

**City of Syracuse  
Citizen Review Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, August 3, 2017  
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		Meyer, John G.	X				
Duncan, Caleb	X		Natale, Dana	X				
Holmes, Hatisha	X		Ryans, Clifford	X				
Kutz, Ruth		X	Turner, V. Diane	X				
Levine, Louis	X		Releford, Ranette	X				
McCarthy, Peter	X		Pearson, Betty L.	X				

On Thursday, August 3, 2017, the City of Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) held an open, stated meeting at 304 City Hall in the Common Council Chambers.

Mr. Levine, Board Member, called the meeting to order and announced that the meeting was being held pursuant to notice and that a quorum was present. On motion made by Mr. Duncan, seconded by Mr. McCarthy and adopted, the Board approved Mr. Levine serving as Chair of the meeting. Ms. Releford placed a call to Ms. Kutz so she could listen to the meeting.

1. On motion duly made by Mr. Duncan, seconded by Mr. McCarthy and adopted, the Board approved the Minutes of the July 6, 2017, Board meeting.
2. Chairman's Items
  - a. Welcome of 1<sup>st</sup> District appointee – Ms. Releford introduced and welcomed Ms. Dana Natale, appointed by Councilor Joseph Carni, as the newest CRB member. She replaces Mr. Peter Christiana. City Clerk John Copanas has sworn in Ms. Natale. Ms. Natale shared a little about herself.
  - b. Board Vacancy – To have a full Board, the At-Large Councilors have to make one appointment.
  - c. Mr. Levine acknowledged the presence of Ms. Laura Lavine, a mayoral candidate.
3. Administrator's Report
  - a. Syracuse Police Department Rules and Regulations – Ms. Releford reported receiving a link to the updated Syracuse Police Department Rules and Regulations. Lieutenants David Brown and Russell Gates staff the Office of Professional Standards.

- b. Onondaga County Justice Center – Ms. Releford reported that the CRB has full access to inmates at the Justice Center, including solitary confinement.
- c. Disciplinary Letters from Chief Frank Fowler – Ms. Releford shared correspondence from the Office of Professional Standards stating the CRB should expect to resume receiving letters from Chief Fowler regarding discipline beginning with the cases that initiated the lawsuit.
- d. Rochester CRB – Rochester is in an information-gathering stage about different CRB models and would like to learn more about Syracuse’s process. The Center for Governmental Research (CGR) is conducting a review of the civilian review process in Rochester and would like to talk to someone from other cities in the state that engage in police accountability efforts. They want to talk about the status of CRB in Syracuse given changes, including staff, over the last few years. Mr. Ryans asked if the CGR is affiliated with Enough is Enough, the group from Rochester with whom he and Mallory Livingston met who are looking to strengthen Rochester’s CRB. Ms. Releford will seek clarification and assist them with their research.
- e. Monthly Financial Report – Ms. Releford shared the detailed breakdown of expenditures for the year to date.
- f. July case statistics – Ms. Releford reported that eight new cases were received in July. She stated the total received in 2017 is 74 and that 15 cases will be reviewed during Executive Session.

#### 4. Committees

- a. Community Outreach and Public Education – Ms. Holmes reported that the CRB participated in:

- 4<sup>th</sup> District Outreach Meeting, Tuesday, July 11, Beauchamp Branch Library
- Unity Day Community Engagement, Friday, July 14, 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Kirk Park

Other events the CRB will participate in are:

- Unity Day Community Engagement, Friday, August 4, 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Wilson Park
- McKinley Park Summer Concert, Saturday, August 5, 3:00 to 6:00 PM
- Near Westside Initiative Multicultural Block Party, Thursday, August 17, 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM, Skiddy Park
- Westcott Street Cultural Fair, Sunday, September 17, 12:00 PM to 6:30 PM, Westcott Street (and side streets) between Concord and Dell Streets

Mr. Duncan reported attending “What Richmond Can Teach Syracuse” Wednesday, July 26, 6:00 PM at The Event Center. The event featured Steve Early, author of *Refinery Town: Big Oil, Big Money, and the Remaking of an*

American City and was sponsored by the Southside Community Coalition, Black Lives Matter – Syracuse, Syracuse Cure Violence and the Syracuse Green Party.

- b. Board Developments and Training – There is a need for an orientation program for new Board members.
- c. Government Relations – Ms. Kutz plans to meet with Councilor Steven Thompson. Ms. Turner proposed the Board and the Common Council meet so both bodies will get a better understanding of how they both work.
- d. Police Relations – No report

5. New Business

Mr. Ryans conveyed the need to update CRB educational material to stress to the public that the CRB is not a Conviction Integrity Unit CIU (a division of a prosecutorial office that works to prevent, identify and correct false convictions) was stated.

Mr. Duncan reported that he has been working on restructuring the committees and shared what he has developed thus far. The proposal will be discussed once everyone has had an opportunity to review what is suggested.

6. Public Comment (6:30 pm)

Ms. Claudia Klaver shared information on the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Mary Nelson Youth Day Barbeque, Saturday, August 19, 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM, in the Sankofa District along the South Salina Street corridor at Colvin.

Mr. Mikiel Anderson made statements or asked questions regarding annual and quarterly reports; the investigator and medical examiner; Notice of Claim issue; Department of Justice; mediation/conciliation; surveillance footage availability from COPS cameras and the reason he asks the number of questions/raises the issues he does.

Mr. Mustafa Robinson spoke on a time limit for individuals during public comments to ensure everyone has an opportunity to speak; the Rochester CRB; NACOLE; feeling that Ms. Kutz listening to the meeting on the phone should not have happened; Ms. Natale on doing her homework and getting the books that are in the CRB library; the need to stop side meetings and debates; and Baltimore police planting evidence and getting caught on their body cameras.

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:

16-080 **Hearing**  
16-087 **No Hearing**

16-100 **Hearing**  
16-107 **Hearing**

17- 001 **Hearing**  
17- 006 **Hearing**  
17- 016 **No Hearing**  
17- 021 **No Hearing**  
17- 024 **Hearing**  
17- 033 **Hearing**

17- 036 **No Hearing**  
17- 042 **No Hearing**  
17- 043 **Hearing**  
17- 052 **Hearing**  
17- 054 **Hearing**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Betty L. Pearson  
Typist II, Citizen Review Board