

Baltimore County Police Accountability Board

Mission, Members, and Complaint Process

Mission

In the Spring of 2022 Baltimore County began the process to establish a Police Accountability Board (PAB), as required by HB0670, the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021—Police Discipline and Law Enforcement Programs and Procedures. Pursuant to this law, each county must have a PAB to:

- 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
- Appoint civilian members to charging committees and trial boards
- Receive complaints of law enforcement misconduct filed by members of the public
- On a quarterly basis, review outcomes of disciplinary matters considered by charging committees
- By December 31 each year, submit a report to the governing body of the County that identifies any trends in the disciplinary process of County law enforcement officers, and makes recommendations on changes to policy that would improve law enforcement accountability in the County

Complaints

- The duties of the PAB includes receiving complaints of law enforcement misconduct filed by members of the public. Law enforcement misconduct can be reported to the PAB using this link: <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/boards-commissions/executive/PAB/report-misconduct>
- Alternatively, individuals may file complaints directly with the law enforcement agency to which the complaint is directed

Members

The PAB is comprised of seven members, each representing one of Baltimore County's seven councilmanic districts, and two at-large members representing Baltimore County as a whole. The following is a list of PAB members as of February 20, 2023:

- **District 1:** Peter Fitzpatrick (through June, 2023)
- **District 2:** Linda Shields (Chair) (through June, 2024)
- **District 3:** Bishop Ralph Dennis (through June, 2025)
- **District 4:** John Chambers (ACC Designee) (through June, 2025)
- **District 5:** Vacant
- **District 6:** Vacant
- **District 7:** Dawn Dishon-Feuer (through June, 2024)
- **At-Large:** Kara White (District 6 Resident) (through June, 2025)
- **At-Large:** Nigeria Rolling-Ford (District 4 Resident) (through June, 2024)

Complaint Process: Police Accountability Board

- The Police Accountability Board (PAB) receives complaints from the public
- Complaints are forwarded to the appropriate law enforcement agency within three days

Complaint Process: Law Enforcement Agencies

- Law enforcement agencies can also receive complaints directly from the public
- Law enforcement agencies investigate complaints received directly from the public as well as those referred to them by the PAB
- Upon completion of the investigation, the law enforcement agencies forward an investigatory file to the Administrative Charging Committee

Complaint Process: Administrative Charging Committee

- The Administrative Charging Committee (ACC) reviews investigatory files forwarded by law enforcement agencies and determines whether to administratively charge the officer in question
- If the Officer is Not Charged
 - The ACC determines that the allegations are unfounded or that the officer is exonerated
 - The ACC issues a written opinion detailing findings, determinations and recommendations within one year and one day of the filing of the complaint
- If the Officer is Charged
 - Within one year and one day of the filing of the complaint, the ACC issues a written opinion detailing findings, determinations and recommendations, and recommends discipline according to the Maryland Police and Correction and Correctional Training Commissions disciplinary matrix
 - The law enforcement agency chief offers discipline recommended by the ACC or a higher level according to the disciplinary matrix within 15 days of the ACC opinion
 - If the officer accepts the discipline, the discipline is imposed and the matter is final

Complaint Process: The Trial Board

- If the officer does not accept the discipline imposed by the law enforcement agency chief, the matter is referred to a trial board
- The trial board holds a hearing and makes a decision
- If the officer does not appeal the Trial Board's decision within thirty days, then the Trial Board's decision is final
- If the officer appeals the Trial Board's decision within thirty days, then the Baltimore County Circuit Court will hear the appeal on the record