

**City of Syracuse
Citizen Review Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 3, 2020
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
Video Conference Meeting
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		Arias, Roberto	X	
Brunson, Cynthia	X		Natale, Dana	X				
Nelson, Mary		X	Ryan, Clifford	X				
Holmes, Hatisha	X		Grinnals, R. Daniels	X				
Kutz, Ruth	X							
McCarthy, Peter	X		Releford, Ranette	X				

On Thursday, September 3, 2020, the City of Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) held a virtual meeting due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions.

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. Board Action Items –Ms. Nilsson moves to approve the August meeting minutes, Mr. Ryan seconds, all agree.
2. Chairperson’s Items:
 - a. Mr. McCarthy discusses a letter from Chief Buckner affirming SPD’s commitment to assure a flow of documents between them and the CRB, per the Mayor’s Executive Order. The SPD commits to make no decision on discipline until both CRB and OPS reports are received. Corporation Counsel and the CRB Counsel are working to come up with a mutual agreement regarding the timing of the document flow.
 - b. The 2nd District CRB position is still open. Ms. Releford spoke with the Councilor, who advised that he wanted to try and find someone.
 - c. Board Terms
 - i. Vice Chair term is not limited
 - ii. Board Chair is limited to two 1-year terms
 - iii. Elections must be held in the first month of the calendar year
 - iv. Board Members have two 3-year terms and partial years do not count

- v. Mr. McCarthy, Ms. Natale and Ms. Kutz are finishing their first 3-year terms in December
 - 1. If Councilor or Mayor's office does not appoint someone new, current member can stay.
 - 2. At-Large Appointees should speak with ALL of the At-Large Councilors,
 - 3. It is not necessary to be sworn in again.

3. Administrator's Report

- a. The Board will be reviewing 9 cases this evening.
- b. Nine new cases were received in August (some were made by the same person).
- c. 2020-2021 Financial Report was emailed.
- d. The CRB received three intern resumes from the SU Political Science Program. Mr. McCarthy, Ms. Holmes and Ms. Releford reviewed them. Ms. Releford will forward information to the Board when it is complete.
- e. The two On-Point interns the CRB had this summer have returned to college.
- f. NACOLE learning online continues for Ms. Releford. The DOJ Grant may reimburse the CRB for the training expense.
- g. Daigle Law Group training on Use of Force will be virtual this year for \$395.00. Ms. Natale moves to approve spending the money from the training budget to pay for this and Ms. Carter seconds. All agree.
- h. Saturday's Board Development training will be reimbursed through the JAG Grant.

4. Committees

a. Community Relations

- i. This month, Ms. Releford and Mr. Arias put together informational bags to be passed out in the community.
- ii. Ms. Releford has been attending City Power Walks on the north and east sides.
- iii. Ms. Releford wants to do a march with a banner and pass out information. She will follow up with dates.

b. Board Development and Training

- i. Board Development Training will take place this Saturday from 1PM – 3PM in the Atrium.

- ii. The City has a moratorium on overtime, and it will cost \$100.00 in maintenance overtime for the training. Mr. Grinnals moves to approve spending \$100.00 on maintenance overtime and Ms. Natale seconds. All agree.
 - iii. Board members are requested to read the training materials before Saturday.
- c. Government Relations - meeting on August 19, 2020 with the Chief, Corporation Counsel and the CRB Attorney.
 - i. There were questions regarding what the CRB means by “processing” a case. Ms. Releford clarified that means a case went through the entire process.
 - ii. SPD asked that the CRB add a section to their reporting showing which CRB recommendations have been submitted to SPD and how/if they have been taken into account in the SPD Policies.
 - iii. OOPS is undergoing an audit to see whether they are missing any cases.
 - iv. CRB case counts:
 - 1. 2017 – CRB got 74 cases and OOPS got 44 cases
 - 2. 2018 – CRB got 64 cases and OOPS got 19 cases
 - 3. 2019 – CRB got 62 cases and OOPS got 38 cases
 - 4. 2020 – CRB got 14 cases and OOPS got 14 cases
- d. Police Liaison Committee – meeting on September 1, 2020
 - i. There are 220 new BWC and 110 old BWC need to be swapped out. The intention is to have all uniform patrol officers equipped with cameras.
 - ii. Plan to have BWC training with CRB Board and SPD in January to see the new cameras.
 - iii. SPD spoke about the Intelligence Database under Federal 28 CFR 23. CRB will be provided with training.
 - iv. A new app, CORTICO, will be installed on Officer’s cellphones and SPD hopes to have it rolled out in the next twenty days. This app will improve SPD efficiency.
 - v. The Civilian Academy was postponed due to COVID-19. It is not realistic to have it by Zoom or WebEx.
 - vi. The Syracuse City School District has not decided on School Resource Officers (SRO’s) yet.

- vii. CRB will research whether a member of SPD can come to a CRB meeting and how it is allowable.
- viii. COVID 19 concerns currently have plans for CRB Ride-Alongs on hold.
- ix. The next meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2020 at 1:30 PM.

5. New Business - none

6. Public Comment (6:30 PM)

- a. Andrew Spink spoke about the Geneva Police Accountability Board. The City Council is debating it, while the City Attorney provided a memo that such a Board would be illegal. They are looking at a similar proposal to Syracuse’s CRB as opposed to Rochester’s where Board recommendations are mandated, not just recommendations.
- b. Mr. McCarthy states that the power of the CRB is not only in discipline recommendations, but also in recommendations about training, policies and supervision. The CRB’s credibility backed up by local government is very important.
- c. Ms. Releford states that the CRB shows relevance by the Community continuing to utilize it. Currently more cases go to the CRB than to OOPS.
- d. Ms. Releford further states that the CRB is available as a resource to Geneva and that we are watching Rochester. As shown by Chief Buckner’s letter, the Syracuse CRB is supported by and relevant to local government.

7. Ms. Brunson moves to move to Executive Session, Ms. Natale 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 19-044:** HEARING
- Case Number 19-063:** NO HEARING
- Case Number 19-076:** HEARING
- Case Number 20-007:** NO HEARING – no jurisdiction
- Case Number 20-008:** NO HEARING
- Case Number 20-011:** NO HEARING – no jurisdiction

Case Number 20-012: NO HEARING – no jurisdiction

Case Number 20-015: NO HEARING – no jurisdiction

Mr. Grinnals makes a motion to return to Public Session, Mr. Ryan seconds, all agree. Meeting goes back into Public Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Natale, 1st District Appointee