

MEET THE CANDIDATES' NIGHT
Office of Professional Standards (OPS)
20 MARCH 2018
Presented by Cleveland Community Police Commission

OPS is separate from the police department and investigates all non-criminal complaints made against officers of the Cleveland Division of Police. Note that the city has the approval of the court to hire retired prosecutors or retired law enforcement personnel not affiliated with Cleveland. The 3 final candidates are:

Jack Hall, Craig Morton and Roger Smith

Jack Hall:

- Avon Lake PD and Cleveland Metroparks
- 20 years police administrator and investigator of corruption cases
- Need to update technology, training and resources
- Complaints and status of should be made public

Craig Morton:

- Deputy Chief Akron Prosecutor's Office, was police legal advisor
- Proactive training and education for officers to help reduce negative encounters
- System needs to adapt and evolve to today's standards

Roger Smith:

- New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board
- Director of training
- Each situation viewed differently by the police and the public
- Training for OPS investigators as to interviewing witnesses, writing reports
- Build confidence with both the police and citizens that the processes work and all complaints will be investigated fully and fairly

Questions:

- 1) Currently the investigators do not comment on the veracity of the witnesses and there is no body cam evidence, thoughts?

All candidates agreed that investigators should state their opinion as to the veracity of the witnesses, both citizen and police.

- 2) Since the candidates have a law enforcement background how do you expect to show citizens that you will be impartial?

Hall: Communication and transparency, stress enforcement of the Constitution

Morgan: Trust has to be earned; communication with citizens

Smith: Develop strong and reliable processes that can be trusted

3) What can be done to improve cooperation between OPS, Police Chief, and Public Safety officer?

All candidates: Regular meetings and communication

4) What can you do to improve the morale of the OPS investigators?

Hall: Investigators need a voice and be able to express their ideas

Morgan: Support employees

Smith: Give them a vision of the benefit of their job

5) How do you feel about the help of grassroot organizations?

Hall: Yes, community outreach is necessary

Morgan: Yes, knowledge leads to understanding

Smith: Yes, but needs to be done so that all parties have an understanding of the purpose and expectations.

6) Why would you be good for Cleveland?

Hall: Sees the consent decree as an opportunity for CDP to improve its relationship with the community

Morgan: Believes he can help rebuild the community's faith in the system

Smith: As an outsider, he can see both sides and help bring people together