

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
INDEPENDENT CIVILIAN PANEL MINUTES**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 6 PM TO 8 PM
STEPHEN P. CLARK CENTER
111 NW 1ST STREET, COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, SECOND FLOOR
MIAMI, FL 33128 (305) 375-1799

I. Welcome and introductions

Members in attendance:

Joshua Jones
Eddie Dominguez
Dr. Pedro Mora
Josaphat Celestin
Raymond Melcon
Ruben Paillere
Clemente Vera
Pam Perry
Loreal Arscott
Jeannett Slesnick

Members excused:

Luis Fernandez
Pedro Mora

County Staff in attendance:

Laura Morilla
DeAundre Slater
Monica Skoko Rodriguez
Shannon Summerset-Williams, Assistant County Attorney
Griselle Marino

Members of the public in attendance:

Susan Khoury
Jeanne Baker
Kristofer Hernandez
Rodney Jacobs

*see sign in sheet for additional members of the public

Meeting convened at 6:03 PM

II. Reasonable opportunity for the public to be heard

1. Jeanne Baker from the ACLU of Miami spoke and requested that reasonable opportunity to be heard moved to the end of the meeting
 - a. Mr. Braynon responded with a suggestion regarding the reasonable opportunity, asking that reasonable opportunity be provided at the beginning and the end of the meeting
 - b. Madame Assistant County Attorney (ACA) weighed in that all reasonable opportunity to be heard is at the beginning of meetings but a second reasonable opportunity is an option should the body choose
2. Susan Khoury spoke and made the following suggestions:
it would be beneficial for the body to review a copy of the IG bylaws, the MDPD Union agreement with the County, and the Law Enforcement Bill of Rights. The body should consider hearing from speakers such as the Mayor, State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle, the Major of Internal Affairs, the Southern District of FL Civil Rights Director, Director of FDLE, the IG, and Miami-Dade Police Dept. Director Ramirez.
3. Rodney Jacobs from the City of Miami Civilian Investigative Panel spoke about the NACOLE (National Association of Civilian Oversight of Legal Enforcement) Conference being important for training of the members of this body
 - a. Ms. Arscott asked about the certification to be a civilian overseer. Mr. Jacobs responded that certification means amassing 200 NACOLE credits which is usually attending at least two NACOLE conferences and attending various workshops. Ms. Arscott also inquired about the Citizens Police Academy and Mr. Jacobs described that it is typically an as-needed training that lasts one full day
 - b. Mr. Vera inquired where the conference will be and Mr. Jacobs responded that it is in Tucson

III. Approval of agenda

Mr. Dominguez moved to approve the agenda, Ms. Slesnick seconded the motion. Ms. Arscott added a friendly amendment to add reasonable opportunity to be heard at the end of this meeting. Mr. Dominguez accepted the amendment. Motion with amendment passes unanimously.

IV. Approval of minutes of meeting of 10/12/21

Mr. Vera moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

V. Lengths of terms of ICP members

Ms. Morilla clarified that all members have been provided the length of their terms from the Clerk. This is based on the decision of the ICP Nominating Committee and the terms of their appointing Commissioner

VI. Elections for Chair and Vice Chair

1. Ms. Morilla shared the candidates interested in positions:

Loreal Arscott, Chair

Ruben Paillere and Pam Perry, Vice Chair

2. Mr. Paillere rescinded his interest in the Vice Chair position

3. Mr. Celestin requested rotating the Chair service and Mr. Dominguez suggested that we need a Chair right now and then the Bylaws committee will decide the specifics of length of term.

4. Mr. Vera clarified that since Mr. Paillere rescinded interest, we have only one candidate currently for Chair and one candidate for Vice Chair and a motion should be voted on now

5. Mr. Braynon asked for any interest in Chair from the floor, none were made. He made a motion to elect Loreal Arscott as the Chair, Mr. Dominguez seconded the motion, and the motion passes unanimously.

6. Mr. Braynon asked for any interest in Vice Chair from the floor, none were made. He made a motion to elect Pam Perry as the Vice Chair, Ms. Slesnick seconded the motion, and the motion passes unanimously.

7. Chair Arscott and Vice Chair Perry thanked the body for faith in their leadership

VII. Hiring of Executive Director

1. Ms. Morilla reported the December 4th deadline to apply for the position, and that on December 16th the Screening Committee will review which candidates to interview. The job was posted on County e-jobs website, the NACOLE site, various bar associations, and other hiring sites

VIII. NACOLE conference – Dec. 12-16, 2021

1. Chair Arscott urged the body to use funds to procure NACOLE membership for the body.
2. Ms. Morilla noted December 7th is the registration deadline and \$610 is the amount to attend. She mentioned the County does not pay for travel for board members, only for employees. The County will pay for training for ICP members per the ICP ordinance but will not cover any travel expenses for board members
3. Mr. Jacobs was given an opportunity to speak on this matter that the full \$610 is all for training and discussion was had regarding what the ordinance covers regarding expenses, budget, use of budget, and that the board can decide to use funds to fund the conference. Mr. Jacobs confirmed that City of Miami pays all expenses for the City's police oversight board. Vice Chair Perry requested information on the importance of the conference. Mr. Jacobs clarified that the cases the body will review are complex and necessitates intense training as the liaisons between civilians and the police department. In his opinion, the training arms the body and future employees of the body with the understanding of the work, pertinent questions, and how to conduct investigations.
4. Madame Chair gauged interest in attendance and approximately five to six members said they were interested.
5. Mr. Braynon suggested the bylaws should include certification by NACOLE because currently the ordinance does not say it has to be a NACOLE training.
6. Assistant County Attorney Shannon Summerset-Williams clarified that reimbursement for training or compensation would need approval from the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) as this conference is not in an approved budget for this body currently. Mr. Celestin asked what the body can use their budget on if not these such items. Madame ACA clarified that the general budget is in control of this body but reimbursements are in the purview of the BCC. Vice Chair Perry asked Madame ACA if funding this conference for this year with BCC approval is possible and Madame ACA said it would be possible. Chair Arscott asked how much of the budget is allocated to training. Ms. Morilla clarified the total budget is \$750,000 and that line items have not been allocated to her knowledge.

7. After discussion, Chair Arscott estimated about \$1500-\$2000 per person and confirmed a County Commissioner would need to sponsor this item on the BCC agenda tomorrow November 16th or the December 1st agenda for it to move forward. Madame ACA clarified why this conference payment needs to be approved by the BCC: Training is not mandatory but optional and the ordinance specifically says that for the County to pay for an expense such as this (hotel, travel) it requires BCC approval. Chair Arscott requested a written opinion on the subject.

8. Mr. Celestin moved to request approval of up to \$20,000 from the BCC to pay for the NACOLE conference for up to six members. Mr. Vera seconded the motion and the motion passes.

IX. Discussion of training on police practices

Chair Arscott spoke about the need for an ad hoc Trainings Committee. Mr. Melcon offered to Chair this committee and Mr. Braynon, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Vera will join the committee. Mr. Dominguez and Chair Arscott stated the importance of Citizens Police Academy training from the County Police Department for this board and Ms. Morilla will look into this.

X. Creation of ICP website

Ms. Morilla explained that members were interested in creating a website with board information that would be created and maintained through the County Communications Department. Vice Chair Perry said that the website needs to have essential community feedback and information for community members. Mr. Celestin moved to have the County create a basic website, Mr. Dominguez seconded the motion and the motion passes.

XI. Bylaws

Chair Arscott requested a volunteer Chair for the Bylaws Committee. Mr. Paillere offered to chair the Bylaws Committee. Mr. Celestin, Chair Arscott, and Vice Chair Perry offered to serve on the committee.

XII. Next meeting date

Vice Chair Perry asked if members could meet via Zoom and the Assistant County Attorney answered they could not. Members asked Laura to circulate possible meeting dates for the first week in January.

Mr. Vera requested a seating chart with everyone's names to help them learn the names.

Mr. Celestin requested name badges or County IDs for members.

XIII. New Business

Vice Chair Perry mentioned the need to begin a community outreach campaign and requested consideration of an Outreach Committee. After a brief discussion on the need for the ICP to engage with different community groups, the Outreach Committee was created. Chair Arscott, Vice Chair Perry, and Mr. Celestin will serve on the committee. Vice Chair Perry will chair the committee.

XIV. Second Reasonable Opportunity

1. Jeanne Baker thanked the members for their engagement and said that she believes reasonable opportunity to be heard should be after evidence is given and prior to votes by the board regarding once the board begins discussing cases.
2. Susan Khoury wanted to state when bylaws are being created that there must be a careful definition of many terms such as complainants, witness protection, whistle blower, etc. She also mentioned the website is very important.

XV. Adjournment

Mr. Vera moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Celestin seconded the motion and the motion passes unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.