

**City of Syracuse
Citizen Review Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 7, 2016
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>
Barrette, David	X		Masella, Joseph	X				
Christiana, Peter	X		Moser, Leah	X				
Horan, Carole J.	X		Turner, V. Diane	X				
Kutz, Ruth	X		Lipari, Joseph L.	X				
Levine, Louis		X	Pearson, Betty L.	X				
Livingston, Mallory	X							

On Thursday, April 7, 2016, the City of Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) held an open, stated meeting at 304 City Hall in the Common Council Chambers.

Mr. Christiana, 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. Masella, seconded by Ms. Turner and adopted, the Board approved the Minutes of the March 3, 2016, Board meeting.
2. Chairman's Items
 - a. Announcement regarding CRB Administrator – Mr. Christiana announced today that Mr. Lipari would be leaving to take a position as a Senior Policy Manager for the Office of the Inspector General for the New York Police Department. He indicated that Mr. Lipari's last day in the office is expected to be Friday, May 6.
 - b. Search Committee Report – Mr. Christiana reported that he appointed a search committee consisting of three members of the Board – Mr. Levine, Mr. Masella and Ms. Moser with Mr. Masella serving as chair. Mr. Masella shared a timeline for hiring a new administrator. He reported that the committee will immediately begin a nationwide search to fill the vacancy. Ms. Livingston asked how the committee members were chosen. Mr. Christiana stated that it was his responsibility as Board Chair. Ms. Livingston stated that committees are usually established with the whole Board present to avail the skills of all Board members. Ms. Kutz suggested having a more open process in the future. Mr. Lipari explained that due to the short timeframe to find a replacement, the committee had to be appointed quickly. He described the strengths and past experience of the committee members. Mr. Barrette motioned and Ms. Horan seconded opening the committee up to the whole Board. Ms. Livingston was voted onto the committee 6 to 2. Mr. Masella resigned from the committee stating that he

feels more than three would be too many and impede the process. Mr. Barrette motioned and Ms. Turner seconded that the committee will consist of Mr. Levine, Ms. Livingston and Ms. Moser with a new chair being decided after consulting with Mr. Levine. Mr. Lipari thanked the Board for their dedication over the past four years.

3. Administrator's Report

- a. Withdrawal of Common Council amendment barring CRB from legal action – Mr. Lipari reported that Common Councilor Steven Thompson has officially withdrawn the legislation barring the CRB from taking legal action.
- b. Judge rules CRB has access to judicial process – Mr. Lipari reported that the lawsuit appeared before Judge Spencer J. Ludington on Thursday, March 24, 2016. Mr. Lipari reported that Judge Ludington decided that the CRB has both standing and cause to proceed with the lawsuit and thus rejected the City's motion to dismiss the lawsuit. The judge indicated that Corporation Counsel's office will now have 30 days to respond to the actual lawsuit. Mr. Lipari noted that with Judge Ludington's decision to reject the City's motion to dismiss the lawsuit and the withdrawal of the Common Council amendment barring the CRB from taking legal action, the CRB's access to the judicial process is now secure. He indicated that this will shape the landscape that the CRB operates on in a positive way for many years to come. Mr. Lipari expressed his appreciation to outside counsel, Harry Williams, for an outstanding job in researching the law, preparing the case, and presenting the oral arguments.
- c. Release of 2015 Annual Report – Mr. Lipari reported that the 2105 Annual Report has been completed and posted on the City of Syracuse's website.
- d. Administrator's participation in The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine conference on Proactive Policing - Effects on Crime, Communities, and Civil Liberties in the United States, Monday, April 4, 2016, in Washington DC – Mr. Lipari reported that he was asked to represent NACOLE (National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement) at the conference. Mr. Lipari reported that he participated in the Community Perspectives panel at the conference that provided conference attendees with a discussion of the problematic aspects of Proactive Policing.
- e. CRB outside contracts – Mr. Lipari reported that the Corporation Counsel's office notified him that the contracts for the medical consultant and contract investigator would be sent out by the end of the week of March 28, but had not yet received them. Ms. Horan asked if the process would take as long next fiscal year. Mr. Lipari indicated that it should not since the contracts have already been approved.

- f. CRB Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget Hearing – Mr. Lipari reported that the hearing for the 2016-17 CRB budget with the Common Council is Tuesday, April 12, 2016, at 10:30 AM in Council Chambers.
- g. Postponement of CRB Training Day – Mr. Lipari raised the possibility that given his impending departure, the Board may wish to postpone the CRB’s annual training day scheduled for April 23. Ms. Livingston motioned, Mr. Barrette seconded and the Board voted unanimously to postpone the annual training day to include the new administrator and incoming Board members.

Mr. Lipari noted that the new Board members appointed will be Ms. Hatisha Holmes to fill the vacant at-Large appointment of Mr. Douglas Bullock and Mr. Caleb Duncan to fill the vacant Third Council District appointment of Mr. William “Bill” Barber. He indicated that their appointments are on the agenda for the April 11 Common Council meeting. Mr. Lipari introduced Mr. Duncan who was present at the meeting.

- h. Monthly Financial Report – Mr. Lipari shared the detailed breakdown of expenditures for the year to date.
- i. March case statistics – Mr. Lipari reported that 11 new cases were received in March. He stated that the total received in 2015 thus far is 23 and that nine cases will be reviewed during Executive Session.

4. Committees

There were no committee reports.

5. New Business

Ms. Horan asked about electing a Vice Chair. The Board decided that it will wait until the new members have joined the Board to elect a Vice Chair.

On motion made by Mr. Masella and seconded by Ms. Livingston, the CRB voted unanimously to bar the Administrator from travelling to North Carolina or Mississippi due to their recent legislation making it illegal for transgender people to use the bathroom of their choice. Ms. Livingston suggested issuing a press release.

6. Public Comment (6:30 pm)

Mr. Yusuf Abdul-Qadir congratulated the CRB on its recent successes with the withdrawal of the Common Council amendment and the lawsuit. He also congratulated Mr. Lipari on his new position and said he is looking forward to continuing his relationship with the CRB.

Mr. Mustafa Robinson thanked Mr. Lipari for his service. Regarding the search committee, he stated that he understands Ms. Livingston’s perspective and asked

Mr. Masella to reconsider his resignation from the search committee, as Mr. Lipari will be hard to replace.

Mr. Mikiel Anderson asked questions about or made statements about the first quarterly report, force after fleeing report, advertising for the Administrator's position, the annual report and community outreach events.

Rev. L. Micah O. Dexter II made statements about the public comment period and appointments to the Board.

7. 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:

16-007	No Hearing
16-008	No Hearing
16-009	No Hearing
16-010	No Hearing
16-011	No Hearing
16-013	Conciliation
16-015	No Hearing
16-016	No Hearing
16-017	No Hearing

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

Respectfully submitted,

Betty L. Pearson
Typist II, Citizen Review Board