

# **INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL MINUTES**

November 29, 2007

**LOCATION:** 140 West Flagler Street, Conference Room 908  
Miami, Florida 33130

## **PANEL MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jorge Reynardus, Esq., Chairperson  
Julia Dawson, Esq., 1st Vice Chairperson  
Moiez Tapia, Ph.D., 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson  
Glen P. Falk, Esq.  
Josefa Velis, Esq.  
Michael Band, Esq.  
Jean-Robert Lafortune  
Doris Shellow

## **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Julia C. Ferguson, Esq.

## **PANEL STAFF PRESENT**

Eduardo I. Diaz, Ph.D., Executive Director  
Carol Boersma, Executive Assistant to the Director  
Kristin Anderson, Conflict Resolution Specialist  
Anna Sidan, Conflict Resolution Specialist

## **AUDIENCE:**

Don March, Civilian Investigative Panel (CIP); Dr. Larry Capp, Executive Director, Community Advocacy; Amy Carswell, Community Advocacy.

**Agenda Item #1) Call to Order.** Julia Dawson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and asked staff to call roll.

## **Agenda Item #2) Approval and adoption of the minutes from September 20, 2007.**

Ms. Dawson corrected the second line of the second paragraph under the heading "Receipt" by changing the word "get" in the phrase "if the county does not require that they *get* a record" to *are given*. Doris Shellow moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Michael Band seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

## **Agenda Item #3) Elections of 2008 IRP Chairpersons.**

**Chairperson** - Doris Shellow nominated Julia Dawson for Chairperson. Julia Dawson nominated Jorge Reynardus, who declined. Glen Falk nominated Michael Band and Michael Band nominated Moiez Tapia, who declined. Jorge Reynardus nominated Glen Falk, who declined. The Panel voted between Ms. Dawson and Mr. Band. Ms. Dawson was elected Chairperson by a vote of 5-2.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair** - Doris Shellow nominated Michael Band. Julia Dawson nominated Mr. Lafortune. Mr. Band was elected 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair by a vote of 5-2.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair** - Doris Shellow nominated Mr. Lafortune. Jorge Reynardus seconded that nomination. Mr. Lafortune was elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair by unanimous vote.

**Agenda Item # 4) Approval of joint IRP and CRB Community Meeting.** Dr. Diaz reported that the CRB, at its November 14, 2007 meeting, unanimously agreed to join the IRP in holding a community meeting that focuses on what the community wants from its police. Dr. Diaz reported that he has sought permission to use some materials that have been developed in South Africa and he was given permission to use a document entitled “The Police That We Want.”

Dr. Diaz suggested that the Panel allow staff to mine some of the ideas from this material and put together a preliminary document for the Panel to consider prior to the community meeting which could be held in January. Ms. Dawson requested that staff focus on no more than 4-5 ideas that are applicable to local circumstances.

Mr. Lafortune stated that there is a lot of frustration in the Black community at this time because of multiple police shootings. There is a “disconnect” between the Black community and the police, and the community wants independent investigations of police shootings.

Mr. Band stated that the two months between now and January is not enough time to plan. He also asked how “community” would be defined because Miami-Dade is very diverse. The Redlands, Kendall and Liberty City are all very different communities. Mr. Band suggested a series of workshops throughout Miami-Dade over a period of several months.

Ms. Dawson moved to hold a series of joint community meetings with the CRB, focusing on the topic “The Police the Community Wants.” Ms. Shellow seconded the motion. Mr. Lafortune made a friendly amendment to hold the first meetings in the area most impacted by recent police shootings, such as North Miami and Little Haiti. Dr. Diaz advised that the CRB already held a meeting in North Miami. He suggested the Caleb Center. Mr. Band noted that the Caleb Center is identified with a certain group of people and it would be better to hold the first meeting in a neutral place like the Board of County Commission chambers. The motion, without the friendly amendment, passed by unanimous vote.

**Agenda Item # 5) Approval of NACOLE Code of Ethics.** Dr. Diaz reported that NACOLE is encouraging its member agencies to approve the Code of Ethics NACOLE drafted.

Mr. Band asked whether the Panel, independent of the County, can adopt its own set of ethics. He would like an answer from the County.

Ms. Dawson commented on the section entitled “Agency Self-examination and Commitment to Policy Review,” which states, “Gauge your effectiveness through evaluation and analysis of your product. Emphasize policy review aimed at substantive organizational reforms that advance law enforcement accountability and performance.” Ms. Dawson stated that this is something the Panel does to some extent; however, she would like to see the Panel go much further in quantifying the work it does.

In addition, Ms. Dawson commented on the paragraph “Professional Excellence.” She reported that at the NACOLE conference last year, there appeared to be a desire to move civilian oversight entities to a more professional level, a move she opposes. Ms. Dawson commented that civilian oversight should be done by grass roots, everyday people, and not by “professional” people. Ms. Dawson suggested the word “professional” be replaced with “personal.”

Dr. Diaz advised that the Panel could adopt the NACOLE Code of Ethics while at the same time giving him suggestions for revision. He could present those suggestions to the appropriate NACOLE committee.

Ms. Dawson moved to adopt the Code of Ethics with the condition that Dr. Diaz present her concerns about “professional” standards to NACOLE. Dr. Tapia seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item # 6) Executive Director’s Report.** Dr. Diaz reported that Sagrario Lopez retired and Maria Fernandez is now occupying her position.

Dr. Diaz recognized Dr. Capp, who arrived after the Panel voted on the community meeting. Dr. Diaz opened the floor for Panel members to ask questions in regards to the joint meeting between the IRP and CRB. Mr. Reynardus suggested including police organizations in the planning, because police officers have also been the victims in recent shootings. Ms. Dawson suggested that the police be invited to attend, to listen to the community.

**Agenda Item # 7) Adjourn.** Jorge Reynardus made a motion to adjourn. Julia Dawson seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.