



October 2, 2019, 8:30 a.m.
City Hall, Council Chambers, 2nd Floor

MINUTES

Members Present:

Caila Coleman, Vice Chair [1/0]
Richard Crabtree, Chair [1/0]
Julio Guerrero [1/0]
Tom Keen [1/0]
Don Mitchell [1/0]

Members Absent:

Korey Engel [0/1]
Linda Reaves [0/1]
Nimit Kapoor [0/1]

Others Present:

Kimberly Laskoff, Assistant City Attorney
Candace Cardillo, Board Administrator
Dwain Rivers, OPD Internal Affairs Manager
Sergeant Wesley Whited, OPD Internal Affairs Supervisor
Shawn Dunlap, OPD Internal Affairs
Nick Collins, OPD Internal Affairs
Douglas Goerke, OPD Internal Affairs
Michael Stanley, OPD Internal Affairs
Christopher Carty, OPD Internal Affairs

1. Call to Order

- a. Richard Crabtree, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m. Candace Cardillo, Board Administrator, took attendance and determined that a quorum was not present. Due to a lack of quorum, Richard Crabtree, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 8:52 a.m. Julio Guerrero, Board Member, arrived at 8:55 a.m. Richard Crabtree, Chair, called the meeting to order for a second time at 9:00 a.m.

2. Roll Call

- a. Candace Cardillo, Board Administrator, took attendance and determined that a quorum was present.

3. Consideration of Minutes

- a. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from August 7, 2019

Richard Crabtree, Chair, moved to approve the meeting minutes from August 7, 2019, Don Mitchell seconded the motion. The Board voted to approve the motion, 5-0.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Old Business

a. Citizen Generated Complaint Report

Richard Crabtree, Chair, presented the Citizen Generated Complaint Report that was requested by the Board on June 5, 2019. The report was generated and provided to the Board Administrator by Sergeant Wesley Whited, OPD Internal Affairs Supervisor on June 11, 2019. A copy of the report is attached as supplemental papers to these minutes.

6. New Business

a. Consent Agenda

i. IR 19-03, Internal Investigation (Officer Zambito)

1. RM 800-2, Arrest, B. Use of Force as it relates to Policy and Procedure 1128.16, Response to Resistance and Apprehension Techniques – EXONERATED

Board members asked questions to Internal Affairs and Sergeant Wesley Whited, OPD Internal Affairs Supervisor, responded to the Board.

Don Mitchell made a motion to approve IR#19-03 as presented and Caila Coleman seconded the motion. The Citizens' Police Review Board voted to approve the motion 5-0.

ii. IR 19-37, Internal Investigation (Officer Vargas)

1. RM 800-2, Arrests, B. Use of Force – SUSTAINED

Board members asked questions to Internal Affairs and Sergeant Wesley Whited, OPD Internal Affairs Supervisor, responded to the Board.

Caila Coleman made a motion to approve IR#19-37 as presented and Tom Keen seconded the motion. The Citizens' Police Review Board voted to approve the motion 5-0.

7. Presentation of New Inquiries

None.

8. Other Business

a. Chairman's Report

Richard Crabtree, Chair, presented an article that was published in the Orlando Sentinel regarding a 501(c)(3) organization called 'Tough Biker' founded by OPD bike unit officer, Mark Levy. Tough Biker hosts charity mountain bike rides to raise funds, food and personal hygiene items for the Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida. Mr. Crabtree praised Officer Levy for devoting his off-duty time to being proactive in the community. A copy of the article is attached as supplemental papers to these minutes.

b. Internal Affairs' Report

Dwain Rivers, OPD Internal Affairs Manager, advised the Board that Lashon Goins and Ricardo Agrait are no longer with OPD Internal Affairs. Mr. Rivers introduced Christopher Carty and Michael Stanley, who are both new to the OPD Internal Affairs Unit. Mr. Rivers explained that Officer Carty and Officer Stanley are both seasoned officers who have years of experience with OPD.

c. Administrator's Report

Candace Cardillo, Board Administrator, distributed the Citizens' Police Review Board meeting schedule for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 to the members of the Board. Ms. Cardillo also advised the Board that elections for Chair and Vice Chair will be held at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

9. Adjourn

- a. Richard Crabtree, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 9:10 a.m.



Richard Crabtree
Chair



Candace Cardillo
Board Administrator

COMPLAINTS FROM 5/1/2018 – 6/10/2019 FOR CITIZEN'S REVIEW BOARD

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS FROM 5/1/18 TO 6/10/19	88
CITIZEN COMPLAINTS FROM 12/02/17 – 6/10/18 CHIEF MINA	50
CITIZEN COMPLAINTS FROM 12/02/18 – 6/10/19 CHIEF ROLÓN	41

Wesley White
06/11/2019

Officer uses cycling to help teens

Orlando cop runs nonprofit 'Tough Biker' mountain biking group



Biker Chris heads up a jump during a Tough Biker ride at the Orlando Mountain Bike Park on July 10. (Patrick Connolly Photos/Orlando Sentinel)



Mark Levy, an Orlando police officer, helps Jefferson Bassy with his helmet during a Tough Biker ride at the Orlando Mountain Bike Park.

BY PATRICK CONNOLLY

Some people are content to clock into work in the morning and leave at 5 p.m. for a peaceful evening at home. Mark Levy is a member of Orlando Police Department's downtown bike unit by day, but his work is never quite done.

While juggling his police duties and family, Levy also runs a nonprofit called Tough Biker, a charity and ride group dedicated to helping youth find purpose and enjoyment through the sport of mountain biking.

It started in 2014 when Levy met a struggling teenager while working with homeless families at an Orlando women's center.

"I met a kid who was having a little bit of trouble at school, you know, getting in fights, not listening to his mom," Levy said. "I got his bike fixed up through Orange Cycle. We made a deal that I'll teach him how to ride and we'll go on a couple of rides if he does good. He continued to excel, not get in fights and do good in school."

After that initial connection, Levy knew there was more potential for utilizing his passion for biking. The first charity ride he hosted was small, but the event raised funds, food and personal hygiene items for the Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida.

After that, Levy was able to host a few charity rides each year to gather donations of bikes and other items while helping teens directly during weekly rides at the Orlando Mountain Bike Park. Most of his regular riders come from the Parramore area and were a little wary of Officer Levy at first.

“They were kind of like, ‘Oh, what’s this guy doing?’ ” Levy said. “I’m a police officer. Police officers are people, too, but we have a job to do. And outside that job, we like to do the same things everybody else likes to do.”

One Tough Biker, 19-year-old Jefferson Bassy, said distrust of police is inherent for many members of the greater Parramore community.

“Parramore is named one of the 25 most dangerous neighborhoods in America. That’s around gun violence, drugs, just people getting in trouble, going to jail, getting shot,” Bassy said. “People stereotype cops saying, ‘Oh, they’re not good. They just get you and take you to jail.’ Mr. Levy, he’s a good guy.”

For Bassy, a Morehouse College-bound graduate of Jones High School, mountain biking has taught him valuable life skills.

“Doing this, I’ve learned to stay confident, how to control and just ride,” Bassy said. “I crashed. Mountain biking is not easy. But I got back up and started riding. I learned a lot and kept doing it to this day.”

Another Tough Biker, 16-year-old Elv Smith Charles, known to his friends as “Smith,” said being involved with the group has kept him out of trouble.

“Mr. Levy has given me opportunities to try some things I’ve never tried before. He makes sure I stay out of trouble,” Smith said. “I try to join any program that encourages me to have fun or keep me happy. I’m just trying to be the good in the hood.”

Though the mountain bikes are the common thread that tie Levy and his riders together, he said it’s a deeper connection and chance for impact that keeps him going.

“You work with one kid, work with another kid and start making that difference. You can come out five or six times and see nothing and then there’s that one ‘aha’ moment where the kid gets it,” Levy said.

“Maybe later on down the road, some of these guys will think back on something we talked about and they won’t take the bad fork in the road, they’ll take the good fork.”

If you want to help: Tough Biker is a registered 501(c)(3) that accepts donations for bikes and supplies. Find more information at toughbiker.com or follow [its Facebook page](#) for updates on weekly rides and events.

Want to get in touch? You can find me on Twitter ([@PConnPie](#)), Instagram ([@pconnpie](#)) or send me an email: pconnolly@orlandosentinel.com.