



**NORTH MIAMI CITIZENS INVESTIGATIVE BOARD
MEETING**

Agenda

Monday, June 12, 2023

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

City Hall, Council Chambers – 776 NE 125th Street, 2nd Floor North Miami, FL 33167

- I. Call to Order – Randy Grice, Chair
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call – Rose Michelle Grand-Pierre, Secretary
- IV. Approving the Agenda
 - 1. June 12, 2023
- V. Approving the Minutes
 - 1. Citizens Investigative Board – Meeting – April 10, 2023, 6:00 PM
 - 2. Citizens Investigative Board – Meeting – May 8, 2023, 6:00 PM
- VI. Reports
 - 1. Chairperson – Randy Grice
 - 2. Legal Counsel – Roderick D. Vereen, Esq.
 - 3. Executive Director – Philip C. Harris, D.B.A.

- VII. New Business
 - a. Case Investigations– Reginald J. Hope

Case Name	CIB Case#	IA Case#
1. Sgt Jean-Baptiste	NMCIB-2023-000011	C23-01

- VIII. Unfinished Business
 - a. CIB Committee recommendations
 - Complaints
 - Police Policies & Procedures
 - Ordinance Revisions
 - By-Laws
 - Outreach



- IX. Public Comment
- X. Good of the Order
- XI. Adjournment

Members of the public are invited to attend the Public Hearing and provide oral or written comments on the matter. Copies of the reports containing the Citizens Investigate Boards recommendation will be available for public review from Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. in the City Clerk’s Office, City Hall, or online at: <https://www.northmiamifl.gov/1047/Citizens-Investigative-Board>. Written comments may be submitted to: City of North Miami, 12000 Biscayne Boulevard, Suite 205 North Miami, FL 33181, Attn: Citizens Investigate Board. For questions, please call (305) 768-9983.

Pursuant to Florida Statute section 286.0105, persons appealing any decision made by the Citizens Investigate Boards with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, will need a record of the proceedings, and should ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990, PERSONS NEEDING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING SHOULD CONTACT THE CITIZENS INVESTIGATIVE BOARD OFFICE NO LATER THAN FOUR (4) DAYS PRIOR TO THE PROCEEDING. TELEPHONE (305) 768-9983, FOR ASSISTANCE. IF HEARING IMPAIRED, TELEPHONE 711 OR YOU MAY CONTACT 1-800-955-8771 FOR THE FLORIDA RELAY SERVICE FOR ASSISTANCE.



Citizen Investigative Board (CIB) meeting was held at the City of North Miami City Hall, City Council Chambers on Monday, April 10, 2023.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide updated reports from Board and staff, a presentation by CIB Executive Director Dr. Philip Harris on CIB's Draft Five-Year Strategic Plan, and to discuss unfinished business regarding discussion about the formatting of the North Miami CIB By-Laws.

Note: The actual agenda and all backup materials for each board meeting can be found on the website at:

<https://www.northmiamifl.gov/AgendaCenter/Citizens-Investigative-Board-12>

ORDER OF BUSINESS

CALL TO ORDER

Board Vice Chair Kevin Seifried called the meeting to order at 6:20 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- Board Vice Chair Randy Kevin Seifried led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL

- Board Secretary Rose Michelle Grand-Pierre led the roll call.

PRESENT

Randy Grice, Gerard Kevin Seifried, Rose Michelle Grand-Pierre, Jessica Schnaider, and Randy Grice.

Board members absent: Rabbi Jory Lang and Marcia Missick



APPROVE AGENDA – April 10, 2023

Board member Andre Pierre moved to approve the agenda. Board Member Rose Grand-Pierre seconded the motion to approve. Motion carried without objection by unanimous consent.

Board voted; Passed 5-0.

APPROVE MINUTES: CIB Monthly Meeting – March 13, 2023, 7:00 PM

Board member Andre Pierre moved to approve the minutes. Board Member Rose Grand-Pierre seconded the motion to approve. Motion carried without objection by unanimous consent.

Board voted; Passed 5-0.

REPORTS:

- CIB Chair Randy Grice – Discussed his attendance at the North Miami (NoMi) Police Training and the City of Miami Citizen Investigative Panel meeting in March.
 - Encourages participation in Autism Awareness for the month of April.
- Legal Counsel Roderick Vereen – provided feedback to the CIB regarding CIB Ordinance section 2-266, paragraph 6 from NoMi Police.
 - Police recommend a review of this section for removal or modification.
 - Counsel recommends this to be removed from the Ordinance.
 - Counsel had written communication with NACOLE Executive Director Cameron McElhiney. Cameron recommends an audit be performed instead of removing section 2-266, paragraph. Legal counsel shall review for modification for audit purposes.
 - In the context of Ordinance modifications, Vice Chair Kevin Seifried and member Andre Pierre recommend the Ordinance be changed also to replace the word “Citizen” with the word “Resident”. Board member Rose Grand-Pierre is against this modification. Executive Director advises the board to make a list of modifications, send it via email to the CIB staff for review, and to bring it to the city council.
- Independent Investigator, Reginald Hope – no report
- CIB Executive Director, Dr. Philip Harris – recommends professional development to board members on May 8, 2023, at 6 pm at the NoMi Police department (2nd floor) for simulation training with NoMi Police.
 - Announced April is National Volunteer Month.



NEW BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CIB, DR. PHILIP HARRIS, PROVIDES A SPECIAL PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD MEMBERS OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, ON THE CITIZENS INVESTIGATIVE BOARD DRAFT FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

CIB BY-LAWS

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND LEGAL COUNSEL WILL CONTINUE TO REVIEW THE DRAFTED BYLAWS THAT ANDRE PIERRE PROVIDED TO THE BOARD MEMBERS OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA.

NEXT STEPS:

- Attend City of North Miami Police simulation training:
 - Monday, May 8, 2023, at 6:00 PM
 - Location: 700 NE 124 Street North Miami, FL 33161 (2nd Floor).
- Create North Miami CIB By-Laws.
- Establish a system to determine the number of HOA in North Miami in order to attend meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

GOOD OF THE ORDER

None

ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Andre Pierre motioned to adjourn at 7:16 PM. Board Member Rose Michelle Grande-Pierre seconded the motion to adjourn.



**NORTH MIAMI CITIZENS INVESTIGATIVE BOARD
MEETING**

Agenda

Monday, April 10, 2023

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

City Hall, Council Chambers – 776 NE 125th Street, 2nd Floor North Miami, FL 33167

- I. Call to Order – Randy Grice, Chair
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call – Rose Michelle Grand-Pierre, Secretary
- IV. Approving the Agenda
 - a. April 10, 2023
- V. Approving the Minutes
 - a. Citizens Investigative Board – Meeting – March 13, 2023, 7:00 PM
- VI. Reports
 - a. Chairperson – Randy Grice
 - b. Legal Counsel – Roderick D. Vereen, Esq.
 - c. Investigator – Reginald J. Hope
 - d. Executive Director – Philip C. Harris, D.B.A.
- VII. New Business
 - a. CIB Strategic Plan – 5-Year Plan
- VIII. Unfinished Business
 - a. CIB Bylaws
- IX. Public Comment
- X. Good of the Order
- XI. Adjournment

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North Miami City Hall – Office of the City Manager – Citizen's Investigative Board

12000 Biscayne Boulevard, suite 205, North Miami, FL 33181

Office Hours M-F, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Phone: 305-768-9983 NorthMiamiFL.gov



Miami, 12000 Biscayne Boulevard, Suite 205 North Miami, FL 33181, Attn: Citizens Investigate Board. For questions, please call (305) 768-9983.

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Citizen Investigative Board (CIB) meeting was held at the City of North Miami Police Department (2nd Floor Training room) on Monday, Monday, May 8, 2023.

The purpose of the meeting was for the North Miami Police Major Ransom Carter to provide a scenario-based electronic training demonstration of the experiences officers encounter while on duty.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Randy Grice called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

PRESENT

Randy Grice, Gerard Kevin Seifried, Rose Michelle Grand-Pierre, Jessica Schnaider, and Marcia Missick.

Board members absent: Rabbi Jory Lang and Andre Pierre

NEW BUSINESS

NORTH MIAMI POLICE MAJOR, RANSOM CARTER, PROVIDES A SPECIAL HANDS-ON PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD MEMBERS OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, ON POLICE FIREARM AND WEAPON USE WHICH INCLUDED:

- History of Law Enforcement in the U.S.
- Eras in Law Enforcement
- Sir Robert Peele
- The 9 Policing Principles
- The Peelian Principles Condensed
- Five Purposes of Law Enforcement



- Slave Patrol and Militia
- 4th Amendment
- 4th Amendment Case Law
- Qualified Immunity
- Human Performance Factors
- Body Worn Cameras
- De-escalation
- Intelligence Based Policing
- Police Contract
- Unarmed Subjects
- Can the police do that?

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Randy Grice motioned to adjourn at 8:15 PM. Board Member Rose Michelle Grande-Pierre seconded the motion to adjourn.



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PRESENT

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- Human Performance Factors
- Body Worn Cameras
- De-escalation
- Intelligence Based Policing
- Police Contract
- Unarmed Subjects
- Can the police do that?

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Randy Grice motioned to adjourn at 8:15 PM. Board Member Rose Michelle Grande-Pierre seconded the motion to adjourn.



**NORTH MIAMI CITIZENS INVESTIGATIVE BOARD
TRAINING MEETING**

Agenda

Monday, May 8, 2023

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

North Miami Police Department (2nd Floor Training room)- 700 NE 124th Street North Miami, FL 33161

- I. Call to Order – Randy Grice, Chair

- II. Roll Call – Rose Michelle Grand-Pierre, Secretary

- III. Scenario-based Electronic Training, North Miami Police Department

- IV. Adjournment

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NORTH MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM



**To: Larry Juriga
Chief of Police**

Date: January 17, 2023

**From: Commander Michael Gaudio
Office of Professional Compliance**

**Subject: Request to Initiate
Internal Affairs Case No. 23-01**

The Office of Professional Compliance was notified by North Miami Police Sergeant Mcsai Jean-Baptiste and Sergeant Roldan Baez of possible inappropriate remarks made by North Miami Officer Webster Blemur during an official statement regarding Unit Complaint No. 22-05, in which Officer Blemur was the subject officer.

During the recorded official statement, Officer Blemur stated that on December 10, 2022 he was driving in the area of North West 128 Street and 10th Avenue and observed a "Hispanic male in the driveway of a house." He further stated that he did not observe any crime being committed but the "Subject looked out of place." In addition, Officer Blemur stated, "You know when you work the west side? It's mostly black people. So he (the subject) was like a Hispanic male, that's why I looked at him, because he looked a little out of place."

The Office of Professional Compliance recommends that an Internal Affairs Investigation be initiated in order to investigate the possibility of Biased Policing.

Approved

Denied

Signature

Chief of Police Larry Juriga

Date:

1/19/23



NORTH MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL COMPLIANCE

INTERNAL AFFAIRS CASE No. 23-01

Investigative Summary

**Commander Michael Gaudio
Investigator
Office of Professional Compliance**

March 23, 2023

I.A. Case No. 23-01

Principal Employee: Officer Webster Blemur

ALLEGATION:

The Office of Professional Compliance was notified by North Miami Police Sergeant Mcsai Jean-Baptiste and Sergeant Roldan Baez of possible inappropriate/discriminatory remarks made by Officer Webster Blemur during an official statement regarding Unit Complaint No. 22-05, in which he was the subject officer.

During the recorded official statement, Officer Blemur stated that on December 10, 2022 he was driving in the area of North West 128th Street and 10th Avenue and observed a “Hispanic male in the driveway of a house.” Officer Blemur further stated that he did not observe any crime being committed but the “Subject looked out of place.” In addition, Officer Blemur stated, “You know when you work the west side? It’s mostly black people. So he (the subject) was like a Hispanic male, that’s why I looked at him, because he looked a little out of place.”

The allegation is:

BIAS BASED POLICING / DISCRIMINATION

The above-listed action would constitute a violation of the following Department General Rules and Regulations:

300.11– Fair and Impartial Policing, Section V, A, 1.

It is the policy of this Department to enforce the law and deliver police services equally, fairly and without discrimination or bias toward any individual or group.

Section V, A, 3.

It is biased policing if an officer’s decisions/actions are based on the fact that the individual’s demographics (e.g., race, income) are different from the demographics of the majority of the residents in the area in which the individual is found.

PERSONS INTERVIEWED:

By NMPD Commander Michael Gaudio

- NMPD Sergeant McSai Jean- Baptiste
- NMPD Sergeant Roldan Baez
- NMPD Officer Webster Blemur

SUMMARY OF THE INVESTIGATION

February 27, 2023 at 11:50 am

On this date, this investigator met with North Miami Police Department (NMPD) Sergeant McSai Jean-Baptiste, at the Office of Professional Compliance. Sergeant Jean-Baptiste stated that while investigating Unit Complaint # 22-05, he interviewed Officer Webster Blemur (subject), in his office on January 11, 2023. Sergeant Jean-Baptiste stated that during the course of the interview with Officer Blemur, Officer Blemur stated that he observed a “Hispanic male” that was “Out of place.” According to Sergeant Jean-Baptiste, he inquired to Officer Blemur what he meant by “Out of place,” and Officer Blemur responded by stating, “You know when you work the west side? It’s mostly black people. So he was like a Hispanic male, that’s why I looked at him, because he looked a little out of place.” Sergeant Jean-Baptiste stated that he asked Officer Blemur if the Hispanic male was doing anything suspicious, that drew his attention to the Hispanic male, and according to Sergeant Jean-Baptiste, Officer Blemur stated he was not. Sergeant Jean-Baptiste stated that Officer Blemur advised the Hispanic male was just “Standing in the driveway.” Sergeant Jean-Baptiste confirmed that upon asking further why Officer Blemur noticed the Hispanic male, Officer Blemur stated “That’s okay. So, he was like a Hispanic male, so that’s why I looked at him right then, because he looks totally out of place. So, that’s why I made a U-turn and started talk to him and that was that. And that was going to be about it.” Sergeant Jean-Baptiste stated that the statement caused him concern, as he recognized that Officer Blemur’s actions were not in accordance with the NMPD Biased Based Policing Policy.

Sergeant Jean-Baptiste stated he believed there would be some further clarification from Officer Blemur as to why he attempted to contact the Hispanic male, such as suspicious activity, or articulable suspicion, however no other reason was given. Sergeant Jean-Baptiste advised that

NMPD Sergeant Roldan Baez was present during the interview as well, and was also concerned about Officer Blemur's statement.

See recorded sworn statement for further.

March 1, 2023 at 11:05 am

On this date, this investigator met with NMPD Sergeant Roldan Baez, at the Office of Professional Compliance. Sergeant Baez advised he was present when Sergeant Jean-Baptiste when he interviewed Officer Blemur. He further stated he was there for the purposes of being a witness. Sergeant Baez confirmed Sergeant Jean-Baptiste's account of the interview that he conducted with Officer Blemur. Sergeant Baez stated he heard Officer Blemur state, "You know when you work the west side? It's mostly black people. So he was like a Hispanic male, that's why I looked at him, because he looked a little out of place." Sergeant Baez said that the statement sounded to him that Officer Blemur was making contact with the subject based on the subject's race. Sergeant Baez confirmed that during the interview, Officer Blemur stated the Hispanic male was not doing anything and "Just standing there." Sergeant Baez advised that he discussed the statements with Sergeant Jean-Baptiste after the interview with Officer Blemur was concluded, and Sergeant Jean-Baptiste was also concerned over the statements.

See Recorded statement for further.

March 15, 2023 at 9:20 am

On this date, this investigator met with Officer Webster Blemur at the Office of Professional Compliance. Officer Blemur was accompanied by Attorney Michael Hellman of the Police Benevolent Association (PBA). Officer Blemur was given his Garrity Rights and provided a sworn recorded statement. Officer Blemur advised he recalled the interview he had with Sergeant Jean-Baptiste with Sergeant Baez present. Officer Blemur had reviewed the complete investigative file prior to the interview with this investigator, which included the transcript from his interview with Sergeant Jean-Baptiste. Officer Blemur stated he currently is assigned to the Uniformed Patrol Division (day shift), and normally patrols Zone 1. Officer Blemur acknowledged he made the statements regarding what had drawn his attention to the Hispanic male. This investigator drew

Officer Blemur's attention to statement line # 286 of the interview between him and Sergeant Jean-Baptiste. The statement transcribed was "You know when you work the west side? It's mostly black people. So he was like a Hispanic male, that's why I looked at him, because he looked a little out of place." Officer Blemur advised he said that statement to Sergeant Jean-Baptiste. In addition, Officer Blemur recalled stating the Hispanic male was not doing anything suspicious when he observed him. Officer Blemur also stated the transcribed interview was accurate. Officer Blemur stated that the subject was not doing anything suspicious and was only standing in a driveway when he saw him. Officer Blemur was shown a printout of his signature card from when he signed the NMPD Fair and Impartial Policing Policy (300.11). The printout indicated that Officer Blemur signed and acknowledged the policy on June 7, 2020. Officer Blemur stated he was aware of the policy "For the most part," and that he had signed it stating he had read it. In addition, Officer Blemur was shown a certificate that was awarded to him for completing training in Discriminatory Profiling and Professional Traffic Stops on December 6, 2021. Officer Blemur stated for the past two (2) years he has worked mainly in Zone 1. Officer Blemur stated that he misspoke when speaking with Sergeant Jean-Baptiste and what he actually meant when he said the Hispanic male was "out of place," was that regarding the Hispanic male's location in the driveway. Officer Blemur advised he was nervous when speaking with Sergeant Jean-Baptiste on January 11, 2023. In addition, he had been on a perimeter point prior to the interview and the interview occurred near his time to leave work. Officer Blemur said he felt that may have been a factor in him misspeaking. Officer Blemur was asked why did he reference that the residents of the west side as being "Mostly black," when he just stated the reason the Hispanic male was "Out of place," was due to his location in the driveway. Officer Blemur advised he was trying to give a complete picture of what was happening and the area he was working. Officer Blemur explained it would not have made a difference if the subject was a black male or Hispanic male, because he felt the Hispanic male was standing in a location that was odd.

See sworn recorded statement for further.

INVESTIGATIVE ANALYSIS

On January 11, 2023, NMPD Officer Blemur was interviewed by NMPD Sergeant Jean-Baptiste regarding Unit Complaint # 22-05. NMPD Sergeant Roldan Baez was also present during the interview. During the interview Officer Blemur stated during his sworn recorded statement, “You know when you work the west side? It’s mostly black people. So he was like a Hispanic male, that’s why I looked at him, because he looked a little out of place.” Officer Blemur then went on to state that the Hispanic male was not doing anything suspicious or acting in a suspicious manner when he observed him in the driveway. Sergeant Jean-Baptiste asked several times during the interview if the Hispanic male was observed acting in a suspicious manner and Officer Blemur replied he was not acting in a suspicious manner. Officer Blemur advised this investigator that the Hispanic male was only standing in the driveway, and that was the reason the Hispanic male seemed “Out of place.” He further stated to this investigator he was referring to the Hispanic male’s location only as far as “Out of place.” Officer Blemur stated he referred to the west side as being “Mostly black,” to give an overall picture of what had occurred. Officer Blemur informed this investigator that he had misspoke when he was interviewed by Sergeant Jean-Baptiste on January 11, 2023. He advised he was nervous during the interview and had been on a perimeter point just prior to the interview. Officer Blemur went on to state that he has been a police officer for fourteen (14) years and “For the most part,” was aware of the NMPD policy on Fair and Impartial Policing Policy (300.11).

OFFICIAL RECORDS:

(Refer to the Case File Index for location.)

- 1) Authorization to Initiate Internal Affairs case # 23-01 Memorandum
- 2) Transcribed Statement UC #22-05 - Blemur
- 3) NMPD Fair and Impartial Policing Policy Signature - Blemur
- 4) Transcribed Statement - Sergeant Jean-Baptiste and Sergeant Baez
- 5) Notice to Appear – Officer Blemur
- 6) Garrity Rights – Officer Blemur

7) Transcribed Statement – Officer Blemur

I, the undersigned, do hereby swear, under penalty of perjury, that, to the best of my personal knowledge, information, and belief, I have not knowingly or willfully deprived, or allowed another to deprive, the subject of the investigation of any of the rights contained in SS. 112.532 and 112.533, Florida State Statutes.

Commander Michael Gaudio
Office of Professional Compliance

March 23, 2023
Date