

**City of Syracuse
Citizen Review Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 5, 2021
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM**

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		Releford, Ranette	X	
Brunson, Cynthia	X		Natale, Dana	X		Arias, Roberto		X
Nelson, Mary		X	Ryan, Clifford	X				
Holmes, Hatisha		X	Grinnals, R. Daniels	X				
Kutz, Ruth	X		Favata, Joseph	X				
Pratt, Harry	X							

On Thursday, August 5, 2021, the City of Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) held an open, stated meeting at 304 City Hall in the Common Council Chambers.

Lori Nilsson, Board Chair, called the meeting to order and announced that the meeting was being held pursuant to notice and that a quorum was present. Board Action Items –Mr. Grinnals moves to approve the July meeting minutes with additions made by Ms. Releford, Mr. Ryan seconds, all agree.

1. Chairperson’s Items:

- a. The SPD attorney is back to work and the CRB is moving forward with hearings in order to meet the 18-month deadlines.
- b. The CRB had a virtual Executive Session on July 27, 2021, to review cases and another will be scheduled tonight.
- c. On the new website, we will have an online complaint form and online links such as NACOLE.

2. Administrator’s Report

- a. The Board will be reviewing 3 cases this evening. We will be scheduling a second Executive Session to review more cases.
- b. The CRB received 4 cases in July.
- c. The current budget is provided to the members on green paper.

- d. A motion to increase the outside Council budget for this year and last was approved by the Common Council.
- e. The CRB asked for the outside Council and investigator RFP to be waived and the Common Council approved.

3. Committees

a. Community Relations

- i. Mr. Ryan attended the National Night Out on August 3rd from 4PM – 9PM with CRB materials. Law enforcement, U.S. Army, NYS Troopers, United States Marines were all in attendance.
- ii. Ms. Nilsson attended an event at Beard Park on August 5th.
- iii. The CRB now has cards available for public distribution. They are simpler and more user-friendly. They will be helpful as the CRB goes into schools.
- iv. Ms. Releford speaks on her experience with the Committee to re-invent police. They are having conversations about how the CRB can inform the public about how to interact with the police and explain policies. The Committee was surprised to learn that SPD previously gave the CRB pushback about that kind of training.
- v. There is a school supply giveaway with Mary Nelson Youth Center on August 21st, volunteers should reach out to the office to receive materials.
- vi. Mr. Ryan went to the SHA Basketball tournament.
- vii. Ms. Releford attended the gun buyback.

b. Board Development and Training

- i. Ms. Releford forwarded an email from NACOLE regarding Citizen Oversight/Effective Practices. She asks that all Board Members review these documents and compare them to our current ordinance/legislation. She can provide paper copies if necessary.
- ii. Ms. Releford spoke with the Grants Department regarding the \$5,000 DOJ Grant. Use of the Grant has not gone before the Common Council yet. If we do receive the funds we will use some for an interactive training with Bob Stewart (Bobcat Training & Consulting).

c. Government Relations

- i. Ms. Releford and Ms. Nilsson meet with Councilor Majok each month and found that several Councilors did not know they were invited to our meetings.
- ii. We will try to do a full meeting with the Public Safety Committee in the fall.
- iii. The media has contacted the CRB regarding the Mayor's plans on Police Relations.
- iv. The Council has not requested that any ARPA funds should go to the CRB. CRB members should reach out to the Councilors. The CRB was denied four positions in budget hearings and some of those funds would be useful.
- v. The most recent Council meeting breaks down what the Council has voted on.

d. Police Relations

- i. The next meeting is on September 2, 2021.
- ii. Ms. Releford meets with the Chief monthly. They talked about getting our big group around the table like we did pre-COVID.
- iii. The CRB is discussing whether to continue subpoenaing Officers. One of the concerns is whether it is a good allocation of funds.
- iv. Mr. Ryan comments that the CRB should only use subpoena power in the most serious cases as we are currently getting some cooperation.
- v. Mr. Grinnals comments that the CRB needs to exercise subpoena power or it abrogates our accountability.
- vi. CRB Counsel, Ryan Suser will give the CRB an opinion on the proposed Resolution on pretext stops re: marijuana. It is a conflict of interest for Corporation Counsel to give us an opinion.
- vii. The CRB would like to be involved in SPD contract negotiations and would like cooperation with the CRB to be part of the contract.

4. New Business – none

5. Public Comment

- a. A member of the community comments about the CRB website. Ms. Releford advises that the City is revamping our website and it does not currently link to the page the CRB created. Roberto has been working diligently on this.
 - b. A member of the community asks what positions the CRB requested from the Common Council? The CRB requested an investigator, a Community Relations liaison, a Policy Analyst and one other (Data Analysis).
 - c. A community member who is also on the Committee to re-design the police does believe that the concept of re-design is being taken seriously.
 - d. The SPD has two new policies
 - i. The SPD now has on demand, app-based language interpretation, including LEP and people with disabilities.
 - ii. There will be training provided for the Cadet Class on LEP/Disability training.
 - e. A community member asks that the CRB monitor how this works out in the field.
 - f. A community member asks that the CRB do outreach to the refugee and disabled communities to let them know that translation is available.
 - g. A community member suggests that ARISE and Access CNY may be able to help.
6. Mr. Favata moves to go into Executive Session, Mr. Kutz seconds, all agree. 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 20-016: NOHEARING **Case Number 20-018:** NO HEARING
Case Number 20-019: NO HEARING

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

Ms. Kutz moves to open Public Session, Mr. Favata agrees.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Natale, 1st District Appointee