

# **CHARLES COUNTY POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD**

## **BYLAWS**

### **ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of the Board shall be the Charles County Police Accountability Board (the “PAB”). The PAB was formed by the Board of County Commissioners, via County Resolution 2021-23, adopted December 7, 2021.

### **ARTICLE I – PURPOSE**

The mission of the Commission is to (1) hold quarterly meetings with heads of law enforcement agencies and otherwise work with law enforcement agencies and the county government to improve matters of policing; (2) appoint civilian members to charging committees and trial boards; (3) receive complaints of police misconduct filed by members of the public; (4) on a quarterly basis, review outcomes of disciplinary matters considered by charging committees; and (5) by December 31 each year, submit a report to the governing body of the county that identifies any trends in the disciplinary process of police officers in the county and makes recommendations on changes to policy that would improve police accountability in the county.

### **ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP**

- 1.) The PAB shall consist of nine (9) members who are appointed by the Board of Charles County Commissioners, two (2) of whom shall reside in each of Charles County’s four (4) Commissioner Districts, and one (1) member may reside in any Commissioner District.
- 2.) To the extent practicable, the membership of the PAB shall reflect the racial gender, and cultural diversity of the County.
- 3.) An active police officer may not be a member of the PAB.
- 4.) The Board of Charles County Commissioners shall annually appoint a Chairperson from the existing membership of the PAB.
- 5.) PAB members may receive an annual stipend if budgeted for by the Board of Charles County Commissioners.

### **ARTICLE III - TERMINATION**

- 1.) All members serve at the pleasure of the Board of County Commissioners. The Board of County Commissioners may remove a PAB member on its own motion or upon the recommendation of the PAB following a majority vote by the PAB to make such recommendation for removal.
- 2.) Resignations by members shall be submitted, in writing, to the Board of County Commissioners and PAB Chair.

#### **ARTICLE IV – COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS**

- 1.) Members of the PAB shall maintain confidentiality relating to any complaints of misconduct until final disposition of the matter.
- 2.) Members of the PAB shall comply with the Maryland Open Meetings Act, Md. Ann. Code, General Provisions Art., §3-101, et seq., as amended hereafter from time to time.
- 3.) Chairperson of the PAB shall be the custodian of all records in possession of the PAB and all records shall be deposited and secured by the Office of the County Attorney. Records shall be accessible to the public in accordance with the Maryland Public Information Act.
- 4.) Members of the PAB shall comply with Resolution 2012-70, titled Code of Civility.

#### **ARTICLE V - REPORTS**

The PAB shall submit an annual report to the Board of County Commissioners by December 31 each year concerning its activities and recommendations.

#### **ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS**

These by-laws may be amended, repealed or suspended in whole or in part, with approval of the Board of Charles County Commissioners.

#### **ARTICLE VII - POLICY**

- 1) The PAB shall not adopt policies in conflict with the laws of the United States of America, the State of Maryland and/or the Charles County Code.
- 2) The PAB shall not be used to influence, directly or indirectly, any political election or activity for personal gain.

- 3) No member of the PAB shall obligate or incur any liabilities in the name of the PAB or the Charles County Government.

#### **ARTICLE VIII - APPROVAL**

The foregoing by-laws of the PAB shall be approved by the Board of Charles County Commissioners before becoming effective.

**Approved by the Police Accountability Board on July 14, 2022.**

**ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

County Commissioners of Charles County, Maryland

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Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

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Bobby Rucci, Vice President

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Gilbert O. Bowling, III

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Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.

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Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed.

ATTEST:

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Carol DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners