

## Citizens' Police Complaint Board and Office

### WHAT IS THE CITIZENS' POLICE COMPLAINT BOARD (CPCB)?

The CPCB is a twelve (12) member Board consisting of nine civilian, voting members and three (3) non-voting police officers. These members are appointed by the City/County Council, the Mayor and the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP). The CPCB is authorized to investigate, review and dispose of all allegations of misconduct filed in the CPCO.

### HOW CAN I BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CITIZENS' POLICE COMPLAINT BOARD (CPCB)?

All voting members of the CPCB must be citizens who are residents of Marion County. Voting members may be selected from nominees chosen by the District Task Force and submitted by the Deputy Chief. No sworn law enforcement officer is eligible to serve as a voting member of the CPCB. If you are interested in becoming a CPCB member, please contact your IMPD District Task Force.

### HOW CAN YOU BRING GOOD OFFICER CONDUCT TO THE ATTENTION OF IMPD?

If you would like to compliment the conduct and/or actions of an IMPD officer, this may be accomplished by calling the Chief of Police office at (317)327-5282. Another method is by writing to the Chief of Police or the District Commander of the district in which the officer is assigned.

### WHAT IF YOU DO NOT AGREE WITH EITHER THE IMPD OR THE CPCB?

You have the right to discuss your case with an attorney and seek recourse under the law.

### WHAT IS THE CITIZENS' POLICE COMPLAINT OFFICE (CPCO)?

The CPCO is an office, independent of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD), created by City/County General Ordinance. The CPCO affords citizens of Indianapolis who believe they have been treated improperly by an officer of IMPD the opportunity to have their complaints voiced and investigated.

### WHO MAY FILE A COMPLAINT?

Any person who feels they have been the victim of police misconduct may file a complaint. If you are under the age of 18, a parent or a legal guardian must accompany the juvenile when filing the complaint.

### HOW DOES ONE FILE A COMPLAINT?

The most common way to file a complaint is to contact the CPCO at 317-327-3440 to schedule an appointment for a formal interview. To file a complaint informally, you may write to: **Brian Reeder, Executive Director, 200 East Washington Street, Suite 1921, Indianapolis, IN 46204-3327**. The filing of a formal complaint must be done within sixty (60) days of the incident.

### WHAT IF THE IPD OFFICER IS FOUND TO BE IN VIOLATION OF DEPARTMENTAL POLICY?

If there is sufficient evidence to prove the allegation(s) made in the complaint, the complaint will be ruled **SUSTAINED**. The Chief of Police will take the appropriate disciplinary action. This action may be reported to the CPCO and forwarded to the complainant upon request.

### WHAT IF THERE IS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO PROVE OR DISPROVE THE ALLEGATION(S)?

With insufficient evidence, the case will be ruled **NOT SUSTAINED** and notification will be sent to the complainant. The officer(s)' name will also be entered in the Early Warning System set up by IMPD to monitor allegations of misconduct. If a pattern of misconduct is discovered, appropriate action will be taken to eliminate any further violation(s) of departmental orders in the future.

### WHAT IF THE OFFICER IS FOUND TO HAVE ACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENTAL POLICY?

If the officer is found to have acted properly and in accordance with IMPD regulation, a disposition of **EXONERATED** will be attached to the complaint and notification of that fact will be sent to the complainant.

### WHAT IF THE ALLEGATION(S) DO NOT COINCIDE WITH THE EVIDENCE?

If the information provided by the complainant does not coincide with the evidence obtained, the complaint will be **TERMINATED** and no further action will be taken. If new information becomes available to the complainant, the complaint may be re-filed within the sixty (60) day time limit.

### WHAT HAPPENS TO THE COMPLAINT?

Once a complaint is received in the CPCO, it is processed, recorded and sent to IMPD for investigation. The complaint is forwarded back to the CPCO with a disposition (finding) attached. The complaint is then scheduled for a review by the CPCB. The complainant will be informed of the time, date and place of this public meeting. The CPCB will review and

discuss the complaint at the public meeting. No testimony is heard from either the complainant or the officer(s) involved. All statements are obtained prior to the CPCB meeting by the involved parties during the investigative process. If the CPCB endorses (agrees with) the findings, the case is then considered complete. If the CPCB does not endorse the findings they have several options:

1. Order the Executive Director of the CPCO to conduct an independent investigation of the allegations;
2. Conduct an informal administrative hearing on the complaint;
3. Order the Executive Director to informally mediate the complaint with Chief of Police in an attempt to resolve the matter.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION YOU WILL NEED WHEN FILING A COMPLAINT:**

When you file a complaint, please include the following information:

- Date, time and location of the incident;
- Name and or physical description of involved officer(s), license plate numbers or vehicle numbers (if available);
- Witnesses' names, addresses, and phone numbers; and
- Citations, medical records, or any other documentation/evidence you feel may be helpful.