

**City of Syracuse
Citizen Review Board
Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 12, 2018
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		Ryans, Clifford	X				
Comeau, Herve	X		Releford, Ranette	X				
Holmes, Hatisha	X		Pearson, Betty L.	X				
Kutz, Ruth	X							
McCarthy, Peter	X							
Natale, Dana	X							

On Monday, February 12, 2018, the City of Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) held an open, stated meeting at 304 City Hall in the Common Council Chambers. The regular meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 1, 2018 was rescheduled due to the lack of a quorum.

Ms. Kutz, 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. Comeau, seconded by Mr. Ryans and adopted, the Board approved the Minutes of the January 4, 2018, Board meeting.
2. Chairman’s Items
 - a. Six-month evaluation of the Administrator – Ms. Kutz stated that the Committee of Five made up of Deputy Mayor Sharon Owens, Common Councilor Steven Thompson, Ms. Kutz, Ms. Holmes and Mr. McCarthy will meet to perform a six-month evaluation of Ms. Releford.
3. Administrator’s Report
 - a. Board Vacancies – Ms. Releford reported that she has been in contact with Mayor Ben Walsh regarding the mayoral appointee. The Third District appointee, Lori Nilsson, will start in March. The Second District and At-Large Councilors are working on their appointments. Mr. Daniel Grinnals, an attorney and retired police officer, is one person under consideration for appointment by the At-Large Councilors. Ms. Releford will meet with him.
 - b. 2017 Fourth Quarter and Annual Report – Ms. Releford reported that the 2017 Fourth Quarter Report and Annual Report would be complete by the March 31 deadline and that the 2018 First Quarterly Report would be prepared in May.

- c. NACOLE Conference – September 30 to October 4, 2018, St. Petersburg, FL – Ms. Releford encouraged Board members to consider attending the conference to learn and bring back the best practices in civilian oversight of law enforcement.
 - d. Conducting Proper and Effective Investigations – The Daigle Law Group, LLC, of Southington, CT will present a four-and-a-half-day training certification program June 18 to 22, 2018, in Nashville, TN. The focus of the Internal Affairs Investigations Training program is to identify proper legal and operational standards for Internal Affairs Investigations, including the development of proper police practices on use of force and force related policies. The training will focus on enhancing the effectiveness, operations, and management of use of force incidents. Training will review the policy standards, legal interpretations and Consent Decree standards that make up liability protection. This includes IA investigation standards and the documentation of IA incidents. The manner in which police agencies can investigate incidents and audit to ensure that policies and training are being followed will also be discussed. The topics the program will include are Administration of the Internal Affairs Process, Ethics and Integrity, Agency Policies and Procedures, The Complaint Process, Investigation of Personnel Complaints, Administrative Law, The Interview Process, Special Investigations (Sexual Misconduct/Domestic Violence by Police Officers), Use of Force Reporting, First Amendment and Free Speech Issues for Police and Audits and Inspections. Registration is \$525.00. Transportation and hotel reservations are the individual registrant's responsibility. On motion made by Ms. Natale, seconded by Ms. Kutz and adopted, the Board voted to look into moving funds in the 2017-18 budget to allow Ms. Releford to attend the training.
 - e. Monthly Financial Report – Ms. Releford shared the detailed breakdown of expenditures for the year to date.
 - f. January case statistics – Ms. Releford reported that 11 new cases were received in January. She stated the total received in 2018 is 11 and that eight cases will be reviewed during Executive Session.
4. Committees
- a. Community Outreach and Public Education – Ms. Holmes reported that the Committee would have a table at the Syracuse Black Expo's Unity Day, Saturday, February 17, 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Syracuse Community Connections (Southwest Community Center), 401 South Avenue. She and Mr. Ryans asked Board members to take shifts to cover the display. The Syracuse Black Expo celebrates cultural excellence by providing a venue to build a financial community to generate more businesses, create jobs and build a safe neighborhood. The event will feature shopping including T-shirts, jewelry, art, food, baked goods and more. There is no entry fee.

Ms. Holmes acknowledged and thanked Mr. Mikiel Anderson for posting an invitation to Board meetings on Facebook.

- b. Board Developments and Training – Messrs. McCarthy and Ryans had a meeting and are working on Board training sessions. They are looking forward to a meeting with former Board members Carole Horan, Louis Levine and Diane Turner regarding training as well. One will be a mandatory all-day Saturday training in March. SPD has agreed to have the CRB attend their Citizens’ Police Academy, Tuesday through Thursday, April 3 to-5, 2018. Board participation in this training will be a good baseline for more in-depth instruction of use of force. The training is an opportunity to learn by observing scenarios related to many of the issues we receive complaints about on a regular basis. Once the civilian academy is completed we can schedule up to 16 hours of use of force instruction provided by Syracuse Police Department. During a discussion on the benefits of the use of force training, Mr. Comeau believes the information and training would be better to come from a source other than SPD, perhaps a civil or constitutional rights attorney. We need to get all sides of the coin. Ms. Releford and other Board members agreed. Ms. Releford suggested Joseph R. H. Doyle, Esq., Administrator of the police department’s Office of Legal Affairs provide some insight as well.
 - c. Government Relations – No report
 - d. Police Relations – Ms. Releford and Messrs. Comeau and Ryans met with the SPD Police Liaison Committee Tuesday, January 30, 2018. Mr. Comeau reported that the police do not take the CRB seriously, questioned our evidentiary and hearing process.
5. New Business – None
6. Public Comment (6:30 pm)
- Ms. Sherika Malcolm asked questions regarding the complaint process and outcome; the effect of complaint on officer’s employment; the availability of videos as evidence; clarity on excessive force and whether or not SPD has ever been investigated.
- Mr. Mikiel Anderson made statements or asked questions regarding the evaluation of the Administrator; website update; budget; investigator and medical consultant; interpreter/translator; community outreach in Council districts and Board members meeting with Common Councilors.
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:

16-027	Not Reopened/No Hearing	17-064	Not Reopened/No Hearing
17-005	No Hearing	17-067	Hearing
17-048	No Hearing	17-071	No Hearing
17-051	Not Reopened/No Hearing	17-089	Not Reopened/No Hearing
17-055	Hearing	18-004	No Hearing (Not Syracuse Police)
17-056	No Hearing	18-008	No Hearing (Not Syracuse Police)

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

Respectfully submitted,

Betty L. Pearson
Typist II, Citizen Review Board