The December meeting was called to order at 6:13 p.m. by Chair Houston-Torrence.

AGENDA

ROLL CALL
(The ACRB consist of thirteen board members.)

ACTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

CECILIA HOUSTON-TORRENCE, Board Chair (League of Women Voters)
SHUNTAY PITRE, Vice Chair (Urban League of Greater Atlanta)
TRACEE MCDANIEL, Secretary (Office of the Mayor)

TRUDY BOYCE (City Council President’s Office)
JAMES HARDY (APAB, NPU Group A-F)
BARBARA WARD-GROVES (APAB, NPU Group M-R)

GLORIA HAWKINS-WYNN (Atlanta City Council)
TAMARA ORANGE (GA Coalition for the Peoples Agenda)
SHERRY WILLIAMS (APAB, NPU Group G-L) (arrival 6:20p)

ACTIVE MEMBERS ABSENT

KEITH HASSON (Atlanta Bar Association)
MICHAEL HOPKINS (APAB, NPU Group M-Z)

VACANT BOARD SEATS

Gate City Bar Association (Eight (8) months)
Atlanta Business League (one (1) year and five (5) months)

SAMUEL LEE REID, Executive Director (Reid); SHEENA ROBERTSON, Investigation Manager (Investigator Robertson), BRIAN FLEMING, Investigator (Fleming); TONYA RICHARDSON, Investigator (Richardson); RONALD JACKSON, Investigator (Jackson); MELISA REESE,
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE 101 BOARD TRAINING
Presenter: Steven Parker, Attorney, City of Atlanta Law Department

Attorney Parker provided a 20-minute presentation on basic parliamentary procedures taken from Robert’s Rules of Order. The purpose of the training is to assist and provide the body with tools to promote cooperation and harmony; to ensure that all members have equal rights, privileges and obligations; and to ensure the majority has the right to decide, but the minority has rights which must be protected as well. Also, the training will help to facilitate the transaction of monthly meeting business.

Each director received a handout to follow-up along with the presentation. For the record, a copy of the handout is attached to the minutes.

Training Focus:
- Why Use Parliamentary Procedures?
- Bylaws (Rules that govern the organization; legally binding, parliamentary authority override)
- Basic Principles
- Role of the Chair
- Keys to Being A Good Board Member
- Voting, Making and Handling Main Motions, Debate, Types of Motions and Commonly Used Motions, Amendments, Questions, Tabling a Motion, Withdrawing a Motion
- Point of Order
- Adjournment

Key comments:
A. Role of the Chair
One of the things that’s very critical is the Chair, the center of the meeting. The Chair is the traffic coordinator. The Chair is the decision maker, and the Chair’s interest is to help make sure everyone gets a chance to debate, but also to make sure that everything we need to move, moves forward. Members are not allowed to speak unless the Chair acknowledges them, and so that typically happens by raising your hand or getting the Chair’s attention by addressing her as Madame Chair. The Chair is expected to be completely impartial. The Chair should not be impartial to or giving her opinions unless, there is, or we get into a situation where there needs to be a tie that’s broken. The Chair is expected to sit above the fray. So, the Chair is directing traffic and impartially deeming what items should come forth. The Chair presides, the Chair decides the questions, the Chair needs to remain impartial and serves again as the person who is overseeing the traffic regarding the items that were appointed.

B. Keys to Being A Good Board Member
A good board member attends the meetings and arrives on time. Another is to participate in the meetings…voting on what it is that you prepared and what is before you. That’s a big part of your role. In some instances, you may be swayed by someone who has a view on the item that’s
before you, so as a board member you should also participate in the discussion. And finally, one
of the more critical pieces is they’re prepared to respect each other’s opinions, we may disagree,
we may not like each other, but one thing to all board members is develop respect for opinions
and a level of respect for time.

When it comes to voting, all members have a duty to vote. When an item comes before you, your
duty is to vote yes or to vote no. That is your duty. You’re still appointed, and you have the
pleasure to serve on this board to take a position one way or the other. However, in some
instances, members may wish to abstain for specific reasons, and typically those reasons are if
you have a pecuniary financial interest in what’s coming before you, then you should abstain. If
you have a personal outcome on the matter that comes before you, you should abstain. And I’ve
emphasized “should” because as a board member you have every right that’s afforded to your
parliamentary procedures to abstain. But the duty that you have is to take a position one way or
the other, and the duty that you have is to abstain if there is some conflict that comes before you.
So, parliamentary procedures do not impose an obligation, it imposes a duty.

Other key comments with details and questions and a copy of the handout will be emailed to the
board later. A copy of the same will be posted to the ACRB website.

Following the presentation, The Chair thanked Attorney Parker. She stated, “I want to thank you
for taking time to do this. Thank you very much. Most of you have seen this, heard this at some
point, but what I found out throughout my career is new information is relearning old information
we may have forgotten, so I personally appreciate you taking the time to do this. It is very
necessary and personally, I like having the Robert’s Rules of Order, it helps the meeting move
smoothly and there’s a flow to it, so.”

**For the Record:** By a show of consensu, at 6:31 p.m., the board agreed to a 10-minute break to
celebrate and enjoy a holiday meal.

**Chair Houston-Torrence** called the meeting back to order at approximately 6:50 p.m. resuming
with the next item on the agenda, Approval of the Minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 8, 2018**

*Hawkins-Wynn* moved to approve the minutes. *McDaniel* seconded. Hearing no further discussion, the
vote was called, and the motion was approved by *Orange, Houston-Torrence, Ward-Groves, Boyce,
Hardy, McDaniel, Hawkins-Wynn; Pitre.*

ACRB staff has made every effort to capture comments as stated by each speaker;
however, in some instance the words may have been inaudible and therefore, unable to transcribe
verbatim. In such cases, staff attempted to capture, at best, the essences of the statement.

**POLLING OF THE AUDIENCE FOR CASE INFORMATION**

The **Chair** opened the floor for additional information from the public with regards to the cases on the
agenda.

No new information was presented from the audience for the board to further consider.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

The Board received a comprehensive Executive Director Report in advance of the meeting. Reid highlighted the following information taken from the report:

- **Board Outreach Participation**
  Special thanks to Tamara Orange for coming out to the mall to assist staff with outreach. “The information I got back, Tamara, is that you did a great job. Thank you.”

- **Resignation of Lynn Garrett**
  Unfortunately, my Executive Assistant Lynn Garrett resigned last week. We’re going to miss her, but Lynn has decided to move on, and all the staff and I wish her well.

- **New Office Employees**
  We have our two new investigators on staff and they are here tonight, Mr. Ronald Jackson and Ms. Tanya Richardson. The come to us highly qualified with an impressive background in investigations. If you get a chance, please meet and talk to them. They jumped in running, ready to go and that’s exactly what we needed.

- **Recognition of Special Community Advocates and Friends of ACRB**
  Ms. Helen Butler, Executive Director, Georgia Coalition for the People’s Agenda, and former ACRB member, Mr. Maceo Fletcher.

  Reid offered praised and thanks to Ms. Butler and Mr. Fletcher for their on-going support to the mission of the ACRB.

Discussion, Comments.

1. **(Houston-Torrence)** Thank you for letting us know about Miss Garrett, we’re going to miss her. I sent her some information, some e-mails and I was wondering why I never got a response, so as far as those e-mails, will someone else be responding to her, e-mail correspondences?
2. **(Reid)** I did see one that I responded to you on today.
3. **(Houston-Torrence)** Oh, no, something else...she requested that we submit all our outreach for 2018, and so I did, and I never got a response. I was wondering if someone else was going to respond.
4. **(Reid)** Send it to Melisa or Myola.
5. **(Cecilia Houston-Torrence)** Okay. So, that’s a quick reminder for everyone to please get that information in before the end of the year and you will be graded accordingly. Also, tell us about your meeting with the Chief.
6. **(Reid)** We had a very, very good meeting with the Chief. The main thing we wanted to talk about was the Mediation Program. Because of the meeting, ACRB and APD are planning to do a joint program. I’ll have more details about the specifics later, but what we took away from the meeting is that thinking has changed in the police department. We got to have more meetings to make sure that everybody is on the same page. We are excited about building new bridges. I think that we were able to draw bridges in that conversation with the Chief because of the hard work that we’ve done as a board and staff over the years.
Special Award Presentation by Executive Director

Investigation Manager Sheena Robertson was asked to the podium to be recognized by Executive Director Reid and the ACRB Office staff for outstanding work performance and achievement and a decade of commitment to the ACRB.

Ms. Robertson has been with the ACRB since the beginning. She is responsible for the structure and implementing of the ACRB’s investigation process. Reid said, “I would like to take a few minutes to recognize one of my staff members who has been with us from day one, Sheena Robertson. Ms. Robertson would you step forward please. Where I come from, in Minneapolis, we had a very similar organization to the ACRB and we were doing things in a very similar way as we’ve been doing here, so that’s how I know this agency works.

If you attended NACOLE, you know that people are aware of the ACRB. People who know us, about our work, whether they are local, former board members, Atlanta management, retired police officers, active officers, litigators, chances are they know us because of the investigations we produce. Sheena is the foundation for the investigation process. She put it into place. If you don’t know her, let me tell you a few things about her. Sheena Robertson was born in New York City. She graduated from Hofstra University School of Law in New York City. While living in New York, she worked with the City’s Homeless Services Department. She married and moved to Atlanta. Before joining the ACRB, she was in the City of Atlanta’s Law Department. She has been in the investigation field for over 20 years. Sheena is a lifelong learner and committed to learning more about what we do. She never lags off or act as if she knows all there is to know. When it comes to these investigations, she highly motivated, and she wants to make sure investigations are thorough and accurate. Her standards for reporting and investigating are high. Unfortunately, you don’t get the opportunity to witness some of our meetings. In those in-house meetings, we talk about different cases and grinding through the process…determine and committed to making sure what we do is right.

Sheena Robertson on behalf of the Atlanta Citizens Review Board, the ACRB staff, I present you with this award for your dedication, tenure and achievement.”

Investigator Robertson graciously accepted the award. She said, “Listen, I swear I was not expecting this, but, I enjoy what I do. I love it! I’m passionate about it! Work is a very important thing and I work with an amazing group of people. I’ve seen many board members who have come and gone, but to the current board members, please know that I am proud to work with you and I enjoy working with you. I don’t have a problem with you coming to me and assessing issues you may have with the investigation when you have a question. That’s what we are here for, and as Lee said, I’ll always try to do better. So, with that being said, thank you guys so much. I am honored.

INTAKE REPORT FOR NOVEMBER

Investigation Manager Robertson reported that for the month of November 2018. The ACRB received eleven (11) complaints.

A. COMPLAINT BREAKDOWN AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

The ACRB staff is seeking approval to possibly dismiss five (5) of the eleven (11) complaints. One (1) of the complaints is being screened for Mediation. If the mediation does not fall
through or is not successful, then recommend investigating the complaint under the allegation category assigned to it.

It should be noted that the proper referrals were given to those citizens whose complaints fell outside of ACRB’s jurisdiction.

The following is a list of the complaints, and assigned recommendation:

**Dismissal Recommendations:**
1. ACRB Case No. 18-117 – Defamation
2. ACRB Case No. 18-118 – Unlawful Stop and Illegal Search
3. ACRB Case No. 18-119 – Interception of Mail and Corruption in the Georgia Courts
4. ACRB Case No. 18-122 – Excessive Force
5. ACRB Case No. 18-125 – Inhumane and Cruel Conditions

**Awaiting Signed Complaints:**
1. ACRB Case No. 18-120 – Failure to Write a Report
2. ACRB Case No. 18-123 – Excessive Force
3. ACRB Case No. 18-127 – False Arrest

**Received Signed Complaints:**
1. ACRB Case No. 18-124 – Unlawfully Cited & Rude Behavior
2. ACRB Case No. 18-126 – False Arrest

**B. BOARD VOTES ON INTAKE REPORT**

*Sherry Williams* moved to accept the Intake Reports for October. *McDaniel* seconded. Hearing no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved by *Orange, Houston-Torrence, Ward-Groves, Boyce, Hardy, McDaniel, Hawkins-Wynn, Williams, Pitre.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

No Old Business to discuss.

**COMPLAINTS REVIEW**

**ACRB CASE NO 17-099**

**A. ALLEGATIONS SUMMARY**

The Complainant alleged that on June 19, 2017, Atlanta Police Officers Barsolino LeConte and Annie Williams falsely arrested him.

1. False Arrest - The ACRB staff recommends that the allegation of Appropriate Action Required, as it relates to the False Arrest claim against Officer Barsolino LeConte be assigned a finding of “*Exonerated*” (*the investigation established that the alleged act occurred but was justified, legal or proper within Department policy.*)
As it pertains to Officer Annie Williams, it was determined through the investigation that Officer LeConte was the arresting officer. Officer Williams merely aided with handcuffing the Complainant and completing the necessary paperwork. Therefore, it is recommended that the allegation of Appropriate Action Required against Officer Williams be assigned a finding of “Unfounded” (the investigation established that the officer did not commit the alleged act of misconduct).

2. Excessive Force – Although this allegation was not raised by the Complainant in his complaint, the ACRB investigated whether the force used by Officer LeConte when he broke the window and forcibly removed the Complainant from his vehicle was reasonable and necessary.

The ACRB staff recommends that the allegation of Excessive Force against Officer Barsolino LeConte be assigned a finding of “Not Sustained” (the investigation failed to prove or disprove that the alleged acts occurred).

B. BOARD’S VOTES ON FALSE ARREST, ALLEGATION #1 - APPROPRIATE ACTION REQUIRED AGAINST OFFICER BARSOLINO LECONTE

Orange moved to accept staff’s recommendation to assign a finding of Exonerated for the allegation of Appropriate Action Required as it relates to False Arrest against Officer Thornton. Hardy seconded.

Following a brief discussion, the motion was approved by Orange, Houston-Torrence, Ward-Groves, Boyce, Hardy, McDaniel, Pitre. Hawkins-Wynn did not vote instead opting to abstain.

C. BOARD VOTES ON FALSE ARREST, ALLEGATION #1 – APPROPRIATE ACTION REQUIRED AGAINST OFFICER ANNIE WILLIAMS

Williams moved to accept staff’s recommendation to assign a finding of Unfounded for the allegation of Appropriate Action Required as it relates to False Arrest against Officer Annie Williams. Hawkins-Wynn seconded.

The consensus of the board was Officer Annie Williams merely aided with the handcuffing of the complainant and completed paperwork. Hearing no further discussion, the vote was called, and the motion was approved by all: Orange, Houston-Torrence, Ward-Groves, Boyce, Hardy, McDaniel, Pitre, Hawkins-Wynn.

D. BOARD VOTES ON EXCESSIVE FORCE, ALLEGATION #2 – APPROPRIATE ACTION REQUIRED AGAINST OFFICER BARSOLINO LECONTE

Although the allegation was not raised by the Complainant, the ACRB investigated whether the force used by Officer LeConte when he broke the window and forcefully removed the Complainant from the vehicle, was reasonable and necessary. ACRB staff recommendation was to Not Sustain.

McDaniel moved to accept staff recommendation. Hardy seconded.
Discussion...

1. *(Pitre)* Officer LeConte said that he, um, extracted him through the window as opposed to opening the car door and then removing him.
2. *(Houston-Torrence)* Just for clarification, he said that the reason why he resorted to that measure was because the complainant seemed to have awaken and was getting ready to drive off.
3. *(Hawkins-Wynn)* Was the complainant asked if the door was locked?
4. *(Orange)* I don’t think the complainant never asked him if he had locked the door.
5. *(Robertson)* The door was locked. The Officer stated that he asked him to open the door. In the report on page 12, it specifically says that he again knocked on the window and the Complainant did not react or acknowledge, and he also tried opening the driver’s side door, but it was locked.
6. *(Houston-Torrence)* Most cars lock when you close the door…unless it’s a much older model car, it automatically goes into lock. Very few cars now don’t do that.
7. *(McDaniel)* Were there not body worn cameras in that zone issued at that time?
8. *(Robertson)* No

Following the discussion, the vote was called, and the motion was approved by *(Orange, Hardy, Houston-Torrence, Ward-Groves, Boyce, Hardy, McDaniel)*, with one opposing vote *(Pitre)* and *Hawkins-Wynn* choosing not to vote opting to abstain.

**ACRB CASE NO 18-004**

**MULTI-ALLEGATIONS SUMMARY**
The Complainant alleged that on January 15, 2018 Atlanta Police Officer Ryan Gammon threatened to shoot her dog and arrest her.

Staff Recommendations:

A. **ALLEGATION #1, APPROPRIATE ACTION REQUIRED - THREAT TO SHOOT COMPLAINANT’S DOG**

   The ACRB staff recommends that the allegation of Appropriate Action Required against Officer Ryan Gammon, as it relates to the threat to shoot the dog, be assigned a finding of “Sustained” (the investigation established by a preponderance of the evidence that the officer committed the allege act of misconduct).

B. **ALLEGATION #2, APPROPRIATE ACTION REQUIRED - THREAT TO ARREST THE COMPLAINANT**

   The ACRB staff recommends that the allegation of Appropriate Action Required against Officer Ryan Gammon, as it relates to the threat to arrest, be assigned a finding of “Unfounded” (the investigation established that the officer did not commit the alleged acts of misconduct).

C. **BOARD VOTES ON ALLEGATION #1, THREAT TO SHOOT COMPLAINTANT’S DOG**

   *Williams* moved to accept staff’s recommendation to assign a finding of Unfounded for the allegation of Appropriate Action Required as it relates to False Arrest against Officer Annie Williams. *Hawkins-Wynn* seconded.
Discussion...

1. **(McDaniel)** I’m just curious…if Officer Gammon heard the dog barking when he first approached the residence, and if he felt threatened by the dog, why didn’t he just ask them to put the dog in another room or secure the dog instead of making that comment, because as a dog owner, I’d be upset if someone threatened, made a comment about shooting my dog and they had a weapon, so, especially if the dog isn’t barking or isn’t being aggressive at the time, from what I understand, the dog was eating in the corner.

2. **(Pitre)** The body warn camera proves or showed that the dog was not even barking when he claims that the dog was barking at the door. But he also admitted that he didn’t feel threatened.

3. **(Robertson)** Basically, what happened was he said that a few days prior, he had come in contact with a dog and he was actually traumatized from that, so that’s why he made the comment that he made, he acknowledged that he shouldn’t have threaten the dog and that the dog did not pose a threat but he was still thinking about what happened to him a few days ago.

4. **(Hardy)** But I agree with Shuntay (Pitre) that he should have obeyed the officer’s order and put the dog away.

5. **(McDaniel)** But the officer didn’t ask him to put the dog away.

6. **(Pitre)** Yes, he did. And it said it in the report that he did.

7. **(McDaniel)** Oh, he did? I thought he asked if he was safe and he didn’t specifically request him to put the dog away.

Following the discussion, the vote was called, and the motion was approved by all: McDaniel, Ward-Groves, Orange, Pitre, Hawkins-Wynn, Hardy, Houston-Terrence, Boyce, Williams.

D. BOARD VOTES ON ALLEGATION #2, THREAT TO ARREST COMPLAINANT

The ACRB staff recommends that the allegation of appropriate action required as it relates to this issue against Officer Ryan Gammon be assigned a finding of unfounded. The investigation established that the officer did not commit the alleged act, act of this conduct.

**Hardy** moved to accept staff’s recommendation to assign a finding of Unfounded for the allegation of Appropriate Action Required as it relates to the threat of Arrest against Officer Ryan Gammon. **Pitre** seconded. Hearing no discussion, the vote was called. The motion was approved by all including McDaniel, Ward-Groves, Orange, Pitre, Hawkins-Wynn, Hardy, Houston-Terrence, Boyce, Williams.

E. BOARD VOTES ON DISCIPLINE FOR SUSTAINED ALLEGATION #1, THREAT TO SHOOT COMPLAINANT’S DOG

Investigation Manager read the officer’s disciplinary history. Officer Gammon has been with the Atlanta Police Department since October 20, 2016. He has had only one (1) complaint against him and he was exonerated. This is a Category ‘A’ discipline.

**Pitre** moved to recommend an oral admonishment. **Orange** seconded. Hearing no discussion, the vote was called, and the motion was approved by all including McDaniel, Ward-Groves, Orange, Pitre, Hawkins-Wynn, Hardy, Houston-Terrence, Boyce, Williams.
PUBLIC COMMENTS:

(Special Note: ACRB staff has made every effort to capture comments as stated by each speaker; however, in some instances the words may have been inaudible and therefore, unable to transcribe verbatim. In such cases, staff attempted to capture, at best, the essence of the statement.)

Jamida Orange:
Happy Holidays, everybody. Again, thank you again for moving public comments up. I appreciate it. I appreciate the compromise.

Maceo Fletcher
Good evening, everyone. How are you all doing? As a former board member, I want to thank you all for doing a great job. Another thing I’m passionate about is for the last few years that I’ve been off the board, which is four now, I’ve been trying to get a statewide representative on both sides for this kind of work. I’m doing this in conjunction with some others and we’ve been doing a lot in a year and we will continue to work for the citizens. Like me, I just want you to continue the good work that you are doing and good luck to you.

NEW BUSINESS

NACOLE 2018 CONFERENCE PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS FROM ATTENDEES

On September 29, 2018, Chair Houston-Torrence led a group of four board members to the 2018 NACOLE annual conference in St. Petersburg, Florida. Attending the conference with the Chair was Tracee McDaniel, Tamara Orange and Gloria Hawkins Wynn.

Chair Houston-Torrence stated, “I had no idea what to expect because I’d never been before. Upon arriving in Tampa, we hit the ground literally running, coming straight from the airport to a work session. I knew immediately that I was going to be learning a lot. You never know what you don’t know until you get there, and they had several forums and learning tracks. The focus at the conference is oversight training; however, other training focused on building public trust; correctional oversight, and sustainable and reform efforts to name a few.”

“Since there were so many different forums each day, we decided to attend some together, and divide and conquer the rest. From the sessions, we were provided booklets and other information that we brought back to share with everyone. One thing that made me feel proud, is learning that Atlanta has a great reputation in the oversight community. As soon as I said I’m from Atlanta, everyone wanted to know when the conference was coming to Atlanta. The other thing I heard was, “Atlanta is one of the best in oversight.” We met so many people that were on every level of law enforcement including actual civilians, and attorneys, officers and elected officials. A lot of the attendees we met were part of their agency’s oversight investigative team. We were able to interact with a lot of people on a lot of different levels. I learned so much. We were also attended the meeting and watch the process to elect officers for NACOLE. Next year the conference will be in Detroit. I have been asked to be a part of the planning committee for Detroit. One thing that I did in our meeting with Chief Shields is invite her to NACOLE. She’s only been chief what, two years now, so she was not aware that, that officers could go to the conference, so I’ve already put my bid in for her and Lieutenant Peyton to go.”
“The networking alone, and it was fun, too. I encourage anyone who hasn’t attend to differently consider it next year.”

Tracee McDaniel said, “I have a bunch of information to share with the board and staff. The conference was a good experience.

Tamara Orange said, “Initially I was very, very apprehensive about going on the trip but once I got there it was awesome…the classes, everything was awesome, one of the best conferences. Like the Chair said, Atlanta is truly hopping, because the very last day at the conference, they hosted information about Atlanta and some of the changes that have been made for the better with this board. So, like I said, Atlanta is hopping and the only question, that kept coming up was when the conference is coming here?”

(Chair Houston-Torrence) Yeah, we got that a lot. So, when was it here?

(Reid) Never.

(Chair Houston-Torrence) Okay, so, they all want to come to Atlanta, so…

(Orange) I mean, why can’t we, you know, like we host the Super Bowl?

(Chair Houston-Torrence) Yeah. So, that’s something that we can look at. Next year the conference will be in Detroit, whatever delegation goes at that point, maybe we can be prepared to go in with a, a bid proposal. You all got to want to do the work.

(Hawkins-Wynn) I guess what I noticed more than anything were the various oversight models. Atlanta is one of those models producing separate investigations and not attached to the police department. Some models are located within police departments and some are within the department but still is a separate component from the police.

What I handed out was probably the thing that impressed me most. The biggest takeaway for me was how the findings are analyzed and how the findings comes out of the data on different cases. Then to see how those findings are used to shape policies. I brought back a guide book, that consists of about 30 sessions and each of those sessions highlight some area or some general oversight information that could be used as a way of seeing what it is that could be different that maybe would not cause certain issues to arise, and that’s the one that I handed out. I think that it has takeaway value. I personally would like to recommend that everyone receive a copy. I think it would probably be a great recommendation.

(Houston-Torrence) Those guidebooks were available online. Well, I would like to thank my colleagues, my fellow board members, for your input on that. Attending the conference was also another opportunity for us to bond as a team getting to know each other outside of the board meetings. We have very little opportunity to do that, so it was a good team building exercise as well, and I want to encourage, next year, some of our new board members to attend.

At this time, the Chair recognizes Ms. Jamida Orange for 30 seconds.

(Jamida Orange) Wherever the next NACOLE conference is held, I would especially recommend that they look for handicapped accessible accommodations in the cities…elevators, sidewalks, hotels.

(Chair Houston-Torrence) Okay. I’m on the planning committee for Detroit. I will pass that on to them.
CLOSING COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Sherry Williams) Thank you, Madame Chair. I just want to take the opportunity to thank the staff and everybody on the board. The work that we do is extremely important, and I feel blessed that I’ve been able to work with the staff as well as, the board. We’ve gone through changes but because of my commitment, I’m still as excited as I was the first day when I joined the board. I want to thank the city personnel for taking your jobs seriously…always going the extra mile. I wish everyone and your family a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Kwanzaa.

Finally, I want you to save the date on the calendar for February 4th to the 16th, that’s when the National Transit Equity meets in metro Atlanta. National Transit Equity brings awareness to transit and civil rights and educates people on why it’s important for a transit to be expanded in a more equitable way. Although, the nation is celebrating National Transit Equity, I believe starting on February 4th, we use Rosa Parks as a symbol of National Transit Equity week. Since that Super Bowl on February 3, we can’t hold Transit Equity Week that week because most of you might know that MARTA and all transportation systems here are going to be strained February 1st through February 5th, which is two days before, the day of, and two days after the Super Bowl; therefore, we pushed it to the next week. So, we’re asking for volunteers to help man MARTA stations and explain to everybody why whether they use transit or not, why it is important for this region, as well as all over the nation.

(Chair Houston-Torrence) Thank you staff and on behalf of the Atlanta Citizen Review Board, we want to thank all of you for your dedication. I know Sherry (Williams) said it, but I just want to reiterate what she said…You all make it easy for us to do our job, the, uh, cases are written well and they’re easy to read. We thank you. Thank you again, Attorney Stephen Parker for helping us sort things out. Thank you, Miss Helen Butler, my mentor and friend. Thank you everyone very much. Happy Holidays.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn.

Hardy moved for adjournment. McDaniel seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.