

# City Of Syracuse Citizen's Review Board

## Meeting Minutes 06/07/2012

### Those Present:

#### CRB Members:

Jarrold Bentley (absent)  
Tafara Timmons  
Crystal Collette, *Chair*  
Demetria Gammage (absent)  
Carole Horan  
Timothy Jennings-Bey

Louis Levine  
Sarah McIlvain  
Donna Oppedisano  
Diane Turner

#### *Quorum Present*

**Administrator:** Joey Lipari

### **Minutes: Motion to APPROVE Minutes Tafara/seconded by Sarah and passed with two abstentions**

A discussion ensued about whether to include only motions passed and discussion of those items or whether a more comprehensive discussion within the minutes is helpful to board members. It was the consensus that the minutes as have been presented were useful but that the secretary be sure to identify motions made and passed.

### **New Business:**

- Proposed by-laws developed by Joey and modeled on the by-laws of New Haven, Conn and including language from the Syr. law. CRB were presented. This spurred discussion and the following questions were raised:
  - What is the role of the administrator in the hearing process {7 (10)(F)}
  - Structure of speakers in a hearing situation...Who can be in the room? Who can cross examine? Who can be cross-examined? What does "witness" mean? (Joey will check with Corp Council [Legislation: pg. 12 f(6)])
  - Can we compel people to attend? If not, how can the process continue if the complainant/officer/witness is not present?
  - If we want people to be present, the situation must be safe and accessible
  - Joey will check with other CRBs to learn what they do
  - All of these questions are very important, since we must be sure that our process retains legitimacy in the eyes of the community It was the consensus of the group that a hearing schedule be created that accounts for a variety of participant schedules including the board members ☺. If a complainant or officer can not

make it to the scheduled hearing they will have a set period of time in which to reschedule

- Crystal and Joey will work on a "sign-up schedule, rotating on a 3-month cycle. We will re-visit this structure as time goes on  
**\*\*\*A Special Meeting was called for Tues. June 12 @ 6:30 to deal with the By-laws. This meeting will be held in the 7<sup>th</sup> floor conference room of City Hall Commons at 201 E. Washington Street\*\*\***at which time this dialogue will continue.
- Due to a conflict of interest, Rachel Smith has resigned from the board. The Mayor is aware of this and is working on a new appointment
- **A *MOTION* was introduced to recommend to the Council that Jarrod Bentley be removed from the board due to non-participation. This was *APPROVED* with one abstention**

#### **Committee Reports:**

##### **Community and Youth Engagement Committee**

- Noble, Carole, Diane and Joey took to the streets near the Southwest Community Center
  - The community seemed to greet Joey enthusiastically
  - This strategy may be a good model for other community engagement opportunities
- The Community Forums, as required by law need to be scheduled soon.  
**\*\*\*Noble will present a schedule for our review at the next meeting\*\*\***

##### **Training Committee**

- July 19 will be the next training session. The board agreed that the topic should be Police Use of Force

#### **Motion to Adjourn: APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **Public Comment Period:**

- Brief comment about the type of flier needed for posting in libraries and community locations

Meeting Continued: **June 12, 2012:**

#### **Motion to rescind previous adjournment- Carole; seconded by Lou APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **Hearing Process continued:**

- Joey reviewed and summarized for the board the hearing processes from a number of CRBs around the country. He also reviewed the hearing process of the former Syracuse CRB.

- Joey explained that in his conversation with Joe Berry, Assistant Corporation Council, the word witness could be defined as “3<sup>rd</sup> party observer”
- According to the law, the standard of proof is “substantial evidence”
- Some discussion ensued about making sure that the process developed is
  - very specific
  - has legitimacy and transparency
  - engenders the trust of the citizens and the police force in its fairness
- In discussion about “Cross Examination of witnesses” the following concerns were raised:
  - Who will be in the room?
  - How will questioning occur?
  - How do we create a safe space for all participants?

**After this discussion, a quorum was no longer present. The board continued its discussion, but no motions were introduced and no votes taken**

- Discussion of whether and how to review old cases

**Joey will bring a proposal for establishment of our hearing process as well as one dealing with how to deal with old case recommendations to the next meeting for Board approval.**

**Minutes Respectfully  
Submitted;  
Donna M. Oppedisano  
6/14/2012**



**Happy Flag Day!**