

**City of Syracuse
Citizen Review Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 5, 2020
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
Common Council Chambers
Public Comment - 20 minutes at 6:30 PM**

Name	P	A	Name	P	A	Name	P	A
Carter, Mae		X	Nilsson, Lori	X				
Brunson, Cynthia	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 , March 5, 2020, 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 Ms. Kutz, seconded by Mr. Ryans to approve the Minutes of the February 6, 2020, Board meeting, with no corrections, all agree
2. Board Action Items:
 - a. Mr. McCarthy is in his second full year as Chairperson. His term expires at the end of this year. Ms. Brunson will speak with the Recruitment Committee for any thoughts on his replacement.
 - b. A list of Committee Assignments is distributed. Changes/comments as follows:
 - i. Committee of Five to assess CRB Administrator – this year Mr. Ryans, Ms. Nilsson, Mr. McCarthy were on the Committee. This is the Committee the Common Council will go to rather than going directly to the Administrator.
 - ii. Government Relations Committee – Ms. Natale will be added.
 - iii. Ms. Brunson will speak with Ms. Nelson to inquire as to what Committee(s) she would like to join.
3. Chairperson’s Items:
 - a. On April 13, 2020 at 4PM, Ms. Releford will be presenting the CRB Budget to the Common Council

- b. Per the Program Coordinator Job Description, Mr. McCarthy suggests a raise for Ms. Releford, the Administrator, from \$61,000.00 annually to \$63,000.00 annually. Mr. Ryans motions to do so, Ms. Brunson seconds, all agree. A Resolution is signed by all present.
- c. Mr. McCarthy presents an Amendment to the By-Laws that he has presented to our attorney for comments on the legality and wording. It reads as follows:

“In case of a public health emergency or other extraordinary event that makes it impossible to have regular CRB Meetings, proposals and resolutions may be submitted to the CRB members for an online vote. In order to do that the Chair, the Vice Chair and the Secretary must agree on the necessity for such action. The CRB will develop guidelines covering the criteria for this to take place and the procedures to implement it.”

A vote is taken and 2 oppose and 5 agree to approving the Amendment as written.

4. Administrator’s Report

- a. The CRB received 11 new cases in February 2020, bringing the year to date total to 15. The Board will be reviewing 10 cases this evening.
- b. The 2019 3rd and 4th Quarter reports have been sent to all CRB members and the Public Safety Chair for review. The City is working on their website and advises that the reports will eventually be on it.
- c. Budget information is provided on the green paper in our folders.
- d. Ms. Nilsson inquires on the status of the tent purchase. Ms. Releford is working with the Assistant to the Clerk, who is having discussions with Parks and Rec as to their recommendations.
- e. Ms. Releford advises that the expense for food at our Annual Training may or may not be approved so we may have to bring our own.
- f. Ms. Releford advises that Board Members need to read the handout “Policing in the 21st Century” done by the National League of Cities prior to the training. She has also provided an Agenda for the training.

5. Committees

- a. Community Relations
 - i. Presentation to HRC at Southside Innovation center on March 25, 2020.
 - ii. Listening Sessions – the Board Members can suggest places to have them in their respective Districts. There is one scheduled for March 26, 2020, at 6PM at the Southwest Community Center.

- iii. Mustafa distributed flyers to libraries and Ms. Brunson stuffed envelopes.
- iv. Mr. McCarthy will provide a draft of the new brochures. Ms. Nilsson suggests they either be less wordy and to the point with less history or that we create two different brochures.

b. Board Development and Training

- i. March 21, 2020, will be a mandatory Board Training from 8:30 – 4:30. It will be at the 1199 room in which we have previously met.
- ii. Bobcat Consulting and Peter Wilner from InterFaith Works will be attending.

c. Government Relations meeting was held on February 11, 2020, at 3 PM in the Mayor's Conference Room.

- i. An agreement has been reached as to what the CRB should be receiving from OOPS. All have agreed to come up with a checklist.
- ii. CRB is getting information quickly from OOPS, including BWC footage.
- iii. Lt. Izzo is immediately reviewing whether cases are actually SPD cases so no time is wasted on cases where the CRB has no authority.

d. Police Liaison Committee

- i. There were new faces at the meeting.
- ii. Currently 14.4% of SPD Officers have CIT training regarding how to deal with mental health issues. The goal is to have 20% of those on the street trained.
- iii. The CRB is starting to get information that we really need.
- iv. The CRB is concerned about the quality of the police on the streets, not just the number.
- v. OOPS is currently getting two copies of booking videos so that the CRB gets a copy immediately.
- vi. OOPS is looking into providing the CRB with an online link which would allow us to look at camera footage.
- vii. BWC footage is not shared with all CRB members, only those on the Hearing Panel. These videos must be viewed at the CRB office.

6. New Business - none

7. Public Comment (6:30 PM)

- a. A woman who identified herself as a “victim of SPD” wants to know what the CRB does to make sure that the SPD Officers are held accountable.
- b. Ms. Releford provides the following information:
 - i. The CRB is making progress with OOPS.
 - ii. The Community needs to advocate for transparency from the SPD to both the CRB and Elected Officials.
 - iii. The Community should speak to their Common Councilors and push them to support the CRB.
 - iv. The CRB only has jurisdiction over the SPD, but we can provide information on how to file complaints against other law enforcement agencies.
 - v. The CRB does “Know Your Rights” trainings to help Citizens interact with the Police.
 - vi. The CRB would be happy to take community recommendations as to where we can provide presentations and information.
 - vii. The CRB has presented in the Syracuse City School District previously and we do have pocket cards with information specific to Youth. We are continuing to look at ways to do more with all schools throughout the City.

8. Mr. Ryans moves to move to Executive Session, Mr. Grinnals 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:

18-024	Hearing	18-033	Hearing
18-058	Hearing	19-017	No Hearing
19-035	No Hearing	19-049	No Hearing
19-037	Closed-Lack of Contact	19-041	Closed-Lack of Contact
19-060	Hearing	19-074	Closed-Lack of Contact

On motion duly made by Mr. Ryans, seconded by Mr. Grinnals and unanimously adopted, the Board adjourned its meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Natale, 1st District Appointee