



## **Somerset County Police Accountability Board**

**(End of Year Report, December, 2022)**

Dear Somerset County Commissioners,

The formation of the Somerset County Police Accountability Board (SCPAB) began on July 1, 2022, as a result of the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021, and the Somerset County Resolution number 1,177 pertaining to the SCPAB. The SCPAB members selected by the Somerset County, Maryland Commissioners are Dr. Kirkland Hall Sr., Bruce Parkinson, Julie Thomas, Ivan Lankford, and Chairman Martin Koerner. The SCPAB met on August 18, 2022, to go over the law, procedures, and the moving forward process. The Somerset County Administrative Charging Committee (SCACC) members were selected as required and are Reverend Charles Bagley, Cynthia Powell, Pastor James Riley, Pastor Steve Willing, and Chairman Martin Koerner.

The SCPAB met on October 20, 2022 with law enforcement heads of Somerset County for the first time and as required to fulfill the quarterly meeting obligation. Additionally, the SCPAB discussed issues concerning matters of law enforcement and SCPAB operating procedures. States Attorney Garner and Sheriff Howard provided their thoughts and opinion on the SCPAB process and offered any assistance needed. The SCPAB met with law enforcement heads of Somerset County on December 15, 2022 to improve matters of policing and police accountability, and to discuss any trends in the disciplinary process of police officers in Somerset County. At present there does not appear to be any issues related to police accountability or trends in the disciplinary process.

During the past six (6) months, the SCPAB and SCACC have accomplished the following:

- With the assistance of Mr. Taylor's staff, have established and developed a citizen complaint form that can be found on the Somerset County website.

- Have introduced and interacted with law enforcement heads.
- Have worked with Somerset County IT staff, Mr. Taylor and his staff in obtaining computers and email addresses for SCPAB and SCACC members in order to receive and review cases from law enforcement agencies.
- All SCACC members and chairman have attended the mandated forty (40) hour training required by the MPTSC in November.
- Have established a process with the assistance of the States Attorney's office to view body-cam footage provided by law enforcement in regards to internal investigations.
- Have developed an Excel spreadsheet to track the cases received by the SCPAB/SCACC from law enforcement entities.

The below chart summarizes the citizen complaints made against law enforcement officers in Somerset County from July 1, 2022 through present date:

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Number of Citizen Complaints</b>	<b>Allegation Type</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Sheriff's Office	0	N/A	N/A
Princess Anne P.D.	1	Inappropriate Conduct	Pending
Crisfield	2	Inappropriate Conduct	Pending
U.M.E.S.	0	N/A	N/A
MSP	2	Inappropriate Conduct	Pending
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>		

In reviewing the chart, several items should be pointed out. First, the Maryland State Police and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore do not answer to the SCPAB; they answer to the State of Maryland PAB which has not been completely established. The Maryland State Police Princess Anne Barrack and University of Maryland Eastern Shore Police Department were kind enough to provide the information to provide a full picture of police accountability to the Somerset County Commissioners and also participate in the quarterly SCPAB meetings. The preliminary results of allegations of inappropriate conduct on the part of law enforcement officers have been investigated and are pending review by the State ACC and the SCACC. The SCACC will be reviewing the three (3) completed investigations during a SCACC meeting in mid-January.

In an effort to provide a comprehensive report to the Somerset County Commissioners for 2022, it can be stated it does not appear any of the allegations made against the law enforcement officers working in Somerset County are related and they do not appear to be a potential police accountability trend. With that said, only the due process of the current Police Accountability Act of 2021 will establish this to be fact.

The SCPAB will continue to work on improving the current processes, and continue to work with law enforcement agencies and the county government to improve matters of policing in Somerset County, Maryland.

Respectfully,

(SCPAB Members)

Dr. Kirkland Hall Sr.

Bruce Parkinson

Julie Thomas

Ivan Lankford

Martin Koerner