

Citizen Review Board Minutes- August 16, 2012

In attendance: Crystal Collette, Lou Levine, Sarah McIlvain, Timothy Jennings Bey, Diane Turner

1. Approval of minutes from July 5, 2012
 - Minutes were unable to be approved because the meeting did not have quorum
2. New CRB member: Joe Masella
 - Joey introduced Joe to the board. Joe has extensive background in business and risk management. He has been appointed to the board by Mayor Miner. Joey and Crystal have met with Joe and oriented him to the board.
 - Councilors at Large are in the process of appointing their candidate and this person should be in place by the October meeting.
3. Update on hiring an Assistant
 - The job description was reviewed. Sarah suggested adding experience working with confidential documents and issues to the description. The job description was accepted by those present.
 - This position was originally discussed as a part time position with no benefits. Upon review the position will remain civil service. The board can change the title and job description for the position. Joey is awaiting a list of candidates from the County.
4. Vote to approve new By-laws, Hearing & Complaint Procedures
 - Unable to be approved because the meeting did not have quorum
5. OPS response to CRB inquiries regarding CRB case #12-003
 - Joey, reviewed OoPS response to the panel of this case. The board discussed that OoPS policy is to immediately contact officers to address complaints. The board discussed concern that this gives the officer opportunity to correct the problem, illuminating the complaint.
 - Officers could be receiving direction from OoPS to make corrections to their actions during investigations.
 - The board determined that Joey would remain in communication with OoPS and would continue to monitor this.
 - The board would like to learn more about any existing OoPS policies and procedures for investigations. If there is no policy on this issue Sarah asked Joey to alert Corp Counsel that SPD/OoPS does not have a policy on officers making corrections during investigations.
 - Board agreed that a letter would be sent to Chief Fowler that is drafted in a cooperative tone. This letter should state that the board would like to see policy that OoPS uses for investigations. The letter should also recommend that during investigations officers and complainants are not to occupy the same physical space.

6. Committee Updates

- First Community Forum will be held on Sunday, August 19, 2012 at 2:00pm at Westmoreland Park. This event will be held in partnership with the Trauma Response Unit.
- A next event at Pioneer Homes is being planned by the Community and Youth Engagement Committee.

7. Office Decorating Assistance

- Joey requested that board members assist him in decorating the CRB office with art that is representative of the city.

8. Budget Update: spent \$42.80 on office supplies

- Joey reviewed last month's expenses. The board approved of expenditures.

9. Bios for Board Members

- All members are encouraged to review their bio with Joey as it will be posted in the website ASAP.

10. July Case Statistics

- The board is working towards meeting the 60 day timeline that is outlined in the ordinance. Efforts are being made to increase compliance with case timeline.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm for public comment.

Submitted by: Crystal Collette

Public Comment Notes-

Barrie Gewanter-

- Recommended training for the CRB Assistant in understanding confidentiality, training around not giving legal advice. Candidate must also be supportive of the mission of the CRB. Must have the ability to be empathetic.
- Stated that there is a history of intimidation by SPD and that the experience of the claimant in case #12-003 were not isolated. She feels that some citizens do not make complaints due to the experiences of others in the past!
- She highlighted that the Sgt in this case failed to act and the Commander of OoPS then sent the same Sgt to investigate the case.
- She recommended that all recommendations on policy and practice of OoPS be cc'd to the Mayor
- Recommended Chief of Police Loyd Perkins (Chief in Skaneateles) as an advisor to the CRB. He works in NYS accrediting police departments and works as an Independent Consultant to departments across NYS. He is the former head of the NYS Chief of Police.
- Questioned how the board has publicized the upcoming outreach event. Recommended that community leaders be notified. She would like to assist the CRB with this.
- Discussed problems with 'use of force'
 - Not being followed in practice
 - Policy for use of force with Tasers non existent
 - ACLU has a report on Tasers in NYS
- Is willing to partner with the Community & Youth Engagement Committee

60 Day Deadline-

- Consider working to change timeline to 90 days