



Community Police Oversight Board

Meet our Board Members



John Mark Davidson
Chairman-District 15



Aswad Smith
District 1



Jonathan E Maples
District 2



Walter Higgins
District 3



Loren Gilbert-Smith
District 4



Brian Bah
District 5



Derric Pegram
District 6



Timothy Jackson
District 7



Chauncey Lander
District 8



Alison Grinter Allen
District 9



Jennifer King
District 10



Arlene Steinfield
District 11



Deatra Wadsworth
District 12



David Kitner
District 13



Brandon Friedman
District 14



Community Police Oversight Board

Mission:

The mission of the Community Police Oversight Board is to enhance the public's trust that complaints of misconduct against departmental employees are conducted fair and thoroughly, are transparent, and ensure City of Dallas residents have an accessible means to the complaint process

Purpose:

Promote transparency and accountability and foster community relationships with the police department.



Chairman

John-Mark Davidson | District 15

Dr. John-Mark Davidson, Ph.D., has served as the Executive Director of Christian Works for Children since September 2021. His life purpose is to use his time, resources, and efforts to contribute to the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. Over the years, this purpose has guided him towards faith-based non-profit work in the shantytowns of South America, humanitarian development in the mango industry of northern Perú, and congregational ministry in the city of Dallas. He wholeheartedly believes in Christian Works' mission to represent the goodness of God to children and their families by continuing Jesus Christ's example of service. John-Mark holds a B.S. in Education from Texas A&M University, an M.Div. from Abilene Christian University, and a Ph.D. in Global Leadership with an emphasis on Intercultural Competence from Pepperdine University. He currently lives in Dallas, TX, with his wife, Tara (m. 2003), and their four children: Kellan, Parker, Kase, and Mack.



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Vice-Chairman

Aswad Smith | DISTRICT 1

Mr. Smith is a Market President for Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star. He joined the BBBS family in 2019 and provides leadership to a dedicated staff of professionals serving youth in mentoring relationships. A native Texan, and resident of District 1, Mr. Smith enjoys time spent with his wife and daughter in their community.



Jonathan Maples | DISTRICT 2

Jonathan Maples is a dynamic and goal-oriented Sales Leader with a proven track record in sales and account management and a strong background in customer service. His extensive experience covers various facets of business, including team building, project management, and market planning. Jonathan excels in leading sales teams to achieve outstanding results, foster long-term growth, and ensure profitability. Jonathan is highly proficient in building and executing strategic business plans and has a remarkable ability to drive sales performance and deliver accurate sales forecasts. His leadership style emphasizes coaching and development, fostering a culture of accountability and innovation within sales teams. His talent in recruiting and developing top-notch professionals contributes to his teams' overall success. Beyond his professional achievements, Jonathan Maples is a proud Military Veteran, having served in the United States Marine Corp. This background has contributed to his discipline, leadership skills, and commitment to excellence.



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Walter Higgins | DISTRICT 3



Walter “Changa” Higgins is an experienced organizer focused on policing reform, civil rights, and racial justice in Texas and Oklahoma. For the past 10 years, he has worked in Dallas on policing reform through protest, coalition building, and policy creation. Leading The Dallas Community Police Oversight Coalition since 2017, he oversees coalition building and policy creation, currently partnering with Dallas police and city government to transform a 30-year-old police review board into an oversight office. He has also founded groups like The Harambee Brotherhood, Unify South Dallas, and Dallas Action Coalition. Founder of design2action, a research and design consultancy, Changa has worked with city governments, non-profits, and companies like Twitter and Google. His work blends research, design thinking, and human-centered practices to address public safety, policing, and justice issues.



Loren Gilbert-Smith | DISTRICT 4

A Program Manager II at Dallas College, Loren Gilbert-Smith has worked as an adjunct professor at Everest College Midcities and ITT Technical Institute where she was chair of the School of Criminal Justice and Business. She was also an instructor at Vatterott College, and other jobs included as a paralegal at Riney Palter P.L.L.C., the Law Office of R. Sean McDonald, P.C., and Legal Assistant at Lander & Associates P.C. and Network Analyst at American Airlines. She attended St. Agnes Academic School, The City University of New York where she received a B.A. in Sociology, and Southeastern Career Institute. She also studied at the University of Phoenix, Grace International Seminary and currently Walden University where she is pursuing a doctorate degree in Public Policy and Criminal Justice.



Brian Bah | DISTRICT 5

Brian Bah is a senior associate at Reid Collins & Tsai LLP in Dallas, focusing on complex business and insolvency-related litigation. He has represented clients in various litigation and arbitration stages, including discovery, trial preparation, and appeals. Brian has significant experience with class action employment disputes, antitrust disputes, securities class actions, and international internal investigations involving the FCPA, environmental crimes, and other corruption issues. He began his career clerking for the Honorable David C. Godbey and later worked at Sidley Austin LLP. Brian received his J.D. from the University of Texas, where he was an Associate Editor for the Texas Law Review. He holds an M.A. in Dispute Resolution from SMU and a B.A. magna cum laude in Political Science from Abilene Christian University.



Derric Pegram | DISTRICT 6

Derric Pegram is an experienced educator with a Master's Degree in Education. He has dedicated his career to creating a nurturing and inclusive learning environment for young minds. As a proud member of the Dallas Independent School District (DISD), Derric has been serving as a Kindergarten teacher at Pleasant Grove Elementary School for five years. During this time, he has passionately supported his students' academic and personal growth, ensuring their success both inside and outside the classroom. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Derric actively contributes to his campus community as the Racial Equity Leader, advocating for inclusivity and fairness. He also serves as the Home to Home Coordinator, which strengthens the connection between families and the school, fostering a supportive and collaborative educational experience for all.



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Timothy Jackson | DISTRICT 7

Tim Jackson is a Dallas-based filmmaker, lobbyist, and real estate broker with 21 years of experience. He founded the Alliance for Black Economics Political Action Committee (ABEPAC), fostering equity and economic opportunities in Black American communities. A two-time Dallas Planning and Zoning Commissioner, Tim highlights systemic issues through his film *How To Kill A Black Man* and book *Real Dope*, available on Amazon Prime. Financially retired at 37, he educates others on economic success and accountability. As President of the R.E.A.L. Youth Mentoring Program, Tim shapes young men into leaders and entrepreneurs.



Victor Lander - DISTRICT 8

Judge Victor C. Lander, born in Georgia, attended schools in New York, Lynchburg, and Alexandria. He graduated from Morehouse College with Honors in 1975 and earned his J.D. from the University of Texas in 1978. He served as an attorney with the FCC before starting a private practice in Dallas. Lander was appointed Associate Judge of the Dallas Municipal Court in 1991 and later became the Administrative Judge. He retired after 27 years on the bench in 2018. Lander is an advocate of education and community service, serving as a professor and active member of legal and community organizations. He has received several awards, including the Dallas Police Department's Certificate of Merit, the Outstanding Jurist Award, the Judge of the Year Award, and the Faculty Member of the Year award. He resides in South Oak Cliff, Dallas, Texas.



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Alison Grinter Allen - DISTRICT 9

Alison Grinter is a respected Dallas criminal defense attorney. She is Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, with over 15 years of legal experience and a focus on felony defendants and mental health cases. She has practiced in both federal and state courts at the trial and appellate levels. A former Public Defender, and active in local Democratic politics, Alison has been an active voice for civil rights in the courtroom and in the community. She has appeared in the local and national media as a strong advocate for voting rights. She lives in beautiful South Dallas with her husband and three daughters.



Jennifer King - DISTRICT 10

Jennifer King is a community leader with over 20 years of experience in client services, public affairs, marketing, and advancement for corporate and nonprofit organizations. She is Principal of Jenny King Strategies. Mrs. King serves as a Trustee for Austin College and is active in various education, leadership, and development groups. Her volunteer work includes roles on the City of Dallas Community Police Oversight Board, Richardson ISD Community Budget Steering Committee, and several other organizations. She has received volunteer service awards from Austin College, Dallas Day School, Women's Council of Dallas County, and UT Southwestern Medical Center. King earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Austin College and a Master of Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Dallas. She is married and has two children. In her free time, she enjoys reading, cooking vegetarian dishes, and discussing current events.



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Arlene Steinfield - DISTRICT 11

Arlene Switzer Steinfield, JD, is the principal of Steinfield Employment Law, PLLC. She has over 43 years of experience representing employers in all facets of labor and employment law. For the past few years, she has focused on representing healthcare practices in various states throughout the country. As such, Ms. Steinfield fully comprehends the unique challenges of employment law compliance. She is a nationally recognized expert and the current Vice President and incoming President of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers, which is a by-invitation-only organization recognizing those who have distinguished themselves in the field. Ms. Steinfield is a prolific author and speaker on a wide array of subjects in labor and employment law who prides herself on providing practical advice and offering creative solutions to employers faced with workplace challenges.



Deatra Wadsworth - DISTRICT 12

Frequent public speaker on a variety of 21st century aging issues. Provide information, referrals and support to older adults and their families as they navigate the lifespan. Experienced with aging care management, the older adult community housing continuum, transitions, end of life and hospice care, Medicare, as well as grief and loss support.

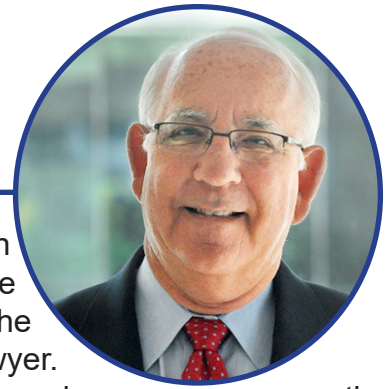


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David Kitner - DISTRICT 13

David Kitner has been a resident of Dallas since 1973, living in the Preston Hollow area of District 13. He is a graduate of Rice University and the University of Texas Law School. Throughout his career, he has worked at the law firm Strasburger & Price, now known as Clark Hill, PLC, as a civil trial lawyer.

Kitner has been active in the State Bar of Texas grievance system, including service on the District Grievance Committee. Appointed by the Texas Supreme Court, he served six years on the Board of Disciplinary Appeals, including three as Chair, and six years on the Grievance Oversight Committee. His community involvement includes serving on the Dallas County Grand Jury and the boards of the Suicide and Crisis Center (as Board President) and Community Partners of Dallas. He was previously appointed by the Dallas City Council to the Finance and Housing Board. In 2017, he was appointed to the Citizens Police Review Board, later the Community Police Oversight Board, and reappointed in 2023 by Council member Gay Donnell Willis.



Brandon Friedman - DISTRICT 14

Brandon Friedman started his career as an infantry officer in the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division. In March 2002, he led a platoon into Afghanistan's Shah-e-Kot Valley during Operation Anaconda, engaging Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters. A year later, he commanded troops in the invasion of Iraq, participating in combat and counterinsurgency operations. He left active duty in 2004 and received two Bronze Stars for his service. From 2007 to 2009, Friedman served as vice chairman and spokesperson for VoteVets.org, a non-profit organization promoting veteran candidates. In 2007, he authored *The War I Always Wanted*, a memoir about his combat experiences, recognized by *Army Times* as a top military book. In 2009, he became the first director of digital media at the Department of Veterans Affairs, aiming to enhance online veteran interaction. After leaving the VA in 2012, he joined Fleishman Hillard as a vice president and later worked at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. In 2017, he co-founded Rakkasan Tea Company to sell teas from post-conflict areas.



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