

**City of Syracuse  
Citizen Review Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 1, 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	Nelson, Mary	X				
Comeau, Herve	X		Nilsson, Lori	X				
Holmes, Hatisha		X	Ryans, Clifford	X				
Kutz, Ruth	X		Releford, Ranette	X				
McCarthy, Peter	X		Pearson, Betty L.	X				
Natale, Dana	X							

On Thursday, March 1, 2018, the City of Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) held an open, stated meeting at 304 City Hall in the Common Council Chambers.

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. Ryans, seconded by Mr. McCarthy and adopted, the Board approved the Minutes of the February 12, 2018, Board meeting.
2. Introduction of new CRB members Mary Nelson and Lori Nilsson – Ms. Kutz introduced and welcomed Mses. Mary Nelson and Lori Nilsson as the newest CRB members, replacing Ms. Diane Turner as a Mayoral appointee and Mr. Caleb Duncan as the Third District appointee respectively. In addition to their backgrounds, they shared enthusiasm and honor for being appointed.
3. Chairman’s Items
  - a. Administrator’s six- month evaluation – 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.
4. Administrator’s Report
  - a. Activity Report

Syracuse United Neighbors – Ms. Releford reported that she and Mr. Ryans attended the Syracuse United Neighbors (SUN) Southside and Southwest Action Council meeting on Tuesday, February 13 at the Brady Faith Center, 404 South Avenue.

SUNY Oswego – Ms. Releford reported that on Thursday, February 15, she spoke at Professor Michael J. Walsh’s Public Justice class at the SUNY Oswego Metro Center.

Faith-Government Conference – Ms. Releford reported that she took part in the Faith-Government Conference held Tuesday, February 27 at Bethany Baptist Church. The event, sponsored by the Onondaga County Department of Children and Family Services, used an “Open Table” model to address issues relating to empowering residents and sustaining community change. The goal of the conference is for local community entities to work together in ways that lead to improved behavioral health, empowered community residents and sustained community change. The Open Table model is used to create community and transformation with the homeless, working poor, young adults transitioning out of foster care, veterans, probation/re-entry and victims of human trafficking.

Prevention Network – Ms. Releford reported that on Thursday, March 1, she attended a Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition meeting sponsored by Prevention Network at the Near Westside Peacemaking Project, 601 Tully Street. The Near Westside Peacemaking Project is the lead coordinating agency of Take Back the Streets (TBTS), a grassroots campaign aimed at promoting health and safety in Syracuse’s Near Westside neighborhood. The campaign has four main components: community-based conflict resolution (peacemaking); resident leadership development; collaboration among service providers and physical activity.

- b. Board Vacancies – The Second District and At-Large Councilors are working on their appointments. Ms. Releford met with Mr. Daniel Grinnals, one person under consideration for appointment by the At-Large Councilors. He is an attorney and retired police officer.
- c. 2017 Fourth Quarter and Annual Report – Ms. Releford reiterated that the 2017 Fourth Quarter Report and Annual Report would be complete by the March 31 deadline.
- d. Monthly Financial Report – Ms. Releford shared the detailed breakdown of expenditures for the year to date.
- e. February case statistics – Ms. Releford reported that three new cases were received in February. She stated the total received in 2018 is 14 and that five cases will be reviewed during Executive Session.
- f. NACOLE Conference, September 30 to October 4, 2018, St. Petersburg, FL – Ms. Releford encouraged Board members to consider attending the conference,

letting them know it would be at their own expense. It is an opportunity to interact with members of other civilian oversight agencies.

- g. Use-of-Force Summit, November 27 to 29, 2018, Uncasville, CT – The Use-of-Force Summit focuses on identifying proper legal and operational standards for use-of-force incidents, including the development of standard police practices for the use of force and force related policies.
  - h. Conducting Proper and Effective Investigations by The Daigle Law Group, LLC, of Southington, CT, June 18 to 22, 2018, in Nashville, TN – Ms. Releford reported that the Budget Department approved moving funds in the 2017-18 budget to allow her to attend the training.
5. Committees
- a. Community Outreach and Public Education – Mr. Ryans reported that the CRB participated in:
    - 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.
  - b. Board Developments and Training – Mr. McCarthy reported that the Syracuse Police Department’s Civilian Police Academy is Tuesday to Thursday, April 3 to 5, 2018, 5:00 to 9:00 PM. Sixteen hours of use-of-force training being offered to the Board is still in the development stage as is the annual full-day training. Ms. Releford reported that several Board members have participated in a ride-along and that they are available on certain days from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM.
  - c. Government Relations – Ms. Releford attends the Common Council Public Safety Committee meetings and meets with Councilor Steven Thompson. Mr. Ryans reported that he has had contact with Council President Helen Hudson at various events.
  - d. Police Relations-Police Liaison – Ms. Releford anticipates the committee will meet in March. Police members of the committee will attend the executive session of a future CRB meeting. She met with Chief Frank Fowler March 1. One of the topics of the meeting was the need to receive his responses to disciplinary recommendations from sustained cases in order to complete the annual report. They also discussed the Youth Advisory Board (YAB). Chief Fowler is willing to provide training to the youth. Participants under the age of 18 will need parental consent to experience a ride along. Mr. McCarthy asked about the structure of the YAB. Mr. Comeau asked about the philosophy behind the YAB, stating that there needs to be balance in the relationship with the police in the police wanting to be understood, but not getting an understanding of how community members

feel. Ms. Releford reported that two subpoenaed officers attended a hearing with the Police Benevolent Association (PBA) president and their attorney.

6. New Business

The Citizen Review Board is scheduled to participate in Syracuse Police Department's Civilian Police Academy Tuesday to Thursday, April 3 to 5, 2018. Therefore, the monthly meeting will be Thursday, April 12, 2018, 5:30 to 7:30 PM in Common Council Chambers.

7. Public Comment (6:30 pm)

Ms. Gail Hamner welcomed the new Board members, stating that the CRB is vital to the community. She expressed the need to create opportunities for the police to understand people, how and why they feel.

Mr. Mikiel Anderson made statements or asked questions regarding surveillance footage from the police with Corporation Counsel's help; investigator and medical consultant; the Youth Advisory Board and the CRB website.

Ms. Theresa Rocha Beardall, JD, and a PhD student at Cornell University, stated that she has studied collective bargaining agreements and that the work of the CRB is important to the community.

8. 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:

17-058 No Hearing

17-070 No Hearing

17-073 No Hearing

17-086 No Hearing/Closed with Option to Reopen

17-104 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