

**City of Syracuse  
Citizen Review Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, November 8, 2018  
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM  
Common Council Chambers  
Public Comment - 20 minutes at 6:30 PM**

Name	P	A	Name	P	A	Name	P	A
Carter, Mae	X		Natale, Dana	X				
Comeau, Herve		X	Nelson, Mary	X				
Grinnals, R. Daniels	X		Nilsson, Lori	X				
Holmes, Hatisha	X		Ryans, Clifford	X				
Kutz, Ruth	X		Releford, Ranette	X				
McCarthy, Peter	X		Pearson, Betty L.		X			

On Thursday, November 8, 2018, the City of Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) held an open, stated meeting at 304 City Hall in the Common Council Chambers.

Peter McCarthy, Board Chair, called the meeting to order and announced that the meeting was being held pursuant to notice and that a quorum was present.

1. On motion duly made by Mr. Ryans, seconded by Ms. Nilsson, and adopted, the Board approved the Minutes of the October 18, 2018, Board meeting.
2. Chairman's Items
  - a. Board Member terms:
    - Mr. Grinnals was appointed from February 2018 through December 2018
    - Ms. Kutz's term is from January 2018 through December 2020.
    - Ms. Natale's term started in August 2017.
    - Ms. Nilsson took over a term that started January 2016 through December 2018.
    - Mr. Ryans' term is from January 2017 through December 2019.
    - Ms. Holmes is in her first term.
    - Ms. Carter started in February 2017.
    - Peter McCarthy started in May 2017.
  - b. The Board Packet includes Body Worn Camera policy, Use of Deadly Physical Force Policy and Policy Training Recommendations. These will be discussed at the December 2018 Meeting.

c. The Administrator's Evaluation will be done by the December 2018 Meeting.

3. Administrator's Report

a. Balbina Priscilla Santana is the new Board Member. She has been nominated but not sworn in yet.

b. 5<sup>th</sup> District Appointee – last month was Herve Comeau's third absence. We need to take a vote to move the Council into appointing a new member. Mr. Grinnals moves, Ms. Nilsson seconds, all are in favor. Joe Driscoll has made a recommendation.

c. The Citizen Review Board received 9 complaints in December, bringing the 2018 total to 65.

d. The Board will be reviewing a tabled case in Executive Session.

e. Ms. Releford is answering a subpoena asking for data regarding the Use of Force. She is still responding and redacting. The CRB is a third party in this matter.

f. Grant v. City of Syracuse:

- Some points made by the previous Administrator were taken to heart by the jury.
- The CRB still holds strict confidentiality regarding any specifics, most comments were regarding policy statements.
- Corporation Counsel will meet with the CRB regarding confidentiality. As a rule, the CRB should not make public news comments.
- Ms. Releford will meet with the Mayor on Monday regarding public CRB comments on the case.

g. Three Private Investigator interviews are scheduled on 11/13/18. The price will be between \$50 and \$75 per hour.

h. Syracuse Police Department Body Worn Camera (BWC) Policy was released to the public and did not have any CRB recommendations so Ms. Releford emailed the Deputy Chief.

i. SPD did put seat belts in paddy wagons after a previous CRB recommendation. This shows us that we must continue to review policies to see if they use our recommendations. Ms. Nilsson proposes we have a Board Member assigned to follow up on policy recommendations and all agree.

- j. Charles Jackson, Coordinator of the Syracuse YSAP (Youth Substance Abuse Prevention) spoke as part of the CRB's commitment to engaging community youth. The YSAP is a Community Coalition model organization where anyone can join as everyone brings something to the table. They meet on the first Thursday of the month. Ms. Releford makes every effort to make all of their meetings.

#### 4. Committees

##### a. Community Outreach

- Syracuse University Violence Forum is tomorrow at Schine Center from 8AM-4PM. Mr. Ryans will attend the morning session.
- November 14<sup>th</sup> is the Danforth School Dinner
- November 15<sup>th</sup> is the Westside Thanksgiving dinner at 5PM
- The Take Back the Streets Coalition meets the last Wednesday of the month

##### b. Board Development and Training

- Corporation Counsel will train the CRB on confidentiality, public speaking and Executive Session rules.
- SPD will do a presentation for their Use of Force policy. This has not been scheduled yet.

##### c. Government Relations

- Ms. Releford is meeting with the Mayor regarding CRB response to the Grant case.
- Ms. Releford will be discussing State Trooper deployment with the Mayor.

##### d. Police Relations

- Met with Interfaith Works on Monday.
- Met with Chief Fowler regarding early warning systems.

#### 5. New Business - CRB Study

- During the Grant Trial, the City Attorney denied responsibility by blaming the CRB
- 2001 Mayoral Race talked about CRB and lack of cooperation from SPD and the perceived lack of effectiveness of the CRB

- Syracuse University’s BWC Policy points out the deficiencies in the SPD policy. SPD has four pages in their policy describing when they WON’T use BWC and is otherwise unclear and confusing.

6. Public Comment (6:30 pm)

- Mr. Anderson asks about the Police Chief and Ms. Releford advises the CRB has not heard anything that the community has not.
- Mr. Anderson mentions the Press Release from the Mayor regarding the Alonzo Grant trial and said that the Corporation Counsel is thinking about an appeal. Ms. Releford notes that this is a typical litigation strategy.
- Mr. Anderson asks if Ms. Releford will discuss State Trooper deployment in relation to the CRB with the Mayor and she indicates that she will.
- Mr. Anderson asks about website updates and Mr. McCarthy advises that this is outside of the CRB’s hands. He suggests that members of the public could reach out to the entity in charge of the City website.
- Mr. Anderson asks about hiring a medical consultant and Ms. Releford indicates that the CRB priority right now is hiring an investigator.
- Mr. Anderson asks about Community Outreach in each Council District and Ms. Releford advises that we are always looking for events and would welcome suggestions from the public.
- Ms. Carter asks if the CRB is available to explain itself to outside groups as she does not exactly understand what it’s all about and others probably feel the same way.

Ms. Kutz moves to continue to Executive Session, Mr. Ryans seconds.

Meeting continued in Executive Session.

During the Executive Session, the Board voted on the following cases to determine whether to forward the case to a CRB hearing:

Case Number: 17-062 Yes 10 No      Recused      Hearing      No Hearing X

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously adopted, the Board adjourned its meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Natale  
1<sup>st</sup> District Appointee