



CITY OF BOSTON
OFFICE OF POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY
Evandro C. Carvalho, Executive Director

OPAT COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING

Public Session Minutes
Thursday, April 9, 2026 | 3:30 p.m.
In-Person Meeting | 41 Geneva Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02121

Call to Order

Executive Director Evandro Carvalho called the meeting to order at **3:42 p.m.**

Commission Members Present:

Evandro Carvalho, Executive Director and Chair of the Commission

Samuel Harold, Chair of the Civilian Review Board (CRB)

Anthony Fugate, Chair of the Internal Affairs Oversight Panel (IAOP)

OPAT Staff

(All Commission Members were in attendance)

Introduction

Director Carvalho welcomed attendees and noted this was the second OPAT Commission public meeting of 2026. Director Carvalho reviewed the agenda, noting the following topics:

- Welcome & Introductory Remarks from the Executive Director
- Review and Approval of January 29, 2026, Public Session Minutes
- Executive Director's Report
- OPAT Filing with POST Commission
- BPD's 2/10/26 Letters to Civilian Review Board & Internal Affairs Oversight Panel
- Sharing of Information with Boston Police Department



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- BPD's Response to OPAT Investigation Requests
- Other Business
- Public Comment
- Executive Session

Director Carvalho further advised the public that they may contact OPAT via the agency email address and through OPAT's website.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Director Carvalho presented the January 29, 2026, meeting minutes and invited corrections.

Motion to Approve Minutes as Presented:

- **Moved by:** Anthony Fugate
- **Seconded by:** Samuel Harold
- **Vote:** Anthony Fugate (yes), Samuel Harold (yes), Evandro Carvalho (yes).
Motion unanimously approved.

Director's Report and Administrative Updates

Director Carvalho provided an overview of data, cases, and findings since the last meeting, followed by administrative updates:

- CRB Findings: 2 Not Sustained cases & 1 Information Inquiry
- IAOP Findings: 4 Agreements & 1 Disagreement
- Community Engagement: 5 Coffee hours, an open-door day, and appearances on 2 local radio programs



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- Director Carvalho testified before the City Council regarding BPD video release protocols on April 7, 2026.
- Expressing sympathy to Mr. Stephenson King’s family, the family of Jacob Graves, and the families of the police officers involved in the tragic incidents

BPD’s Response to OPAT Investigation Requests

The meeting focused on ongoing challenges in obtaining information from the Boston Police Department (BPD) regarding critical incidents, particularly those involving the use of force and fatalities. Commission members discussed a recent case involving the shooting of Mr. King, noting that key materials—especially body camera footage—were withheld. BPD cited legal constraints and the authority of the District Attorney under Massachusetts law as justification. This raised questions among Commission members about whether oversight bodies should still have access to such materials, even if public release is restricted.

Participants also examined broader concerns about transparency and consistency. They highlighted multiple incidents—including a reported police shooting into a residence and a protest-related arrest—where information was difficult to obtain despite public interest or media coverage. Commission members expressed frustration over what they viewed as inconsistent practices, especially compared to other cases where footage or details have surfaced publicly. There was particular concern that the lack of access undermines accountability and the commission’s role as a representative voice for the community.

Finally, the group discussed barriers to accessing sensitive records, such as those involving domestic violence, where BPD cited confidentiality laws. Commission members questioned whether these restrictions should apply to an oversight body that already handles confidential information securely. The meeting concluded with an agreement to continue reviewing these issues, gather more context, and reconvene soon to develop clearer



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positions and potential recommendations on improving access, transparency, and oversight.

Sharing of Information with Boston Police Department

The discussion clarified how most decisions rely heavily (about 90%) on information provided by the Boston Police Department—such as body camera footage, police reports, dispatch records, and other official data—while OPAT contributes additional materials like redacted complaint intake forms, interviews, independently gathered videos, and occasional physical or medical evidence. A key concern raised was the request from BPD to access OPAT’s internally collected information, especially detailed statements from complainants and witnesses. Commission members emphasized the need to protect this sensitive information, noting that individuals come forward with an expectation of confidentiality, and sharing such details could undermine trust and deter future complaints, even though OPAT already shares its final reports with the department.

Commission members also raised concerns that sharing detailed intake information could deter people from coming forward due to fear of re-traumatization or retaliation, especially if their statements are later used in police reinvestigations. They highlighted that OPAT’s ordinance already classifies investigative materials as confidential, while also allowing for regulated information-sharing protocols. The discussion concluded with a focus on developing clearer internal regulations to balance transparency, accountability, and the protection of vulnerable complainants.

Boston Police Department’s Letter to Civilian Review Board and Internal Affairs Oversight Panel dated February 10, 2026

The discussion focused on recent correspondence that is now being signed by command staff rather than the Commissioner, with Commission members noting that while the signature has changed, the substance of the letters remains largely the same. The group



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emphasized that their main concern is not the form of the communication but the consistency and content of the information being provided, and how it reflects the ongoing process for handling oversight recommendations and responses.

OPAT sending report to POST Commission

The discussion focused on whether OPAT should share its findings with the POST Commission. Commission members noted that while there had been prior concern that OPAT was not consistently sending its decisions to POST, the executive director of POST indicated that they prefer receiving more focused or significant cases rather than every matter. Despite this, there was support for potentially sending all cases to ensure full transparency and consistency, with the understanding that POST is an independent agency and would determine what to publish or use.

Commission members also debated how to define which cases should be considered “serious” enough for targeted sharing versus sending all information by default. Concerns were raised about discretion and consistency, with some emphasizing that all complainants view their cases as important regardless of severity. The group leaned toward the idea of forwarding all relevant decisions to POST, while allowing POST to decide how to use the information, and agreed that the issue should be formalized through written guidance or regulations in a future meeting to establish a clear and consistent policy.



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Other Business

The next Commission meeting will be Via Zoom on May 5th at 3:30 PM.

Public Comment

2 Public Comments were made on this date:

The first public comment was made by a Complainant: “I am a complainant. I filed a complaint with OPAT about officer misconduct in February of 2024, so over two years ago. Luckily, it wasn't violent, it wasn't anything like you were talking about today.” She then pointed out investigator Diana Vergara as her investigator.

She continued that since February of 2024, and noted that this is loosely connected as an information-gathering issue, she has not received any findings, resolution, or clear timeline. In late 2025, the City wrote to her saying that her case would be presented at a board meeting and that a final decision might come as late as March 2026. Now, in April, to her knowledge, no presentation has occurred. That same communication pointed to OPAT's public meetings as a forum where the matter could be addressed, so she took it as an invitation to follow up publicly. She has made repeated efforts to follow up, including two emails sent in February 2026 to OPAT@boston.gov, and received no response.

As of today, her complaint still shows online as “under investigation” with no timeline. She stated that she wanted to know when it would be addressed and mentioned that she has pursued other avenues to obtain answers after being unsuccessful so far. She questioned whether her case was delayed due to the Boston Police Department not providing information OPAT needs or OPAT not acting on information it already has, and requested that if the investigation is still ongoing, that be clearly stated on the record, along with a timeline for resolution. She concluded by noting that after two years, the open investigation, missed timelines, and ignored follow-up emails represent a lack of accountability and transparency.



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Director Carvalho apologized as the head of the office and said he would get to the bottom of what happened with her case.

The second comment was made by Benedict:

“I graduated from Boston Latin School and then college with a degree in Psychology and Sociology. I’m here to make a formal demand for accountability and policy regarding racial policing disparities. So I am here to address the systemic bias, colorism, and disproportionate policing directed towards Black men in Boston. As an African American resident, I see firsthand how stealth tactics and aggressive subdual methods are used to target our communities under the guise of public safety.

So, for the fiscal year of 2025, what OPAT had in the report confirmed that this is a structural crisis, not a series of isolated incidents. For one, there’s disproportionate force. Black Bostonians represented 56% of all use-of-force incidents despite making up only 21% of the city’s population. Targeted policing—over 3,000 police encounter files were concentrated in just four zip codes, including Dorchester and Roxbury, creating an environment of constant surveillance. Arrest disparity—Black residents accounted for 45% of all arrests, a rate that cannot be explained away by crime statistics but by a pattern of over-policing Black bodies. We have seen the fatal consequences of failed de-escalation.

And to ensure these tragedies are not repeated, I’m demanding three things. Binding authority, similar to OPAT, asking for evidence of DV cases. The OPAT must move beyond a review model of BPD. Findings of misconduct must result in binding disciplinary action similar to what you guys are asking for, that the BPD cannot ignore. So similar to your suggestion, they should be responding. Mandatory de-escalation intervention—codified strict duty to intervene where officers are held criminally and professionally liable for failing to stop excessive force by colleagues, and end pretextual stops and self-initiated investigative stops for minor broken violations like broken tail lights that are used as a gateway to arrest Black males at a higher frequency.



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And lastly, transparent data on stops—the BPD must begin to keep track of skin tone data to address the specific role that color plays in police interaction and suppression. So this looks like in fiscal year 2026, instead of making 2,350 police stops in Black neighborhoods, they should be making 1,764 stops in Black neighborhoods. In fiscal year 2026, instead of having 1,185 use-of-force incidents recorded in Black neighborhoods, there should be 220 use-of-force incidents reported in Black neighborhoods. So if you look at the email I sent as well as the documents, it has reports to explain that this year these reports should be going down.”

Director Carvalho thanked Benedict for coming and sharing the report and asked OPAT Policy and Data Analyst Michael Berger to follow up with him.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn:

- **Moved by:** Anthony Fugate
- **Seconded by:** Samuel Harold
- **Vote:** Anthony Fugate (yes), Evandro Carvalho (yes), Samuel Harold (yes)
Motion unanimously passed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Office of Police Accountability and Transparency Staff
Submitted to: OPAT Commission for approval.