



## OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

### BIANCA L. TIRADO, CITY CLERK

#### COMMUNITY RELATIONS

SEPTEMBER 22, 2025 4:50 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers, Karen L. White,  
Sheila Niezgodski, Sherry Bolden-Simpson,  
Alice Marie Pickens

Committee Members Absent:

None

Other Council Members Present:

Dr. Oliver Davis, Rachel Tomas Morgan

Others Present:

Bianca L. Tirado, Lari'onna Green,  
Veronica Pitt-Payne, Bob Palmer

Presenters:

None

Agenda:

Bill No. 53-25 - Amending Chapter 2,  
Article 1, Sections 2-12.1.15(C) and  
2.12.1.17(A) to Add the Duty to Review All  
Law Enforcement Recordings Relevant to  
Any Complaint Filed with the Community  
Police Review Board Respectively

Members marked with an asterisk (\*) are in virtual attendance.

Please note the attached link for the meeting recording:

<https://docs.southbendin.gov/WebLink/browse.aspx?dbid=0&mediaid=399807>

Committee Chair Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers called to order the Community Relations Committee meeting at 5:16 P.M.

**Bill No. 53-25 – Amending Chapter 2, Article 1, Sections 2-12.1.15(C) and 2.12.1.17(A) to Add the Duty to Review All Law Enforcement Recordings Relevant to Any Complaint Filed with the Community Police Review Board Respectively**

Committee Vice Chair Karen L. White moved to accept Substitute Bill No. 53-25, which was seconded by Committee Member Sheila Niezgodski and carried via a vote by voice.

INTEGRITY | SERVICE | ACCESSIBILITY

Matthew Neal

DEPUTY CITY CLERK / DIRECTOR OF POLICY

Margaret Gotsch

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROJECTS

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Committee Member Sherry Bolden-Simpson, 6216 Exeter Court, South Bend, IN 46614, and Councilmember Dr. Oliver Davis, 1801 Nash Street, South Bend, IN 46613, presented the substitute bill. They explained that the bill affirms the Community Police Review Board (CPRB)'s right to review law enforcement recordings under the Indiana Open Door Law and further clarifies CPRB duties.

Attorney Bob Palmer, with offices on the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) floor of the County-City Building, South Bend, IN 46601, explained that language was changed in the substitute bill to achieve its purpose without being broader than intended.

Councilmember Dr. Davis asked Attorney Palmer to further explain the Indiana Open Door Law.

Attorney Palmer explained the Indiana Open Door Law and how it applies to law enforcement recordings.

Committee Member Bolden-Simpson listed specific CPRB duties and explained it is necessary to review law enforcement recordings to carry out these duties.

Committee Member Niezgodski asked if recordings will be redacted before viewing.

Attorney Palmer confirmed this and stated that recordings must be publishable under the Indiana Open Door Law as a prerequisite to viewing.

Committee Vice Chair White spoke in support of the updated language of the bill.

Committee Chair Gooden-Rodgers thanked Councilmember Dr. Davis and Committee Member Bolden-Simpson for the presentation.

Council Vice President Rachel Tomas Morgan expressed support of the updated language. She asked Attorney Palmer for clarification regarding the existing rights under the Indiana Open Door Law.

Attorney Palmer confirmed that the right to review law enforcement recordings already existed under the Indiana Open Door Law. He said there has been confusion around how this right relates to CRPB investigations.

Citizen Member Alice Marie Pickens spoke about the importance of reviewing law enforcement recordings during an investigation.

Committee Chair Gooden-Rodgers opened the public hearing.

Joseph Adams, CPRB Chair, 3400 High Street, South Bend, IN 46614, spoke in favor, stating that the bill affirms CPRB's authority to perform appropriate checks and balances.

Bob Masters, CPRB Attorney, 350 Columbia Street, South Bend, IN 46601, spoke in favor, stating that the bill represents the City's commitment to transparency and accountability through citizen oversight.

Committee Chair Gooden-Rodgers closed the public hearing.





## CITY OF SOUTH BEND | OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

Committee Vice Chair White moved to send Substitute Bill No. 53-25 to the Committee of the Whole with a favorable recommendation, which was seconded by Committee Member Niezgodski and carried by a vote of five (5) ayes.

|                                                     |                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Committee Chair Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers – <i>Aye</i> | Committee Vice Chair Karen L. White – <i>Aye</i>    |
| Committee Member Shiela Niezgodski – <i>Aye</i>     | Committee Member Sherry Bolden-Simpson – <i>Aye</i> |
| Citizen Member Alice Marie Pickens – <i>Aye</i>     |                                                     |

With no further business, Committee Chair Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers adjourned the Community Relations Committee meeting at 5:41 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers, Committee Chair

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