



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice
Henry Santana, Chair

One City Hall Square 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02201 ♦ Phone: (617) 635-3040 ♦ city.council@boston.gov

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

December 6, 2024

Dear Councilors,

The Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice was referred the following docket for consideration:

Docket #1564, order regarding nominations to the Civilian Review Board and Internal Affairs Oversight Panel within the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency.

This matter was sponsored by Councilor Henry Santana and referred to the Committee on October 23, 2024.

Summary of Legislation

Docket #1564 was filed in furtherance of the City Council's obligations under City of Boston Code, Ordinances, Section 12-17, which established a Civilian Review Board (CRB) and an Internal Affairs Oversight Panel (IAOP) within the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency (OPAT) in the City of Boston. The City Council is charged with submitting nine nominations to the Mayor for appointment to three of the nine seats on the Civilian Review Board, and six nominations to the Mayor for appointment to two of the five seats on the Internal Affairs Oversight Panel.

The Office of Police Accountability and Transparency (OPAT) is a City department, created in 2020, charged with enhancing accountability and transparency within the Boston Police Department (BPD). OPAT has three boards that look at complaints against police: the OPAT Commission, the Civilian Review Board (CRB), and the Internal Affairs Oversight Panel (IAOP). There are currently vacancies on both the CRB and the IAOP.

The Civilian Review Board consists of nine total members. Six members are appointed by the Mayor from a pool of applicants recommended by civil rights advocacy groups, youth organizations, neighborhood associations, and members of the Boston community with knowledge of law enforcement. The remaining three members are appointed by the Mayor from a pool of nine nominees submitted by the Boston City Council. Under the Ordinance, Civilian Review Board Members must be Boston residents, not current members of law enforcement, and one member of the Board must be between the ages of 18-21. Board members shall each serve a term of three years, and board members shall not serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. Each member will be paid one hundred dollars per hour for their service, not to exceed fifty thousand dollars per year.



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The duties of the Civilian Review Board include conducting an independent inquiry or investigation where necessary, into complaints made against the Boston Police Department; resolving complaints or matters not within the scope of review of the Internal Affairs Oversight Panel; at the Board's discretion, reviewing, investigating, and making recommendations with regard to allegations of disparate treatment by BPD in recruiting, hiring, promotion, discipline and termination of members of BPD; periodically evaluating alternative options and/or improvements to the civil service examination process; making recommendations to the Police Commissioner regarding reviewed complaints or other matters before the Board; and convening all Board members at least once per quarter.

The Internal Affairs Oversight Panel consists of five total members. Three members are appointed by the Mayor. Two members are appointed by the Mayor from a pool of six nominees submitted by the Boston City Council. Under the Ordinance, Internal Affairs Oversight Panel Members must be Boston residents, preferably licensed attorneys, experienced in civil rights advocacy, experienced in youth advocacy, and/or with past experience and knowledge of law enforcement. Board members shall each serve a term of three years, and board members shall not serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. Each member will be paid one hundred dollars per hour for their service, not to exceed fifty thousand dollars per year.

The duties of the Internal Affairs Oversight Panel include providing external oversight of Boston Police internal affairs investigations for thoroughness and fairness; reviewing completed cases of the Boston Police Department's Internal Affairs Division ("IAD"); making recommendations for further investigation or clarification to OPAT Staff or the Chief of the Boston Police Department's Bureau of Professional Standards; making recommendations to the Police Commissioner regarding reviewed cases; periodically reviewing policies and procedures and provide a report to the Mayor and the Police Commissioner on the integrity of the complaint and internal affairs process; producing an annual report to the Mayor and the Police Commissioner documenting cases reviewed and the outcome of the IAOP's review for each case; convening all IAOP members at least once per quarter.

City Council Process for Nominations

Following the process used by the Council in 2021, Central Staff, on behalf of the Committee, opened a public applications portal for both the CRB and IAOP. The portal accepted applications from October 25, 2024 through November 30, 2024. The City Council received 30 applications for the CRB and 10 applications for the IAOP. A working session was held on this docket on Friday, December 6, 2024.

Committee Chair Recommended Action

After thorough consideration of the applications received by the City Council and the thoughtful recommendations of Council colleagues, as Chair of the Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice, I recommend forwarding the following nine nominees to the Mayor for consideration of appointment to the Civilian Review Board of the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency:

- Luis Encarnacion, 304 Wood Avenue, Hyde Park, 02136
- Dieufort J Fleurissant, 1550 Blue Hill Avenue, Mattapan, 02126
- Kelly McGrath, 223 Parsons Street, Brighton, 02145
- Bernard Fitz Gerald, 48 Woodard Road, West Roxbury, 02132
- Amaury Perez, 50 Alexander Street, Dorchester, 02125
- Matias Gonzalez, 716 Columbus Avenue, Roxbury, 02120



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- Rishan Zaman, 18 Snowden Way, Dorchester, 02124
- Tanisha DeLeon, 47 Charles Street, Hyde Park, 02136
- Alda Marshall Witherspoon, 5 Thane Street, Dorchester, 02124

I recommend forwarding the following six nominees to the Mayor for consideration of appointment to the Internal Affairs Oversight Panel of the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency:

- Stephanie Rodriguez-Ruiz, 233 West Street, Hyde Park, 02136
- Romilda Pereira, 2565 Washington Street, Roxbury 02119
- Israul Marrero, 57 Nixon Street, Dorchester, 02124
- Anthony Fugate, 30 Hillcroft Road, Jamaica Plain, 02130
- Jamika Hobbs, 1050 Tremont Street, Roxbury, 02120
- Samuel Harold, 36 Bellevue Street, Apt 3, Dorchester 02125

Henry A. Santana

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