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Citizens' Police Oversight Board

Documenter name: Jackie Jantzi

Agency: None

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Summary

- Akron Independent Police Auditor Anthony Finnell did an audit of police damage and found that the process for the Akron Police Department (APD) was sufficient and proper, but tracking claims was extremely difficult. He recommended changing the system for tracking claims.
- At Finnell's request, the board approved an audit of APD's [Flock](#) surveillance cameras. This process will start with a formal request letter to the APD. The city's contract with Flock began in 2022 and ends in 2027.
- Board members discussed an initiative on the ballot in November that would change several things related to the CPOB. [A Signal Akron article](#) details the amendment that could give the CPOB a little more power. (Editor's note: Akron City Council voted to certify that

Follow-Up Questions

- Who has access to the APD Flock system? Does ICE? How is it being used currently? What accountabilities are in place?
- Now that Finnell recommended an audit on police damage, what are the follow-up steps to better track citizens' claims of police damage?
- Is Boyd considering how his role on the CPOB might be affected given that he is

running for mayor?

- Is there an investigation into Davon Fields' partner in the death of Jazmir Tucker?
- Are accountability circles open to any members of the public? How are members chosen, and can anyone apply?

Notes

- The Citizens' Police Oversight Board ([CPOB](#)) oversees the Office of the Independent Police Auditor (OIPA). OIPA conducts external and independent reviews of Akron Police Department ([APD](#)) practices. The agenda can be found [here](#). The video of the meeting can be found [here](#).
- Members of the board:
 - Chair Kemp Boyd (present)
 - Vice Chair Donzella Anuszkiewicz (present)
 - Shawn Peoples (not present)
 - Ericka Burney-Hawkins (present)
 - Duane Crabbs (present)
 - Juanita Elton (present)
 - Christopher Weems (present)
 - Jennifer Boswell (present)
 - Tamara Brooks (present)
- Two OIPA staff members were also present – [Anthony Finnell](#), the independent police auditor, and Keysha Myers, the deputy independent police auditor.
- There were about 15 people in the meeting.
- Boyd started the meeting, and members approved the meeting minutes from July.
- Boyd read the CPOB values and purpose.

Public comments ([4:00 into the video](#))

- One community member spoke about Boyd, who announced he is running for [mayor](#). He said that, legally, Boyd is allowed to stay on the board and run for mayor, but he believed it is a conflict of interest. As an oversight board that makes reports, the campaign raises an ethical issue. He asked Boyd at minimum to consider stepping down as chair and to also consider stepping off the board.
- The same community member also asked about [Davon Fields'](#) partner, who was present when Jazmir Tucker was shot and killed. Since Fields was fired, he wanted to know what accountability was in order for the

partner.

Committee Reports ([9:04 into the video](#)).

- **Auditors Report:**

- **Consent agenda:** Finnell asked the board to accept these items. The board accepted them.
 - General OIPA Activities Report
 - Citizen Complaint Review Report – 2026-00069735
 - Use of Force Review Report – 2026-00085273
 - Monthly OIPA Policy and Training Recommendations Memo
- **Property Damage Audit Report:** Finnell audited police damage to private property. Finnell found that the APD process for documenting and processing damage caused by police actions was sufficient and proper. However, it was difficult to line up claims that were filed with the way the city's law department files claims. It was difficult to see how many claims were filed. Finnell gave a general recommendation for a better system to track claims and damages more easily. Of the claims he found, the city responded appropriately to the individuals, but Finnell guessed there would be many more claims. Damage claims are filed with the City of Akron. APD must document not decide claims, but police must document the damage caused.
- **[Flock](#) Audit Plan:** Finnell said there is a lot of interest in Flock nationally and locally, including multiple residents coming before city council and before the CPOB with concerns and questions. Finnell put together a general audit claim and asked the board to approve the audit process. This process would begin with a formal request letter to APD and the city requesting information. Finnell said he does not know what policies and procedures APD currently has for using Flock cameras, so he doesn't know whether they have the proper safeguards in place. Finnell said many states are now passing laws governing how officers can use the system.
 - A resident complained that they were misidentified in the system. Brooks asked about the relationship between APD and this software, why they procure it, and how they are using it. Finnell said he can't answer these questions, which is why he wants the audit. He had many questions, including who has access to the system? What information does it collect or access? How long do they have access to that information? Does ICE have access to the information? He said he is not making a judgment, but like fingerprint databases or Social Security numbers, this information

can only be accessed for certain reasons.

- A few board members had concerns about the audit, but Finnell said he is not looking into specific cases — he is looking at the policies and procedures.
- Finnell said the first step is to send an audit letter to outline the scope of the audit and what would be needed.
- Boyd called for a motion, and the board approved Finnell's request unanimously.

○ **More discussion points from Finnell ([43:00 into video](#)).**

- November committee meeting date change: The November committee meetings moved to Nov. 4, due to a conference.
- Boyd commented that the board should handle itself with decorum at public meetings. He said any negative behavior reflects on the entire board. Finnell said he received information about a negative interaction with the library during a committee meeting. It was likely not a board member, but the situation reminded board members to conduct themselves professionally. Anuszkiewicz recommended the board members wear their board badges.

● **Community Engagement ([1:03:37 into the video](#)):**

- Myers said they are outlining a budget to maintain future dialogues with circle facilitators. They would like at least four accountability circles engaging the community, discussing insights from previous circles, and building the process. Myers said she hopes to present the outline to the board soon. Crabbs, Boyd and Boswell said they attended community events for new police officers that were productive and helpful. Some of the events had a lot of diversity. Crabbs said there are four new Nepali officers and they are good liaisons between APD and the Nepali community. Myers said there are two questions for new cadets, including how to provide new and ongoing opportunities for officers to engage in accountability circles and how their perspective has changed after becoming an officer.
- The board went back and forth on how and when the community should be aware of police events, who should attend, and how to bridge the divide between the police and the community. Boswell said the CPOB is invested in the work police do every day. Boyd said the board needs discernment over what to attend.
- Finnell said they need to think about the upcoming board retreat. If the

charter amendments go through, there could be three new board members in March. The retreat is not for conducting board business – it is for training. Boyd said it would be good to consider a yearly rhythm for the board retreat.

- ([1:40:48 into the video](#)): Anuskiewicz asked if there was a place to go to see the proposed charter amendments. Finnell said there is information in City Council documents, and the charter amendment changes are detailed in a Signal Akron [article](#).
- Executive Session: The CPOB went into executive session. The online video did not return after the board returned and adjourned.

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