

**CITY OF COLUMBIA**

**CITIZENS POLICE REVIEW BOARD  
2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

## **Table of Contents**

Membership Information .....	1
History of Formation of the Citizens Police Review Board.....	2
Executive Summary of Accomplishments.....	3
Summary of Appeals.....	4
Demographic Information on Complainants who Appealed to the Citizens Police Review Board .....	7
Analysis of Citizen and Police Complaints and Compliments .....	7
Community Outreach and Educational Programs.....	7
Conclusion .....	11

**2017 CITIZENS POLICE REVIEW BOARD MEMBERS**

(as of December 31, 2017)

**Darryl Smith, Chair**

(appointed March 2015; Chair – November 2016 to present)

**Andrew Fisher, Vice Chair**

(appointed September 2013; Vice Chair - November 2015 to present)

**Bill Davis**

(appointed November 2017)

**Val R. DeBrunce**

(appointed November 2015)

**Baxter Nickels**

(appointed May 2017)

**Stephen Sheltmire**

(appointed February 2011)

**Stacye Smith**

*Commission on Human Rights Liaison to the Citizens Police Review Board*

(appointed November 2017)

**Katelynn Towne**

(appointed April 2017)

**Cornellia Williams**

(appointed November 2016)

**Members who resigned or had their term expire during the year:**

Jayne Woods - October 2014 to April 13, 2017 – Resigned.

Renee Henson - December 2015 to April 13, 2017 – Resigned.

Gabriel Scott Dean - Commission on Human Rights Liaison to the Citizens Police Review Board -  
September 2010 to November 2017 - Term Expired.

Alan Meyer - March 2015 to November 2017 – Term Expired.

**Subcommittee Membership:**

**Outreach Subcommittee (Dissolved: May 10, 2017):**

1. Andrew Fisher
2. Steve Sheltmire
3. Jayne Woods (Resigned April 13, 2017)
4. Renee Henson (Resigned April 13, 2017)

**Strategic Planning Subcommittee (Created: January 13, 2016; Dissolved: May 10, 2017):**

1. Scott Dean
2. Val DeBrunce
3. Andrew Fisher
4. Alan Meyer
5. Jayne Woods (Resigned April 13, 2017)

## **HISTORY OF THE FORMATION OF THE CITIZENS POLICE REVIEW BOARD**

In 2007, a coalition of citizens and groups proposed the idea of creating a civilian review board to the City Council. The City Council appointed a fourteen member committee to study whether or not a review board was needed and to consider how such a board would be structured. The committee reviewed all complaints that existed before the professional standards unit was established. In addition, they studied and considered different models used by different cities, and hosted public events to gather input from the citizens. After extensive study and public input, the committee unanimously agreed to recommend that the City of Columbia establish a citizens police review board.

In July of 2009, the City Council of the City of Columbia, by adopting Ordinance No. 020331, created a nine member Citizens Police Review Board. The ordinance outlined the duties of the Citizens Police Review Board as follows:

The Citizens Police Review Board shall have the following duties:

- (1) Review appeals from the police chief's decisions on alleged police misconduct as provided for in this article.
- (2) Host public meetings and educational programs for Columbia residents and police officers.
- (3) Review and make recommendations to the police chief and city manager on police policies, procedures and training.
- (4) Prepare and submit to the city council annual reports that analyze citizen and police complaints including demographic data on complainants, complaint disposition, investigative findings and disciplinary actions. The reports should also describe the Board's community outreach and educational programs. The reports should also set forth any recommendations made on police policies, procedures and training. The reports shall be submitted no later than March 1 for the previous calendar year.

The City Council initially appointed the first eight members of the Citizens Police Review Board in November of 2009. Also in November of 2009, the Human Rights Commission appointed its first member to the Board. The Board met for the first time on November 18, 2009.

In 2014, the City Council, at the request of the Citizens Police Review Board, amended Section 21-49, to add additional duties. Pursuant to these amendments to the ordinance, the Board is also to conduct a jurisdictional review from the decision by the police chief that a person's allegations do not fall within the requirements set forth in the article related to complaints. The Board is also to conduct audits or reviews of the records of the police department for compliance with the requirements of the ordinances.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual report includes information on the Citizens Police Review Board's work from January 2017 through the end of December 2017.

Pursuant to its mandate, the Citizens Police Review Board's accomplishments include:

- (1) The Board reviewed appeals from the police chief's decision on alleged police misconduct and conducted jurisdictional reviews of the police chief's decisions. During this reporting period, citizens requested that the Board review the police chief's decisions eleven (11) different times.
- (2) The Board hosted monthly public meetings with an opportunity for public comment at each regular monthly meeting, provided public educational programs on a variety of topics, and participated in community outreach.
- (3) The Board met with the police chief on two occasions (April 12, 2017 and December 13, 2017).
- (4) The Board is submitting to the City Council the following annual report which outlines the Board's actions from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.
- (5) The Board has trained volunteer advocates available to assist complainants and police officers with the complaint and appeal process.
- (6) For the Board's mediation program, the City of Columbia has a contract with local attorney and mediator Lorri Kline to provide mediation services. During this review period, the Board referred one (1) case to mediation.
- (7) Darryl Smith attended the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) national conference. Mr. Smith served as the City's voting member in the national organization.
- (8) In January 2017, Scott Dean and Andrew Fisher achieved the status of a Certified Practitioner of Oversight (CPO) through NACOLE. In September 2017, Darryl Smith achieved the status of a Certified Practitioner of Oversight (CPO) through NACOLE.
- (9) Four board members rode along with on duty police officers in 2017. Cornelia Williams completed a ride along with a police officer on May 12, 2017. Katelynn Towne completed a ride along on May 15, 2017. Baxter Nickels completed a ride along on May 30, 2017. Darryl Smith completed ride alongs on August 24, 2017 and on September 23, 2017.
- (10) The Board established a Strategic Planning Subcommittee in 2016. The subcommittee met on February 8, 2017. Recommendations made by the Strategic Planning Subcommittee, and approved with a majority vote by the

Citizens Police Review Board, were submitted to City Council for the March 6, 2017 council meeting.

**SUMMARY OF APPEALS REVIEWED BY THE CITIZENS POLICE REVIEW BOARD**

During this reporting period, the Board completed its review of two (2) appeals received in 2016 that were still pending and reviewed nine (9) new appeals filed in 2017.

The dispositions of the cases are summarized below.

<b><u>CPRB Case Number</u></b>	<b><u>Summary and Board’s Action</u></b>
2016-0009	<p>A person filed an appeal on September 16, 2016. After its jurisdictional review on October 12, 2016, the Board unanimously voted that they had standing to review the appeal. After its initial review, the Board voted unanimously to affirm the Police Chief’s decision for exonerating the officer on one allegation and further moved that the Board send back to the Police Chief for his reconsideration of his determination that another allegation did not fall within the guidelines of officer misconduct. Andrew Fisher, Scott Dean, Steve Sheltmire, Jayne Woods, Val DeBrunce, Darryl Smith, Renee Henson, Alan Meyer and James C. Martin voted in favor of the motion. As to the Police Chief’s third finding, the Board voted unanimously to uphold the chief’s decision with respect to the finding that the person complained of was not an employee of CPD. Andrew Fisher, Scott Dean, Steve Sheltmire, Jayne Woods, Val DeBrunce, Darryl Smith, Renee Henson, Alan Meyer and James C. Martin voted in favor of the motion.</p> <p>After its independent review of the remaining allegation on January 11, 2017, the Board unanimously voted to affirm the police chief’s decision to exonerate the detective. Val DeBrunce, Andrew Fisher, Renee Henson, Alan Meyer, Steve Sheltmire, Darryl Smith, Jayne Woods, Cornellia Williams voted in favor of the motion.</p>
2016-0011	<p>A person filed an appeal on December 27, 2016. After its jurisdictional review on March 8, 2017, the Board unanimously voted that they had standing to review the</p>

appeal. After its initial review, the Board voted unanimously to sustain the Police Chief's decision on the complaint. Darryl Smith, Renee Henson, Steve Sheltmire, Andrew Fisher, Jayne Woods, Val DeBrunce, Scott Dean and Cornellia Williams voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2017-0001

A person filed an appeal on April 14, 2017. After its jurisdictional review on May 10, 2017, the Board unanimously voted that there was no jurisdiction because the complaint was not timely filed. Darryl Smith, Steve Sheltmire, Andrew Fisher, Val DeBrunce, Scott Dean, Alan Meyer, Cornellia Williams, and Katelynn Towne voted in favor of the motion. No one voted against the motion.

2017-0002

A person filed an appeal on May 3, 2017. After its jurisdictional review on June 14, 2017, the Board unanimously voted that they had standing to review the appeal. The Board also unanimously voted that they had enough information to proceed. After its initial review, the Board voted unanimously to affirm the Police Chief's decision on the complaint. Val DeBrunce, Scott Dean, Alan Meyer, Baxter Nickels, Steve Sheltmire, Darryl Smith, Katelynn Towne, and Cornellia Williams voted in favor of the motion. No one voted against the motion.

2017-0003

A person filed an appeal on May 3, 2017. After its jurisdictional review on June 14, 2017, the Board unanimously voted that they had jurisdiction to review the appeal and agreed with the Police Chief's decision on the complaint. Val DeBrunce, Scott Dean, Mr. Meyer, Baxter Nickels, Steve Sheltmire, Darryl Smith, Katelynn Towne, and Cornellia Williams voted in favor of the motion. No one voted against the motion.

2017-0004

Two people filed an appeal regarding the same complaint on May 12, 2017. After its jurisdictional review on July 12, 2017, the Board unanimously voted that they had jurisdiction to review the appeal. After its initial review on July 12, 2017, the Board voted by majority to send this case to mediation. Val DeBrunce, Scott Dean, Andrew Fisher, Alan Meyer, Steve Sheltmire, Baxter Nickels, Katelynn Towne voted in favor of

the motion. Cornellia Williams voted against the motion. Darryl Smith abstained.

After a party declined mediation, the Board continued its review of the matter. On November 8, 2017, the Board voted by majority to affirm the police chief's decision on the complaint. Darryl Smith, Val DeBrunce, Stacye Smith, Bill Davis, Katelynn Towne, Baxter Nickels, and Cornellia Williams voted in favor of the motion. Andrew Fisher voted against the motion.

2017-0005

A person filed an appeal on June 19, 2017. After its jurisdictional review on July 12, 2017, the Board unanimously voted that there was no jurisdiction because the complaint was not timely filed. Val DeBrunce, Scott Dean, Andrew Fisher, Alan Meyer, Baxter Nickels, Steve Sheltmire, Darryl Smith, Katelynn Towne, and Cornellia Williams voted in favor of the motion. No one voted against the motion.

2017-0006

A person filed an appeal on June 28, 2017. On August 9, 2017, the Board voted by majority to approve the police chief's decision on the complaint. Val DeBrunce, Andrew Fisher, Baxter Nickels, Darryl Smith, and Cornellia Williams voted in favor of the motion. Scott Dean and Katelynn Towne voted no. Alan Meyer abstained.

2017-0007

A person filed an appeal on July 6, 2017. On August 9, 2017, the Board unanimously voted that they had jurisdiction and to uphold the police chief's decision. Val DeBrunce, Scott Dean, Andrew Fisher, Baxter Nickels, Darryl Smith, Katelynn Towne, Alan Meyer, and Cornellia Williams voted in favor of the motion. No one voted against the motion.

2017-0008

A person filed an appeal on July 20, 2017. On September 13, 2017, the Board unanimously voted that they had jurisdiction to hear the appeal and agreed with the Police Chief's decision on the complaint. Val DeBrunce, Scott Dean, Andrew Fisher, Katelynn Towne, Alan Meyer, and Steve Sheltmire voted in favor of the motion. No one voted against the motion.



2017-0009

A person filed an appeal on August 15, 2017. After its jurisdictional review on September 13, 2017, the Board unanimously voted that there was no jurisdiction because the complaint was not timely filed. Val DeBrunce, Scott Dean, Andrew Fisher, Katelynn Towne, Alan Meyer, and Steve Sheltmire voted in favor of the motion. No one voted against the motion.

**DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON COMPLAINANTS WHO  
APPEALED TO THE CITIZENS POLICE REVIEW BOARD**

<b><u>CPRB Case Number</u></b>	<b><u>Demographic Information on Complainant</u></b>
2016-0009	b/m
2016-0011	b/f
2017-0001	b/m
2017-0002	w/m
2017-0003	w/m
2017-0004	b/f and b/m
2017-0005	b/m
2017-0006	b/m
2017-0007	w/m
2017-0008	w/m
2017-0009	w/m

**ANALYSIS OF CITIZEN COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS**

At the time this report was prepared, the Board had not received a copy of the City of Columbia Police Department’s 2017 Annual Report of the Internal Affairs Unit or its analysis of citizen complaints and compliments. When the Police Department provides the information and analysis of police and citizen’s complaints and compliments to the Board, the Board will provide a supplemental report to the City Council.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS  
BY THE CITIZENS POLICE REVIEW BOARD**

Section 21-49 of the City Code of Ordinances provides that the Citizens Police Review Board shall host public meetings and educational programs for Columbia residents and police officers. The Board regularly met with police recruits to provide the new recruits with information about civilian oversight. The Board also used other avenues to increase community awareness and hosted speakers on civilian review topics at public meetings.

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Topic</u></b>
January 30, 2017	Darryl Smith, Cornellia Williams, Andrew Fisher, Val DeBrunce, and Scott Dean attended a meeting on “Racial Profiling and Policing.”

February 23, 2017 Jayne Woods met with new recruits during the Columbia Police Department's recruit training and orientation.

March 2017 Val DeBrunce met with Columbia Police Department Crime Analyst Jerry East.

March 2017 Steve Sheltmire attended the Refugee and Immigration Services quarterly meeting.

April 2017 Val DeBrunce and Alan Meyer met with new recruits during the Columbia Police Department's recruit training and orientation.

April 12, 2017 Chief Burton, Sgt. Bob Dochler, and the Board discussed accreditation, recruitment, staffing, community policing, and releases of information by the police department's public information unit at the regularly scheduled Citizens Police Review Board meeting.

April 29, 2017 Steve Sheltmire participated in a sobriety check point at West Boulevard and Broadway.

May 10, 2017 Officer Clinton Sinclair explained his role as the Columbia Police Department's LGBTQ liaison at the regularly scheduled Citizens Police Review Board meeting.

July 6, 2017 Steve Sheltmire and Val DeBrunce attended the "Implicit Bias" event.

June 14, 2017 Assistant City Attorney Jose Caldera presented information to the Citizens Police Review Board members on the Sunshine Law and public meetings.

July 8, 2017 Val DeBrunce, Andrew Fisher, Steve Sheltmire, Darryl Smith, Cornellia Williams, Katelynn Towne, and Baxter Nickels attended a special Citizens Police Review Board meeting for a "Police Response to Resistance" presentation given by Andre Cook and Richard Horrell from the Columbia Police Department.

July 12, 2017 Local Attorney Greg Mermelstein presented information on the impact of constitutional laws on criminal cases at the regularly scheduled Citizens Police Review Board meeting.

July 31, 2017	Darryl Smith attended “Disproportionate Minority Connections” meeting at the Boone County Courthouse.
August 9, 2017	Deputy Chief John Gordon presented information on the Columbia Police Department’s consent to search forms at the regularly scheduled Citizens Police Review Board meeting.
August 22, 2017	Steve Sheltmire and Val DeBrunce attended the NAACP’s meeting on “Community Policing, Equity, and Civility Engagement.”
August 25, 2017	Val DeBrunce spoke with Sgt. Hestir at the East Neighborhood Meeting. He also placed literature with the City Manager’s Fellow Kacy Hall.
August 25, 2017	Val DeBrunce discussed 911 dispatch times with the Director of Boone County Sheriff’s 911 Center Chad Martin.
August 29, 2017	Val DeBrunce attended Sgt. Tate’s presentation for newly hired officers.
August 29, 2017	Val DeBrunce met with Chief Burton to discuss data collection.
August 30, 2017	Val DeBrunce, at the invitation of Chief Burton, attended a monthly Police Department Manager’s meeting.
August 30, 2017	Val DeBrunce met with Deputy Chief Gordon for a brief overview of the “Benchmark Cities 2016” data.
August 31, 2017	Val DeBrunce met with new recruits during the Columbia Police Department’s recruit training and orientation.
August 31, 2017	Katelynn Towne attended the “Police Stop Data Workshop” hosted by Empower Missouri.
September 26, 2017	Val DeBrunce attended a panel discussion sponsored by the Show Me Institute called “Behind Bars in Missouri: Who Is Paying the Price?”

September 26, 2017	Val DeBrunce attended Columbia Missouri NAACP sponsored event “Community Engagement on Policing, Equity and Civility.”
October 3, 2017	Val DeBrunce attended “Building Stronger Beats - Beats 70 & 80” with Lt. Eric Hughes.
October 4, 2017	Val DeBrunce attended the “Building Stronger Beats” community meeting.
October 5, 2017	Val DeBrunce attended “Building Stronger Beats - Beats 10 & 20” with Lt. Barb Buck.
October 10, 2017	Val DeBrunce attended the North Precinct Facility Interested Parties meeting.
October 10, 2017	Val DeBrunce attended the “Building Stronger Beats - Beats 50 & 60” with Lt. Matt Stephens.
October 23, 2017	Darryl Smith and Val DeBrunce met with Councilperson Ian Thomas.
November 2017	Steve Sheltmire attended the Refugee and Immigration Services quarterly meeting.
November 15, 2017	Darryl Smith attended the “Building Inclusive Communities” workshop at the Department of Public Health and Human Services.
November 28, 2017	Steve Sheltmire, Bill Davis, and Val DeBrunce attended the NAACP’s “Community Engagement on Policing” event.
December 5, 2017	Darryl Smith attended the “Deep Listening and Nonviolent Response” workshop at the Department of Public Health and Human Services.
December 7, 2017	Val DeBrunce attended the North Neighborhood Community Unity meeting.
December 13, 2017	At the regular scheduled Citizens Police Review Board meeting, Chief Burton and the Board discussed the recent increase in shootings, benchmark cities, response time, the new internal affairs policy, the new police station, traffic stop data, the dynamics of gender, the return of the traffic unit, crime scene processing, increasing the use of community service

aides and civilians, staffing, the reduction of education requirements for new officers, and training of officers.

December 20, 2017

Steve Sheltmire, Val DeBrunce, and Darryl Smith met with new recruits during the Columbia Police Department's recruit training and orientation.

### **CONCLUSION**

As evidenced by the information included in this report, the CPRB has continued to serve the citizens of Columbia.

The Board looks forward to continuing to execute its duties in 2018.