

**City of Syracuse
Citizen Review Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 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		Nilsson, Lori	X				
Santana, Priscilla	X		Natale, Dana	X				
Nelson, Mary	X		Ryans, Clifford	X				
Holmes, Hatisha	X		Grinnals, R. Daniels	X				
Kutz, Ruth	X		Releford, Ranette	X				
McCarthy, Peter	X							

On Thursday, March 7, 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 Mr. Grinnals, seconded by Ms. Kutz, and adopted, the Board approved the Minutes of the February 7, 2019, Board meeting, with no corrections.
2. Board Action Items
 - a. Payment of the Bousquet Holstein legal bill for legal services from 12/18 through 1/31/19, needs approval. Ms. Nilsson asks if the rates increased as the hourly rate was \$275 in December and \$300 in January. Ms. Releford will research the difference. Mr. Ryans moves to pay the bill, Ms. Natale seconds, all agree.
3. Chairman's Items
 - a. On March 6, 2019, there was a Body Worn Camera Policy meeting with the Common Council. Ms. Releford and Mr. McCarthy both spoke and raised concerns related to when recording should occur. CRB Hearings were not mentioned there or anywhere in the Policy. OOPS is given access to the recordings and could make copies. There is no answer on whether those copies would go to the CRB.
 - b. National Best Practice for clean reporting according to PERF is that the Officer writes the report and then watches the BWC footage and writes an addendum to the report. This is not in the SPD Policy. Third District appointed Councilor Bryn Lovejoy-Grinnell raised several good questions on the Policy. Ms. Releford encourages all to watch the YouTube video.

- c. The next Public Safety Committee Meeting is March 20, 2019 at 12:45 PM. The Public Safety Committee has not answered about a meeting specifically with the CRB.
- d. On March 14, 2019, there is a Thursday Morning Roundtable Meeting at the SU Warehouse.
- e. New CRB member Priscilla Santana, who works as an interpreter at Upstate is introduced.
- f. Matellah Donzo has been hired as the new legal secretary for the CRB.
- g. An SU intern, Jill Janovic, who is studying Public Policy, is working with the CRB.
- h. Ms. Releford and Mr. McCarthy met with new Chief regarding public comments made regarding the CRB. Chief has agreed to be more transparent and let CRB know why he does or does not agree with findings.
- i. Chief has agreed to re-establish the Police Liaison Committee. CRB is particularly concerned about our recommendations and how they are handled and carried out by the SPD. Chief is updating the Use of Force Policy.
- j. CRB is asking for periodic meetings with the Chief. CRB is concerned that we do not know how many cases have gone to OOPS that have not yet been turned over to CRB. OOPS is supposed to refer these cases within 24 hours.
- k. Ms. Releford follows ups with OOPS at least once a month regarding old cases. The new CRB Legal Secretary will start doing this follow up once a week. CRB will submit cases to OOPS in a timely manner by email.

4. Administrator's Report

- a. The CRB received 3 new cases in February 2019, bringing the 2019 total to 14. The Board will be reviewing two cases this evening.
- b. The Bousquet Holstein legal bill will come out of the Professional Services budget account.
- c. There are 48 cases from 2018 waiting for OOPS information and 23 cases from 2017 waiting for OOPS information. The CRB is focusing on the 2018 cases because those are within the 18 month time period within which officers can be disciplined.

- d. The 2018 and 1st Quarter 2019 reports will be done by March 31, 2019. They are sent to the Mayor's Office for upload to the website. Ms. Releford can email copies upon request.

5. Committees

a. Community Outreach

- i. We have a quote for t-shirt printing from GL Printing, which benefits the Good Life Foundation which is centered on youth employment. The cost for forty screen-printed polos and t-shirts is \$919.88. The cost for embroidered shirts is \$1,039.00. Ms. Nelson suggests that Holy Shirt may be less expensive. Ms. Releford will pursue a quote from them.
- ii. The CRB will be at the Galleries on March 22, 2019; from 3-5PM. Mr. Ryans is getting information on our next even at the Library on South Salina Street.
- iii. We will continue to work on a list for events in every District.

b. Board Development

- i. The training for those who missed the last training will be on March 30, 2019.
- ii. We are working on our next training and hope to hold it in June.

6. New Business – Theresa is unable to be here for a CRB Study update.

7. Public Comment (6:30 PM)

- i. Wanda Ross, who has submitted a complaint, came to observe how the CRB operates. She wanted to know about investigators.
- ii. A gentleman has a case before us, having to do with a car accident. He has concerns about SPD changing reports and how he can get a report corrected.
- iii. Pastor Erik Eure wants to gather information in order to be a community advocate for the CRB. He wants to know about the outstanding cases and what has been resolved. Questions if CRB has met with new Chief. Ms. Releford answers that cases have been resolved. She reports that the CRB has met with the new Chief and she is hopeful that his promises to be more transparent will help facilitate

the process. CRB has met with Chief three times. He is trying to understand our CRB model and he has expressed doubts about the CRB and that he feels it needs to be restructured. The CRB is willing to give him time to understand.

- iv. Ms. Releford stresses the need for citizens to tell OOPS to forward complaints to the CRB. It is important that the public understands that they should file cases with the CRB also. Mr. McCarthy adds that he is hopeful that the new Chief will make the changes that need to be made in his office.

- 8. Ms. Kutz moves to move 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: 18-009	Hearing
Case Number: 18-063	No Hearing

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Natale
1st District Appointee, Citizen Review Board