

April 16, 2025

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

On behalf of the Independent Community Policing Review Board (ICPRB), I write to share the Board's collective position on the revisions of the ICPRB enacting ordinance from the City Council Subcommittee expected to be considered at the April 22, 2025 City Council meeting.

Following thoughtful discussion at our April 10, 2025 meeting, the ICPRB voted unanimously to submit the following positions, based on the revised ordinance presentation from the City Council Subcommittee:

1. Board Authority to Initiate Investigations

The ICPRB opposes the proposed structure in which disagreements between the Alexandria Independent Police Auditor (AIPA) and the ICPRB on initiating independent investigations are determined by the City Council. We believe this framework is counter to the purpose of creating an independent Board in the original ordinance, where this power is delegated to an independent, appointed body by the City Council. Under the revised structure, the City Council acts in place of the decision-making role of the ICPRB and makes the Board's role largely irrelevant, while adding additional steps to an already multi-step process of police oversight.

2. Subpoena Authority for the Independent Auditor

The ICPRB opposes reducing the subpoena power (originally with the ICPRB, but now proposed to be with the AIPA) to the power to issue subpoenas duces tecum and supports the retention of full subpoena authority. Subpoena duces tecum eliminates the ability to subpoena individuals, whether they are APD officers who retain *Garrity* rights, or other witnesses from the public. Full subpoena authority may be necessary to obtain all relevant evidence needed to conduct thorough investigations, including key, but reluctant witness accounts in the most sensitive and controversial cases. In addition, it reinforces the independence of the oversight process.

3. Board Training, Ride-Along Requirements, and Term Length

The ICPRB supports the revised training and ride-along requirements for its members. These requirements provide valuable perspective and context for our work and foster more informed and credible civilian oversight. The ICPRB also supports the extension of the Board term length from 3 to 4 years, as discussed by the City Council Subcommittee, if the Council chooses to include this revision. The only exception the ICPRB has is to the restriction on new members vote on routine

matters not covered by the Board's oversight duties in Section 2-4-227 of the ordinance until their initial training requirements are completed. Allowing new members to vote on minutes, agendas, and other routine items do not require the training that is required to review police conduct and policies.

4. Board Authority to Review Investigations Conducted by APD and AIPA

The ICPRB supports the correction of the scrivener's error under section 2-4-227(c)3, clarifying that the ICPRB has authority to review investigations conducted by both the Alexandria Police Department (APD) and the AIPA. This authority is critical to ensuring independence, transparency, identification of patterns and systemic concerns, and maintaining meaningful civilian oversight in line with the ICPRB mission.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer our perspective and thank the City Council for its continued partnership in promoting accountability, transparency, and community trust in policing practices across Alexandria. Please do not hesitate to reach out if further dialogue is necessary prior to the City Council's consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher J. Lewis, Chair
Independent Community Policing Review Board