



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

BIANCA L. TIRADO, CITY CLERK

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

MAY 12, 2025; 5:30 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

None

Other Council Members Present:

Canneth Lee, Troy Warner

Others Present:

Bianca L. Tirado, Matthew Neal, Margaret
Gotsch, Bob Palmer

Presenters:

Robert Masters

Agenda:

Bill No. 25-29 - Resolution Establishing the
Terms of the Initial Members of the
Community Police Review Board
(*Substitute*)

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=395499>

Committee Chair Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers called to order the Community Relations Committee meeting at 5:33 P.M.

Bill No. 25-29 - Resolution Establishing the Terms of the Initial Members of the Community Police Review Board (Substitute)

Clerk Tirado read the Substitute Bill No. 25-29.

Committee Member Shiela Niezgodski moved to Substitute Bill No. 25-29 for consideration by the Committee, which was seconded by Committee Member Sherry Bolden-Simpson and carried by a vote of five (5) ayes.

INTEGRITY | SERVICE | ACCESSIBILITY

Matthew Neal
DEPUTY CITY CLERK / DIRECTOR OF POLICY

Margaret Gotsch
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROJECTS

EXCELLENCE | ACCOUNTABILITY | INNOVATION | INCLUSION | EMPOWERMENT

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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>	

Committee Member Niezgodski stated that this resolution establishes the terms of the initial members of the Community Police Review Board (CPRB) and that the substitution is to identify the Council Member who nominated each member of the CPRB.

Committee Chair Gooden-Rodgers asked if the members of the CPRB needed to be listed in Substitutue Bill *No. 25-29*, and she was advised that it was not necessary to list the members.

Council Member Troy Warner mentioned that a new member was added to CPRB and that there was still a vacancy. He then asked when the vacancy would be filled.

Council President Canneth Lee stated that the vacancy needed to be filled within thirty (30) days.

Committee Member Bolden-Simpson asked how long it takes for a new member to complete the training to be seated on CPRB.

Council President Lee stated he would investigate and provide an answer at a later date.

Committee Member Niezgodski asked if there was some way to expedite filling the existing vacancy, and a discussion ensued among all of the Committee Members and the Council Members who were present.

Committee Chair Gooden-Rodgers held the public hearing.

Robert Masters, attorney-at-law with professional offices at 350 Columbia Street, South Bend, IN 46601, and personal residence 1906 East Madison Street, South Bend, IN 46617, stated that he is the Counsel to the CPRB. He noted that the Board takes its responsibilities very seriously and there is a significant time commitment. He echoed the Committee’s discussion concerning the vacancy. Robert Masters thanked the Council for its support.

Council Member Warner provided some background regarding the original ordinance and the training requirements for the CPRB members. He noted the Council was amenable to revisting the ordinance and the training demands.

Committee Vice Chair Karen L. White stated that she had received very postive feedback about the CPRB, and how they are coming together and dealing with various issues and concerns. She asked Robert Masters to pass along this sentiment to the entire CPRB.

Committee Chair Gooden-Rodgers stated that she has attended several of the CPRB meetings, and the Board is working hard and collaborating well.

Committee Vice-Chair White moved to send Substitutue Bill *No. 25-29* to the Full Council with a favorable recommendation, which was seconded by Committee Member Niezgoski 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 Investment Committee meeting at 5:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers, Committee Chair

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upon Request at No Charge.

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when Possible