

**City of Syracuse  
Citizen Review Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, February 7, 2019  
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM  
Common Council Chambers  
Public Comment - 20 minutes at 6:30 PM**

<u>Name</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>A</u>
Carter, Mae	x		Natale, Dana		x			
Santana, Balbina		x	Ryans, Clifford	x				
Nilsson, Lori	x		Nelson, Mary	x				
Holmes, Hatisha	x		Releford, Ranette	x				
Kutz, Ruth	x		R. Daniel Grinnals	x				
McCarthy, Peter	x							

On Thursday, January 3, 2019, 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 Clifford Ryans, seconded by Ruth Kutz and adopted, the Board approved the Minutes of the January 3, 2019, Board meeting, with no corrections. One abstention based upon absence at January meeting.
2. Board Action Items
  - a. Approve Ryan Suser, Esq. as replacement to Harrison Williams, Esq. from Bousquet Holstein, PLLC. R. Daniel Grinnals asked questions or made comments relate to his relationship with other attorneys at the firm specifically John Valentino, Esq. On Motion duly made by Peter McCarthy, seconded by Clifford Ryans to approve Ryan Suser, Esq. replacing Harrison Williams as our attorney. All in favor and no abstention.
  - b. Approval of Resolution to Hire Legal Secretary I rather than a Paralegal. On motion duly made by Ruth Kutz, seconded by R. Daniel Grinnals the Board approved the hiring of a Legal Secretary I. Discussions related to criteria, duties, and process were discussed at length. All in favor no abstention.
3. Chairman's Items
  - a. Member's participation in community outreach events. Peter McCarthy discussed the importance of Board members participating in any outreach scheduled throughout the year and we will discuss this in more detail during our annual training day.

- b. Board Member Terms were discussed and the information will be updated accordingly.
- c. SU Intern Jillian Janovic office hours were discussed and the Board members were asked to stop by the office sometime to meet her before the next Board meeting if they desired. A discussion occurred related to how Jillian was chosen and what project she will work on for the CRB.
- d. Peter McCarthy, discussed the scheduling of an upcoming meeting with the Chief, Corporation Counsel, etc. R. Daniel Grinnals stated he would like to attend this meeting. A discussion related to Ryan Suser, Esq. occurred and the Board was in agreement that he attends this meeting along with the Administrator and Mr. McCarthy. Mr. McCarthy discussed the comments Kristen Smith, Esq. made related to the Officers after the Grant Trial along with the recent comments from Chief Kenton Buckner regarding overhauling and revamping the CRB during his appearance on Inspiration to the Nation and Thursday Morning Roundtable. Chief Buckner's comments related to having meetings with Corporation Council and that group to assume it means the CRB. Discussions related to the Chief's decision to wait until the group meeting is scheduled before the Police Liaison Committee is reestablished. Discussion related to who will attend the group meeting, letter written on behalf of the CRB to radio or television can be written by the Board Chair and Vice Chair. Mr. Grinnals added that they are not going to allow the fox to watch the chicken coop.

#### 4. Administrator's Report

- a. Monthly Financial Report – Ms. Releford shared the detailed breakdown of expenditures for the year to date.
- b. Case statistics – Ms. Releford reported that 11 new cases were received in January. She stated the total received in 2019 is 11 and that 8 cases will be reviewed during Executive Session. Cases remain outstanding from 2017 and 2018 and this will be addressed in the group meeting with the Chief, etc.
- c. Annual Report for 2018 will be provided by the end of March and posted to the website thereafter.

#### 5. Committees

- a. Outreach Committee-White Branch (Butternut) on February 8 from 3-5:00p.m. and 28 Day Speaker Series at Syracuse Academy of Science at Citizenship.
- b. Police Relations-After the group meeting we will discuss the scheduling of a meeting with the Police Liaison Committee.

- c. Government Relations-The Deputy Mayor will attend the group meeting regarding the relationship with SPD and the CRB.
  - d. Board Development and Training-The Board's Annual Training Day will be March 2, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m. at 1199 SEIU.
6. New Business-Theresa is continuing her work on the CRB Study and she mentioned 1970-1980 were years of Trauma as it related to the communities and police departments. She mentioned the CRB Ordinance Draft from 1981 and discussion related to meetings held in 1979 prior to this draft ordinance which she will email to Ms. Releford and Peter McCarthy.
7. Public Comment (6:30 pm)
- a. Mr. Robinson made comments related to attendance at meetings with parties outside the CRB Board meeting should take place with two parties so that there are no misunderstandings as to what was said during the meetings. He believes it is necessary to have a witness and he expressed his concern related to secret meetings. He further stated that people think they are slick and this will ensure that everyone is on the same page. The meetings should include no less than two people and he cautioned the Board about extra conversations about the CRB.
  - b. Pastor Dexter made comments and statements that he had looked into some information related to the current police chief and the work he did in Little Rock. He believes that everybody deserves and opportunity. He stated that he does not recognize any of the current board members but Ruth Kutz and he hopes the new chief can do something better here than what he did at his last post, the chief did a wonderful presentation during the Thursday Morning Roundtable and his attack on the CRB and comment about overhauling and he wondered what made him think he could do that. He further made statements related to the Liaison Committee, Internal Affairs, and negotiations he believes take place behind the scenes. He mentions that Ranette has had conversations with Frank (Fowler), with IA and others about his case. He believes that everyone (Board members) should go to the meetings as they are representing their district; he is not trusting Peter and Ranette to translate for his neighborhood. He does not have faith in Ranette or he should say Ms. Releford that we do. He further states that the Southern Leadership Council has done a lot for the community than the NAACP, etc. He states that Chief Fowler mentioned that he had spoken with Ms. Releford in his conversation with him. He then discussed his current complaint regarding cars being towed off his church property and upon their return it was discovered they had been vandalized. Pastor Dexter mentioned that cars are parked at the former chief's church on the grass.
  - c. Mr. Anderson made comments or statements related to the five minute time limit per person during public comment session was retaliatory against him

personally and this was the sole reason the time limit was imposed. He stated that we are trying to silence the voices and that people are not being heard based upon the Board being rude and disrespectful. These actions are appalling and offensive. People have put their energy into coming out to this meeting to be heard. The community made an effort and their voices should be heard, their grievances they have need to be addressed with respect. The Board has to allow people to speak their truth and be taken seriously. He further stated it is oppressive to subject a person to put a complaint in writing and submit it. The CRB doesn't need to exist, we are destroying everything his dad did; it's decaying and dysfunctional. He has submitted his concerns in writing and has been waiting seven years now, what is the point of even bothering, how are we cutting people off. This is based upon discrimination, racism, and it's unacceptable. People need to hear us and respect us, take us seriously we are the ones under intense scrutiny. We are the ones that pay and the CRB refuses hear us. This is a personal vendetta.

8. Meeting continued in Executive Session after a motion duly made by Mary Nelson and seconded by Mae Carter.

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

17-008	Closed- No Hearing
17-028	Closed-No Hearing
17-046	Closed-No Hearing
17-059	Closed-No Hearing
18-027	No Hearing
18-051	No Hearing
18-080	No Hearing
19-006	No Hearing

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ranette Releford, Administrator  
Citizen Review Board

