

**City of Syracuse  
Citizen Review Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, June 6, 2019  
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		Nilsson, Lori	X				
Santana, Priscilla		X	Natale, Dana	X				
Nelson, Mary	X		Ryans, Clifford	X				
Holmes, Hatisha	X		Grinnals, R.Daniels		X			
Kutz, Ruth	X		Brunson, Cynthia	X				
McCarthy, Peter	X		Releford, Ranette	X				

On Thursday, June 6, 2019, the City of Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) held an open, stated meeting at 304 City Hall in the Common Council Chambers.

Peter McCarthy, 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 Ms. Brunson, and adopted, the Board approved the Minutes of the May 2, 2019, Board meeting, with no corrections, all agree.
2. Chairperson's Items
  - a. On May 11, 2019, the Board attended a retreat given by Interfaith Works. It was the follow up to the March session. Mr. McCarthy received a report from Interfaith Works, which he will forward to the Board along with his summary of key takeaways. In general, the Board feels good about our team but feels that we need to be more efficient.
  - b. The Board needs to have a one page document summarizing Board expectations, specifically with regard to attendance and participation.
  - c. The Centro Bus ads have been approved by the Common Council. We will be placing ads in six shelters and doing thirty-five interior cards. Ms. Releford will confirm the locations with Lamar. The signs should be up by July 1, 2019, at a cost of \$3,400.
  - d. Ms. Santana translated signs and complaint forms into Spanish. We will provide these to the Spanish Action League and outreach events.

### 3. Administrator's Report

- a. The CRB received 8 new cases in May 2019, bringing the 2019 total to 42. The Board will be reviewing 2 cases this evening.
- b. Financials are provided with a reminder that the budget year ends June 30, 2019.
- c. Ms. Carter moves and Ms. Kutz seconds that the Board approve payment of the legal bill for \$450.00. The Board agrees unanimously.
- d. The 2018 Annual Report will be available on the website by June 30, 2019. It was delayed so that SPD could provide feedback. The report included recommendations on the Body Worn Camera Policy, Officers in the schools and dealing with mental health issues. These were provided to SPD and they did provide feedback.
- e. We do still have outstanding 2017 and 2018 cases and we have been receiving feedback from SPD on these cases. We are utilizing the private investigator.
- f. Discussion was held about the purpose of the CRB and Mr. McCarthy reviewed the Ordinance. He stressed confidentiality.
- g. Ms. Releford confirms that we have seen the video that is circulating on social media and on the news of a police stop for loud music near Skiddy Park. The NAACP has mentioned the CRB and we are being tagged in this video.

### 4. Committees – a Committee list is provided. Ms. Kutz will be added to the Police Relations Committee. Mr. Grinnals moves we approve the list pending the addition of new member, Mr. Ryans seconds. Mr. McCarthy will provide descriptions of the committees before we assign any. Ten agree, one abstains.

#### a. Community Outreach

- i. Hopps Church, Friday June 7, 2019. No one can make it. Ms. Releford will let them know.
- ii. Interfaith Works Duck Race on June 8<sup>th</sup> from 12PM-4PM. The fee is \$100 to participate. Ms. Kutz moves we participate and Mr. Ryans seconds. All agree. Mr. McCarthy, Ms. Releford and Ms. Natale will attend.
- iii. Juneteenth Parade and Festival on June 15<sup>th</sup> starting at 10AM. The fee is \$100 to participate. Mr. Ryans moves we participate, Ms. Brunson seconds. All agree. Ms. Releford and Ms. Natale will march in the parade and then join the table.

- iv. Pride Parade on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Human Rights table will let us share from 1PM – PM. Ms. Nilsson, Ms. Kutz and Mr. Ryans will participate.
- v. Library at South Salina and Colvin on June 27<sup>th</sup> from 3 PM – 5PM. Mr. Ryans, Ms. Kutz and Ms. Releford will participate.
- vi. World Refugee Day on June 29<sup>th</sup> from 12PM – 5PM at Schiller Park. The fee is \$50 to participate. Ms. Nilsson moves we participate, Mr. Ryans seconds. All agree. Ms. Carter, Ms. Kutz, Ms. Natale, Ms. Nilsson and Mr. Ryans will participate.
- vii. Annual Arise ADA Rally and Parade on July 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 10AM. Ms. Nilsson, Ms. Natale, Mr. Ryans and Ms. Releford will participate.

b. Government Relations

- i. Ms. Releford met with Detective Rusin regarding the 2018 recommendations and the Police Liaison Committee.

5. New Business – none

6. Public Comment (6:30 PM)

A community member representing both herself and Unchained, which is a group that promotes awareness and support for victims of state violence, had a series of questions:

Q: What is the CRB's role?

A: The CRB function is to hear all kinds of complaints as follows:

- Administrator takes complaints and does investigation.
- Board looks at the Administrator's report and decides whether there will be a hearing.
- If there is a hearing, it is attended by a three member hearing panel who meets with the Complainant and any witnesses.
- That panel makes recommendations to the Chief who decides what discipline, if any, should be administered.

A: The CRB also makes recommendations about policy. For example, an effective Use of Force Policy. The Chief has agreed to update this policy. We expect this policy to be presented to the Common Council

Public Safety Committee based on what happened with the Body Worn Camera Policy.

A: Ms. Releford adds that the CRB does have the ability to send cases to the District Attorney's office but we do not publish when that happens for confidentiality reasons.

Q: How will the community ever know that the police are disciplined?

A: They will not because Article 50A keeps SPD from releasing information regarding officer discipline because it falls under the heading of confidential employment records. The CRB does release general statistics about discipline. Those appear in the Annual Report.

A: The power that the people have is to file complaints with the CRB as well as the SPD. Those who file complaints do know our recommendations to the SPD.

A: The SPD will tell a complainant letting them know when a case is opened and whether it is closed.

Q: Can the SPD see who files complaints with the CRB?

A: Yes because we have to let the SPD know in order to get copies of the Police Reports. The community needs to let us know if they believe there is retaliation. Documentation, facts and timelines are key to a thorough investigation.

Q: What if community members only know the last name of the Officer involved?

A: We can find out full names by using the date, time, place of incident and/or the car number.

Q: How can people get help?

A: Email us at [CRB@syr.gov](mailto:CRB@syr.gov), share information from CRB meetings, watch the CRB on YouTube. The Public needs to let their Councilors know what they want and what they think is important. The CRB will be meeting with the Council Public Safety Committee and we encourage the public to attend.

A: We know the CRB is limited, but, we are hopeful given the conversations we have had with the Mayor, the Common Council, the

SPD and the new Chief. The SPD has agreed to re-establish the Police Liaison Committee and to forward OOPS complaints to the CRB.

7. Mr. Ryans moves to move to Executive Session, Ms. Carter seconds. 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:

Case Number: 18-041	No Hearing
Case Number: 18-072	No Hearing

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Natale  
1<sup>st</sup> District Appointee, Citizen Review Board

