: For volunteer opportunities, email bopc@detroitmi.gov

Detroit 45th Anniversary Commemoration and NACOLE 2019 Conference Welcome



Official Hosts The City of Detroit Board of Police Commissioners **Honorary Hosts** Mayor Mike Duggan City Council President Brenda Jones U.S. Senator Carl Levin, Retired U.S. Appeals Court Senior Judge Damon Keith (through April 28, 2019) Elliott Hall, Esquire Detroit Police Chief James Craig Wayne County Executive Warren Evans Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon Ron Haddad, Dearborn Chief of Police Mary Engelman, Acting Director, Michigan Department of Civil Rights Conrad Mallett, CEO, DMC Sinai-Grace Hospital Marvin Beatty, Vice-President Community Relations, Greektown Casino-Hotel Reginald Turner, Esquire, Clark Hill Chancellor Curtis Ivery, Wayne County Community College District Monica L. Martinez, Comerica Senior Vice-President for External Affairs Michael Ritchie, President, Comerica Michigan Market Bishop Edgar Vann, Second Ebenezer Church Hiram Jackson, *The Michigan Chronicle*





FROM THE CHAIR



Detroit Shines With National Conference and 45th Anniversary

Civilian oversight in Detroit has seen many changes over the decades, and valuable lessons abound from the different oversight models in Detroit's evolution since 1974. Chief of Police James Craig and Police Commissioner Willie E. Bell, immediate past chair of the Board of Police Commissioners will share riveting stories in The Detroit Evolution, one of dozens of dynamic seminars, workshops, and special presentations at the 25th Annual NACOLE Conference in Detroit, September 22-26, 2019 at the Renaissance Center Marriott.

The NACOLE conference offers a unique, immersive training experience for practitioners, policymakers, community and justice advocates, and law enforcement officials. As the 2019 host city, Detroit is truly the place to be this September as we welcome NACOLE for the first time ever just as the city wraps up summer with its usual array of dynamic events and special celebrations like Motown 60.

The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners also will have past and present police commissioners celebrating the 45th Anniversary of the first civilian board to supervise the Detroit Police Department. The knowledge and experience represented by this gathering of veterans spans 45 years of reforms, challenges, and changes in the city, the department, and the police profession since 1974. It will be a special occasion on Tuesday, September 24th from 5-7 p.m. at the Marriott. We thank the civic giants and the stakeholders who have championed both NACOLE and Detroit's 45th Anniversary to help our city shine its brightest.

Lisa Carter, a retired Wayne County deputy sheriff, has served as the Police Commissioner for District 6 since 2012. She currently serves as chair of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners and works as an administrator with the AmeriCorps Urban Safety Program at the Center for Urban Studies at Wayne State University.



Spotlight: **DPD HR Director** Marcella Anderson



- · Grew up in northeast Detroit
- Holds a PhD in Public Policy & Admin.
- · Serves as board president for Still Standing Against Domestic Violence
- A retired Detective Sergeant-Wayne County Sheriff Department

Under the Charter, the BOPC hires the Director of Police Personnel. Dr. Anderson started in late October 2018.

What made you interested in the role of HR director?

I'm a retired detective sergeant from Wayne County Sheriff's department. I did 20 years then went into education. I just wanted to teach, but I kind of got spring boarded into administration where I was a campus dean. A a lot of companies don't have HR on site, so I had to do a lot of the HR function and found a new passion. I already loved police work, I loved education as well, but then when I got into the HR piece I was like, ok this is interesting. So what I like about it is, I like to fix things. I like to kind of get things organized, and I like to make sure that the staff as well as the supervisors have the tools that they need to succeed. And HR gives me that ability. This position gives me the best of both worlds.

What is one of your key goals moving forward?

HR helps set the culture, but we need the managers to keep it going. So, my goal is to set a positive culture, to ensure that we equip all the managers, civilian and sworn, with everything they need to take care of their departments and their employees. Another is training to make sure all the supervisors are properly trained. I've learned that they have not been. They've been promoted to positions, but they haven't been trained on the aspect of different employment laws. They haven't been given the tools. I want to make sure they have the tools, that they understand collective bargaining agreements as well as civil service laws. So, it's a lot, but my goal get consistency and core is to competencies.

Do you often get to interact with the public?

I do. I get citizens that want to know how their family members can become employed with the city of Detroit. I really like that part.







BOPC recent 2019 highlights

- Held a youth-focused meeting at Western High School in March (above).
- · Addressed concerns about police encounters involving persons with mental illness or emotional distress with a special panel discussion in April.
- Recognized in May retired Sgt. Vanessa Wyatt (right) after over 41 years of service and saluted the life and legacy of U.S. Appeals Court Senior Judge Damon Keith.
- Heard more than 20 people speak in June on draft policy directives for surveillance from cameras mounted on traffic lights, use of drones, and facial recognition technology.
- Paid tribute in July to the first meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners. which was established under the 1974 Charter and appointed by Mayor Coleman A. Young. The five-member board - Rev. Charles Butler, UAW's Doug Fraser, Edward Littlejohn, Susan Mills-Peek, and Alexander Ritchie - held their first meeting July 22, 1974.



Nation learns from Detroit police-community relations

Why is Detroit a leader when it comes to strong policecommunity relations? Chair Lisa Carter and Deputy Chief Todd Bettison, who leads the Chief's Neighborhood Liaison Unit, shared history and insights with a packed audience at the 2018 annual conference for the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement last September.

Cecelia Houston-Torrence, a board member for the city of Atlanta Citizen Review Board, requested extra copies to share. "The session was so, so good. One of the best."

"The presentation was great," said Virginia Wilson, the administrator for the Civilian Law Enforcement Review Board in Memphis, Tennessee. "I know our board and staff will appreciate all the information."

The Detroit Board often serves as a resource to other communities, including a successful grassroots effort to establish civilian oversight of Nashville-area law enforcement through charter changes last November.

Community-focused, diverse people ensure civilian oversight

Pastors, labor leaders, community advocates, block club organizers, educators, corporate executives, business owners, political activists, and lawyers.

People serving on the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners have come from the city's vast, diverse pool of community and civil rights advocates ever since Mayor Coleman A. Young appointed the first five members in 1974. When Detroit voters first elected 11 members in 2013, the diversity remained apparent.

This year, the 11 police commissioners reached another distinction when six women became the majority.

BOPC Meeting Schedule

Meetings for the Board of Police Commissioners are open to the public CALENDAR and held Every Thursday at 3 p.m. at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters except second Thursdays when the

BOPC meets at 6:30 p.m. at community sites. For a full





New OCI Location

The BOPC investigative arm is the Office of the Chief Investigator. It oversees objective investigations into complaints against DPD employees, including officers and 911 operators. Complaints are vital because they help to identify problems with polices practices and employees and lead to improvements.

English, Spanish, Arabic, and Bengali brochures are available for Filing Complaints Against Police Officers and Other Detroit Police Department Employees.



To file a complaint, complete a form in the brochure or online at detroitmi.gov/bopc, visit any police precinct, or contact OCI at: 900 Merrill Plaisance St. Detroit, Michigan 48203 or call 313.596.2499.

