

**City of Syracuse  
Citizen Review Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, September 7, 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, September 7, 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, serving as Chair of the meeting, called the meeting to order and announced that the meeting was being held pursuant to notice and that a quorum was present. Mr. Duncan placed a call to Ms. Kutz so she could listen to the meeting.

1. On motion duly made by Mr. Ryans, seconded by Mr. Duncan and adopted, the Board approved the Minutes of the August 3, 2017, Board meeting.
2. Chairman's Items
  - a. Board Vacancy – Mr. Levine shared that this would be his last meeting and that Fifth District Councilor Nader P. Maroun selected his successor (Herve Comeau). A Resolution will be presented at the Common Council's Regular Meeting on September 11, 2017 for the term ending December 31, 2019. To have a full Board, the At-Large Councilors have to make one appointment.
3. Administrator's Report
  - a. Activity Report – Ms. Releford reported that eight hearings were held in August and that the finding letters were sent to the complainants, officers and Chief Frank Fowler. She will meet with Syracuse University Communications Design students who are doing work on policing in America.
  - b. NACOLE Membership – Under the CRB's Organizational Membership, individuals who are part of the Board are considered affiliate members eligible to access the "Members Only" section of the website to receive information and view training videos and other resources from annual conferences and regional training seminars.

- c. NACOLE Conference – September 10 to 14, 2017, Spokane, WA – Ms. Releford will attend to learn and bring back the best practices in civilian oversight of law enforcement.
- d. Monthly Financial Report –Ms. Releford shared the detailed breakdown of expenditures for the year to date.
- e. August case statistics – Ms. Releford reported that nine new cases were received in August. She stated the total received in 2017 is 83 and that 14 cases will be reviewed during Executive Session. Cases from 2016 and 2017 are being investigated. There are five open 2016 cases.

#### 4. Committees

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

Other events the CRB will hold or participate in are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> District Outreach Meeting, Wednesday, September 13, White Branch Library
- Westcott Street Cultural Fair, Sunday, September 17, 12:00 PM to 6:30 PM, Westcott Street (and side streets) between Concord and Dell Streets
- 2<sup>nd</sup> District Outreach Meeting, Tuesday, October 17, Hazard Branch Library
- 5<sup>th</sup> District Outreach Meeting, Wednesday, November 15, Soule Branch Library

Translation of Brochure into Spanish – Ms. Releford shared that the Near Westside Block Party showed the need to have the CRB brochure translated into Spanish. She knows of an approved vendor who will do it for \$200.00. Mr. Duncan suggested contacting La Liga (the Spanish Action League) as they may be able and willing to do it free of charge. Mr. Meyer suggested translating the complaint form as well and that other languages should be included. Mr. Duncan recommended using the Syracuse City School District as a resource for the different languages.

There was a discussion on other information to use for outreach. Some will come from other agencies including the American Civil Liberties Union and the Onondaga County/Syracuse Human Rights Commission who has offered to partner on outreach events.

Ms. Holmes shared research she did on T-shirts for Board members to wear during outreach events. The shirts are \$20.00 each, \$2.00 extra for sizes over 2X and \$7.00 for shipping.

Mr. Ryans reported that inmates at the Onondaga County Justice Center have been asking for information on the CRB and would like to develop a presentation

that explains the CRB so they know what capacity we serve in their situation. The presentation may also be used at the Onondaga County Department of Correction in Jamesville, Hillbrook Juvenile Detention Center, Elmcrest Children's Center and the Syracuse City School District, specifically middle schools/eighth graders and School Resource Officers (SROs).

- b. Board Developments and Training – Ms. Turner asked Board members to consider serving on the committee as this is Mr. Levine's last meeting and she will soon be leaving.
- c. Government Relations – Messrs. Duncan and Meyer suggested waiting until after the general election to determine what direction to take.
- d. Police Relations – Ms. Releford reported that a vacancy exists on the police side of the committee and that the names of Board members have been submitted for their participation in a ride along.

5. New Business

Mr. Duncan pointed out the need to elect a Chair and nominated Ms. Kutz. Mr. Ryans seconded the nomination. Ms. Kutz accepted the nomination. Mr. Meyer nominated Ms. Turner who declined the nomination. On motion made by Mr. Duncan, seconded by Mr. Ryans and adopted, the Board voted 7 to 1 for Ms. Kutz to serve as Chair for the remainder of 2017.

Mr. Ryans nominated Mr. Duncan for Vice Chair. Ms. Carter seconded the nomination. Mr. Duncan accepted the nomination. On motion made by Mr. Ryans, seconded by Ms. Carter and adopted, the Board voted 7 to 0 to 1 for Mr. Duncan to serve as Vice Chair for the remainder of 2017.

6. Public Comment (6:30 pm)

Ms. Sharon Patterson of the CNY Solidarity Coalition shared information on juvenile justice and US Senator Cory Booker's proposed REDEEM (Record Expungement Designed to Enhance Employment) Act (S.827/H.R.1906).

Mr. Mikiel Anderson made statements or asked questions regarding annual and quarterly reports; the next community outreach meeting and the CRB website.

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:

16-066 **No Hearing**  
16-083 **No Hearing**  
16-090 **Hearing**  
16-094 **No Hearing**

16-096 **Hearing**  
16-101 **Hearing**  
16-102 Tabled  
17-025 **No Hearing**

17-040 **Hearing**  
17-041 **No Hearing**  
17-044 **No Hearing**

17-051 **No Hearing**  
17-062 **No Hearing**  
17-064 **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