



## POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

### MEETING AGENDA

County Administration Building, Second Floor  
Workshop Room 100 W. Washington Street,  
Hagerstown, MD 21740  
April 9, 2025  
3:00 P.M.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. New Business
  1. Citizen Policy Recommendations – See Attachment
- IV. Closed Session (If needed) *(To discuss (i) The appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or (ii) Any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals. MD Annotated Code General Provisions Article 3-305(b)(1); To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice 3-305(b)(7); To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter 3-305(b)(13)).*
- V. Reconvene in Open Session
- VI. Other Business, if any.
- VII. Adjournment

Mr. Steven M<sup>c</sup>Donough

March 9, 2025

Police Accountability Board  
100 W. Washington Street  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Re: ACC Case #1A-24\_011

Dear members of the Police Accountability Board,

Please consider this as an official complaint against the Washington County Sheriffs Department and its Policies and Procedures. This letter contains information that I have gathered and encountered as a result of WCSD incident report #2307792, and it's inaccuracy that resulted in my assailant being found not guilty and I being found as not credible (legalese for being a liar) and losing my claimed damages during the court proceedings. It also contains items that I believe are systemic failures of policies and procedures that need to be addressed.

Item 1,

When incidents reports are created, the writer has the ability to create the report using a false date, as in my case. The report was dated as December 24, 2023. I was unable to determine when it was written exactly, but based on the review date of February 8, 2024, I have to assume it was written in late January 2025 or early February 2025. I strongly believe that the ability to modify the date to what they wish should be abolished by having the computer system assign the date produced or the date that it may have been modified. The writer or anyone should not have the ability to modify the date of an incident report.

Item 2,

When requesting a copy of what I thought would be two reports for the same incident, since two deputies responded, I was told that although two deputies responded only one report is written and that is normal procedure. I find that to be totally unacceptable. While the primary deputy spoke with me the secondary deputy spoke with my assailant. The primary deputy spent very little time with my assailant. If the secondary deputy would have been responsible for writing a report, it's possible that he would have included that my assailant, on two occasions admitted that he did at the least damaged my phone. Each and every responding officer should be expected to write a report, so that more accurate information would be available for documentation.

Item 3,

Responding officers are muting their body cams while discussing what they have heard and making determinations. In my opinion this renders their recordings useless. You don't know what was shared when comparing the content of the discussion versus the content of an unmuted record of the incidents body cameras. It's very hard to contest something that's not verifiable as in my case it leaves you wondering how their determination was made, especially considering that I was bleeding from my arm and my assailant said that he damaged my phone. Did the officers make their decision based on the date and that my assailant had two small children that would have been adversely affected if he were arrested? If their conversation was available I wouldn't have had that thought, I'd have known why. The muting of the responders body cameras needs to stop. I believe that the citizens have the right to have a complete record of an incident.

Item 4

This item is a suggestion that would be beneficial to anyone involved in an incident, especially if they are as inexperienced with the legal system as I am. While the officers did a good job informing me of my options if I chose to go forward with legal action, I wish they would have informed me of the need to get a copy of the incident report and the date that it would be available. That information could be added to the back of their business cards. If I had known what I know now about the legal system, I definitely would have requested a copy before going into court, where the contents of this incident report was described by the defense attorney during opening statements as my fantastical story, although it wasn't my story at all.

All of the information on items 1-3 can be verified by audio of the 911 call and audio of the court proceedings, along with the body cameras of both responding deputies. Item #4 should be a required item to further educate the affected parties of an incident.

Items 1-3 need to be implemented and item 4 should be seriously considered.

Sincerely yours,

*Steven McDonough*

Steven M<sup>c</sup>Donough