

# City Of Syracuse Citizen's Review Board

## Meeting Minutes 11/1/2012

### Those Present:

#### CRB Members:

Tafara Timmons (absent)  
Crystal Collette, *Chair* (absent)  
Demetria Gammage (absent)  
Carole Horan  
Timothy Jennings-Bey  
Louis Levine  
Sarah McIlvain

Raheem Mack  
Joseph Masella  
Donna Oppedisano  
Diane Turner  
*Quorum Present*

**Administrator:** Joey Lipari

### Minutes: Motion to APPROVE Minutes passed with two abstentions

- Betty Pearson was warmly welcomed as the newly hired Administrative assistant to the CRB
- Joey presented a report of his attendance at the Citizen Oversight Conference on Oct. 14-17. Some highlights follow:
  - Mechanism for breaking tie when OPS and CRB findings are in conflict was explained
  - San Jose, CA outreach program provides some great ideas to promote our mission to foster positive community relations
    - Eval. Forms
    - Role-play
    - Make sure standard police procedures are posted on the police department website
    - Take advantage of social media
    - Adult and Youth advisory committee
    - Local TV shows
    - Develop student guides
    - Use PSAs
    - Put fliers in Syracuse City mailings
    - Posters in community centers, libraries, etc.
    - Make sure CRB website is linked to the Police Department website
  - Coordination with Mental Health system
  - Presentation "Power of Unconditional Respect"
  - "Critical Loyalty", teaching officers techniques to intervene between citizens and other officers
  - Wearable cameras are becoming more affordable but are slow in uploading and present a few concerns about privacy. Surveys show

that the use of these tends reduces complaints. This technology could protect officers and the public and take the he said/she said out of the process

- In addition to techniques and ideas, Joey made connections with the administrators from all agencies in NYS and will pursue relationship building
  - Our board seems to be very far ahead of many boards and he was able to advise administrators of boards that have not progressed as well as ours
- Sarah strongly suggested that we create a strategic plan to guide us for the next few years and set our priorities

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Training Committee**

- Training report was presented (attached). Members need to e-mail Betty to let her know which of the dates on the report would be best for the training date

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

- Committee wants to work with Joey to further explore the idea of role play
- Joey re-iterated that we need to re-double our efforts to schedule meetings in each district as per the legislation. These could be general meetings with extra time built in for community interaction, rather than special meetings
  - Another option would be to connect with the councilors and ask to be part of the agenda at their meetings, since separate events have been poorly attended so far

#### **Difference between standards of proof**

- Our legislation requires the standard of “substantial evidence” but the department requires the higher standard of “preponderance of evidence”
  - Opposing views were expressed by the board with a consensus being reached that we need not amend the law to be in sync with the police department but may need to re-visit it later

#### **Search and Seizure**

- This seems to be a recurring theme in our hearings
- The DA's office is concerned that Search and seizure has judicial implications

#### **Police Liaison Committee**

- Needs to get up and running soon
- Suggestions for the committee membership include: Sgt. Glavin, Sgt. Gilbertson and possibly a representative of the PBA
- Our Police Relations Committee will interact with this committee but that, too, needs to be developed

#### **Police & Mental Health Community collaboration**

- This is just getting started

- Chief Fowler was looking for some training on skills officers can use to interact with people with mental health problems

**Best means to evaluate cases and disseminate info**

- After discussion including conversation of accessibility, confidentiality, and the role of the administrator in making recommendations it was decided that case summaries would be delivered to members via e-mail. Joey will send out a format for the summaries and will distribute for the board's comments and approval

**Meeting Time**

- 6:00 will be our start time beginning with the Jan. 2013 meeting

**Oct. Stats**

We are almost caught up with the backlog of complaints and have about a 15% sustain rate

**Quarterly Report**

- The CRB's first Quarterly Report should be released next month

**Process-Server pay**

- \$34 is the going rate
- Joey has discretion to spend up to \$500/month on contractual and office needs

**Mediation**

We need an organization to provide mediation services should they be recommended. New Justice was recommended.

**Motion to Adjourn: 8:05 APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Public Comment Period:**

- A citizen suggested that there would be other ways to publicize (buttons, pins were suggested)
- Will quarterly/annual reports be made available in a timely manner
- How can people who do not speak or read English find out about our meetings? It was suggested that we place messages on the boards of the community organizations most frequented by speakers of languages other than English. We also have contracted with MAMI who may be able to translate for posting on our website
- Thanks to Joey and Crystal for their attendance at the NYCLU event

**8:15 enter into Exec session**

CRB Minutes  
respectfully submitted,  
Donna M. Oppedisano  
11/25/2012