



Atlanta Citizen Review Board

Overview & FY20 Year End Report



Introduction

Presenters:

- Cecilia Houston-Torrence, Chair
- Samuel Lee Reid II, Executive Director
- Sheena Robertson, Investigations Manager
- Myola Smith, Project Manager





The Reason Why

November 21, 2006

Ms. Kathryn Johnston

92-year-old grandmother, community elder, killed during an illegal “no-knock” warrant raid.





Cecilia Houston-Torrence
Board Chair
League of Women Voters



Gate City Bar
Association

Germaine Austin



City Council
President

Trudy Boyce



NPU A-F

James Hardy



Atlanta Bar
Association

Keith Hasson



Atlanta City
Council

Gloria Hawkins-Wynn



NPU S-Z

Michael Hopkins



GA Coalition
of the
Peoples
Agenda

Tamara Orange



Vice Chair
Office of the
Mayor

Tracee McDaniel



Atlanta Business
League

Michael Turner



NPU G-L

Sherry Williams

**Appt.
Pending**
APAB-
NPUs: M-R

Vacant
Urban
League



Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide the citizens of Atlanta credible, fair, and independent investigations and decisions on Atlanta police and corrections officer misconduct complaints, and recommendations on departmental policies, training, and practices. Our work provides intentional citizen engagement that promotes inclusion, sharing, learning and citizen education on policing. Through our work we provide opportunities for both departments to correct officer behavior to promote the highest standards of conduct to meet the citizens' expectations of policing.



History

February 2007

Citizen Power coupled with Elected Officials responsive action combined to create the ACRB.

September 2008

ACRB opened its office on the 9th floor in the City Hall Tower and begin receiving complaints.

May 2010

Ordinance Amendment – ACRB received Subpoena Power; requirement that all city employees must fully cooperate with ACRB requests.

March 2016

Ordinance Amendment – expanded allegations, requirement for chiefs' responses, expanded Board membership, etc.



Vision

- To be known for integrity, competence, and results.
- To be recognized as national experts in improving community/police relationships.
- To provide the best citizen oversight of a local enforcement agency in the nation and be recognized as the experts in civilian oversight.



Values

Integrity

Credibility

Commitment

Accountability

Fairness

Results Driven

Teamwork

Excellence

Service



Strategic Goals

Strategic Goal 1 – Meaningful Results

Provide meaningful results that will change the behavior of officers who receive sustained misconduct complaints, and thereby reduce the costs associated with misconduct.

- Complaint investigations, mediations, and adjudications
- Growth of the agency
- Ordinance enhancements
- Training and policy recommendations
- Seek opportunities for the inclusion of restorative justice principles
- Identify officer compliance issues with APD policies and procedures.

Strategic Goal 2 – Awareness Building

Build awareness of the ACRB so every citizen will know that the ACRB will fairly, thoroughly, independently, and timely address concerns about misconduct involving APD and ACD officers.

- Monthly public Board meetings and community engagement program with Board meetings located in the community
- Integrity Street Team (IST)/Community Outreach Volunteer Ambassador Program (COVAP)
- Newsletters, social media, mass media, community involvement
Coalition building

Strategic Goal 3 – Education

Educate citizens and officers about the importance of appropriate community/police relationships and of the rights/responsibilities that citizens and officers owe to society.

- Know Your Rights trainings
- Participation in community engagement activities
- Police Interactive Quiz Series and website education

Strategic Goal 4 – Positive Impact

Positively impact the community/police relationship.

- Art and Essay Contests
- Board member participation in APD Citizen Academy
- APD Ride A-longs
- Annual Surveys that enable the agency to meet citizens' and officers' needs
- Studies, Trends, Patterns and Practices Analyses
- Focus Groups and Listening Sessions



FOUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPALS

Integrity

- Redress for citizens
- Full and Thorough Investigation
- Citizen Involvement in decisions
- Corrective Action
- Discipline

- Perspective Sharing
- Mutual Respect
- Honest Dialogue
- Professional Assistance

Investigate

Mediate

Mission

Advocate

Educate

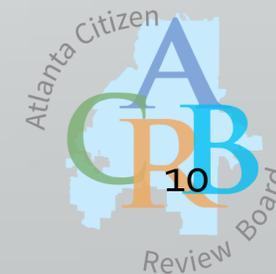
Independence

Fairness

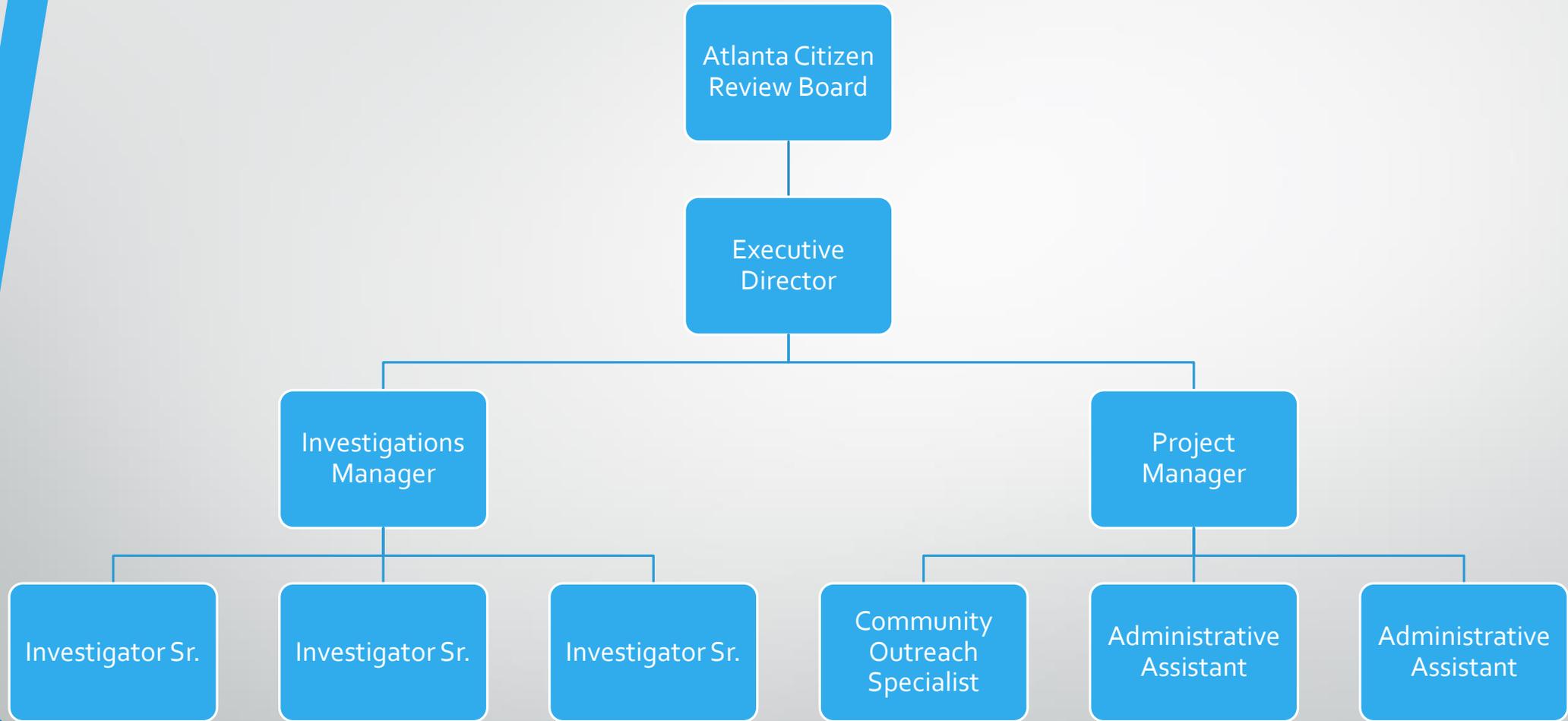
- Transparency
- Feedback
- Information Loopback
- Systemic Change

- Awareness Building
- Community Engagement
- Know Your Rights Training
- Citizen Empowerment
- Website

Transparency



Organizational Chart



Powers Granted in ACRB Ordinance

- Power to advise on policies regarding the police and corrections departments with the purpose of improving the ability of police personnel to carry out their duties, and to improve the relationship between the law enforcement departments and the community;
- discretion power to select appropriate individual incidents to review and broader issues to study;
- receive, investigate, mediate, & adjudicate citizen complaints;
- review specific complaints or incidents of misconduct against individual police officers including those involving language related to race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability;
- power to initiate studies upon request to the board by any member of the public or the police department and the department of corrections, or at the board's own discretion;
- full access to relevant police department and corrections personnel for interview and to relevant documents;
- subpoena power;
- power to recommend that the chief of police and the chief of corrections take certain actions;
- power to conduct investigations and public hearings.

Investigations



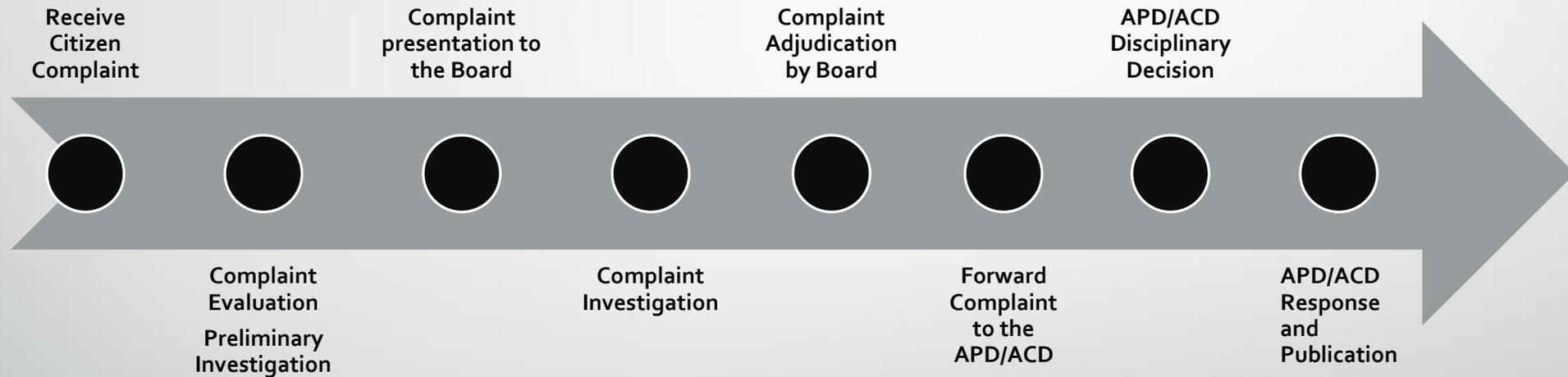
Meet the Investigations Team

The ACRB Investigations Unit consists of three (3) Investigators and one (1) Investigations Manager who each have over 15+ years experience (respectively) in conducting highly sensitive and confidential investigations:

- Brian Fleming, Senior Investigator
- Ronald Jackson, Senior Investigator
- Tonya Richardson, Senior Investigator
- Sheena Robertson, Investigations Manager



ACRB Investigative Process



Complaint Allegations 2020 YTD

Total No. of Complaints Received January 2020-June 16, 2020	43
Assigned for Full Investigation	24
Total No. of Complaints/Cases Adjudicated by Board	16
Total No. of Cases/Complaints Awaiting APD Chief Response	03
Total No. of Allegations Adjudicated by Board	52
• Sustained	20
• Not Sustained	04
• Exonerated	15
• Unfounded	13
Distribution of Chief's Decisions on Sustained Allegations	20
• No. of Sustained Allegations Accepted	12
• No. of Sustained Allegations Rejected	02
• No. of Sustained Allegations Pending	05
• No. of Sustained Allegations Not Addressed	01

- Currently, the APD has accepted 60% of the sustained allegations during the report period.
- The ACRB has 33 active investigations (includes complaints from 2019).

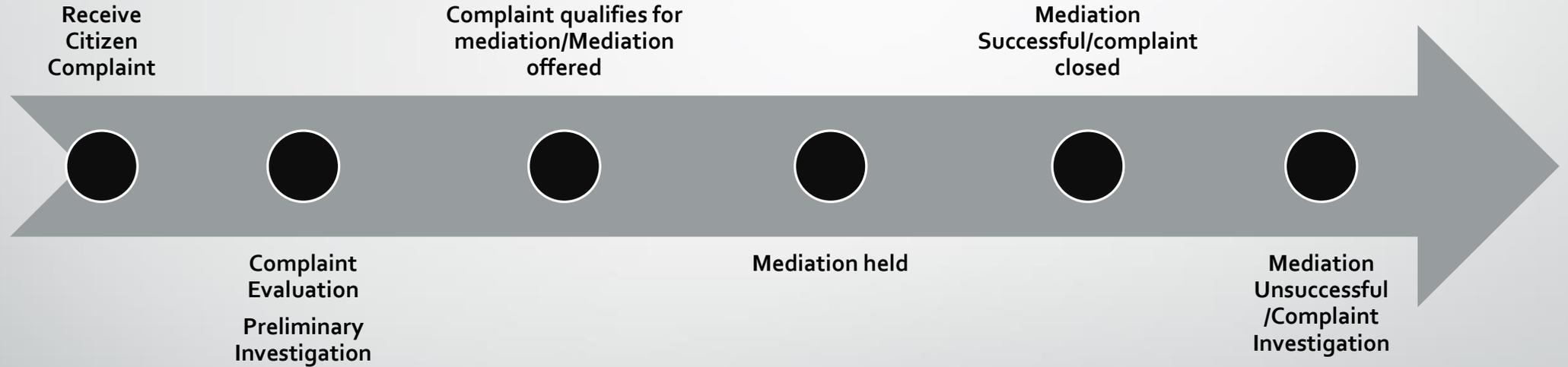
Mediation



Benefits of Mediation

Program	Citizen	Officer	City
Informal	Opportunity for citizens to learn about the basis of the officer's actions.	Opportunity for officers to learn about the effect of their words, behaviors, and actions	Over time, officers and the department will benefit from an improved image and relations with the community.
Face-to-face	Empowerment	Empowerment	Supports the APD goal of community policing.
Quicker resolution	Greater opportunity to achieve satisfaction involving the resolution of the issue.	Better understanding of individual interactions with citizens.	Increase level of service provided to the citizens.
Safe neutral environment	Greater satisfaction with the complaint process.	Opportunity to explain their actions to citizens.	Improve perceptions of willingness to hold officers accountable.
Equal footing to discuss the issues	Better understanding of policing	Less stressful than an investigation.	Saves money.
	Opportunity to have the officer listen.	Greater satisfaction with the complaint process.	Allows for greater efficiency and effective use of investigative resources
		Opportunity to learn from mistakes and for reflective analysis.	Allows for efficient management of caseloads.

ACRB Mediation Process



Community Engagement

The Lifeblood of the Agency

Awareness Building

- Social Media
- Mass Media
- Direct Citizen Engagement
 - Surveys
 - Coalition Building
- Community Meetings
 - Print Media
 - Newsletters
 - Volunteers

Education

- Know Your Rights Trainings
 - Quizzes
 - Press Releases
 - Citizen Meetings

Youth Learning Materials





Closing Statement

Effects of COVID Pandemic and Closure of City Hall

- Lower than Usual Complaints (*down 42%*)
- Outreach Halted
 - ✓ ramped up social media presence
- No Board Meetings (*last meeting Feb. 2020*)
 - ✓ backlog of completed investigations awaiting the Board's review and determination



Questions & Answers