

***BALTIMORE POLICE INCIDENT OF  
NOVEMBER 15, 2017  
INDEPENDENT REVIEW BOARD  
MEETING 3 MINUTES – OPEN SESSION***

---

Meeting Date: 06/28/2018

Meeting Location: DLA Piper Building

## Attendance

Name	Title	Organization	Present
James CHIPS Stewart*	Director, Public Safety	CNA	Y
James Chip Coldren*	Managing Director	CNA	Y
Rick Fuentes*	Superintendent (ret.)	New Jersey State Police	Y
Peter Modafferri*	Chief (ret.)	Rockland County District Attorney's Office	Y
Charles Scheeler*	Senior Counsel	DLA Piper	Y
Marvin Sydnor*	Detective (ret.)	Baltimore City Police Department	Y
Gary Childs*	Private Detective	Dunlaw Investigations and Consulting	Y
Samantha Rhinerson**	Research Specialist	CNA	Y
Veronica Hoban**	Executive Assistant	CNA	Y
Tammy Felix**	Research Scientist	CNA	N***
TJ Smith	Chief, Public Information	Baltimore Police Department	Y
Lisa Walden	Assistant Solicitor	Baltimore City Law Department	Y

\* Independent Review Board

\*\* Staff

\*\*\* Participated telephonically

## Meeting Location:

DLA Piper Meeting  
Conference Room  
100 Light Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

**Meeting Start:** 9:33 a.m.

## 9:30 Introduction (IN OPEN SESSION)

*Mr. James "CHIPS" Stewart introduced himself and the IRB. The IRB was convened to review and examine the Baltimore Police Department's response to the tragic shooting death of Detective Sean Suiter on November 15, 2017. The IRB has been given the task of reviewing the police procedures, response, and incident command of this incident. BPD has been very forthcoming with documents, videos, crime scene diagrams, forensic reports, and interviews. Today, the IRB will review and discuss preliminary findings related to this case. The IRB's findings will be published in the IRB's report, which will be delivered to BPD in July 2018.*

Mr. Stewart took questions from the press.

Press: What are your preliminary findings? Mr. Stewart noted that the preliminary findings will be discussed today and will be available in the report by the end of the month.

Press: Have you come to a conclusion regarding the manner of death: homicide or suicide? Mr. Stewart again stated that the findings are still being discussed and will be available in the report by the end of the month.

Press: How many witnesses or others have you been able to interview? Mr. Stewart said that dozens of interviews have taken place and are still being conducted.

Press: Have you discovered anything that you would characterize as new evidence? Is there anything that you are viewing in a new light? Mr. Stewart said that this information is still under review and will be included in the IRB's report.

BPD Media Relations Director TJ Smith thanked the IRB for assisting with this review. He stated that the BPD wants the most comprehensive review of the events that occurred during this tragic incident. TJ Smith noted that the report will be released publicly at the appropriate time and that information will not be released preliminarily.

Press: What will the BPD do with this information? Smith said the BPD will improve processes and procedures as a result of this IRB.

Press: If the review board finds that this was a suicide, does the department accept that and close the case? Smith noted that he will not pursue a hypothetical path at this time.

Press: Are you finished conducting interviews at this point? Are you on schedule to complete the report as planned? Mr. Stewart noted that the IRB is on track. The IRB is on-going with an interview having been conducted as recently as this morning.

Press: Will you be handing in any information from this investigation to the ACLU and the Baltimore Monitor? Mr. Stewart noted that the report will be made available to the ACLU and the Monitor.

Press: Have you been in discussion with the monitor during this process? Mr. Stewart noted that the only overlap has been related to the IRB and Monitor's review of BPD's handling of incident command during the crime scene investigation.

Press: Has the IRB interviewed former police commissioner Kevin Davis? Mr. Stewart noted that they have not. They have reached out to him, but have not received a response yet.

Mr. Stewart asked if there were any further questions noting that they will not release any information preliminary.

Press: Can you describe the types of individuals you have interviewed? Mr. Stewart stated that they've spoken to a number of people within the BPD (officers, supervisors, commanders, and deputy commanders), members of the community, as well as outside experts.

Press: Have you spoken with any federal partners related to the GTTF? Mr. Stewart stated that they've had some informal conversations with the U.S. Attorney's Office, as well as investigators on a general level.

Press: When do you expect to have a report prepared? Mr. Stewart stated that the report will be provided to BPD by the end of July.

### **Open Meeting Legislative Session Requirements (In Open Session)**

*Mr. Stewart asked if there were any additional questions with the understanding that the review is complex in nature. The open meeting will be moved to closed session now due to the need to*

*protect the privacy of individuals and review the homicide investigation. Mr. Stewart asked for a motion to close the session for the above listed reasons. Mr. Charles Scheeler moved to close the meeting and Marvin Sydnor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. **Members in favor: All Members Opposed: None***

**9:49-10:50am-Review of Incident Commanders Actions and Control of the Crime Scene and Perimeter Recommendations Review-Rick Fuentes (In Executive Session)**

**10:50-12:00pm: Review of Policies and Procedures: Mr. Modafferri (In Executive Session)**

**12:00pm-12:10pm: Review of Community Canvas: Chip Coldren (In Executive Session)**

**12:30pm-3:05pm: Presentation by Gary Childs and Charles Scheeler (In Executive Session)**

*Mr. Stewart asked the IRB for vote to accept the findings and recommendations discussed in the presentation areas. Charlie Scheeler motioned to accept. Marvin Sydnor seconded the motion. **Members in favor: All Members Opposed: None.***

*Mr. Stewart noted that everyone will have their final reports into CNA within the next two weeks (by July 13th), which will allow CNA to have two weeks to compile and finalize the report. He also noted that the IRB has made substantial progress from where the IRB began.*

**3:05pm-3:07pm Adjournment**

*Mr. Modafferri moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Fuentes seconded this motion. Mr. Stewart requested a vote from the Board to adjourn, which passed unanimously. **Members in favor: All Members Opposed: None.***

Meeting End: 3:07

**Next Meeting: July 17, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at the DLA Piper Building**