

**City of Syracuse
Citizen Review Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 4, 2021
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, February 4, 2021, the City of Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) held a virtual meeting due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions.

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.

1. Board Action Items –Mr. Ryan moves to approve the January meeting minutes, Ms. Kutz seconds, all agree.
 - a. Committee Assignments are reviewed. Mr. Grinnals should be on the Administrator Review Committee in place of Mr. Ryan.
 - b. There are no other suggested changes.
2. Chairperson’s Items:
 - a. Ms. Nilsson reached out to Councilor Hogan regarding the 2nd District vacancy and has not received a response yet.
 - b. Mr. McCarthy will send out information and contact the Public Safety Chair to set up a meeting to do the Administrator’s evaluation.
 - c. A virtual hearing was held on February 3, 2021. It went well technologically. We were able to share screens and view evidence.
 - d. The Board must decide how to handle a situation where someone is subpoenaed and does not show up. It will be noted in the Hearing Findings Letter.

- e. The City did a series of Public Meetings. As a result of these meetings, the CRB has received a series of questions. We will hold a special meeting to review these questions. Mr. McCarthy makes a motion to hold such a meeting and Mr. Ryan seconds.
- f. SPAARC asked us “where we are” in the 50a repeal and the release of police personnel records. Ms. Releford notes that we need clarification as to what they are asking. Ms. Nilsson suggest that we get their questions in writing for clarification.

3. Administrator’s Report

- a. The Board will be reviewing 5 cases this evening.
- b. One new case was received in January. The building is still closed except for appointments, but the phone is available 24/7.

4. Committees

- a. Community Relations – we are looking for input from the Public regarding events they are holding.
- b. Board Development and Training
 - i. The Board is still interested in doing further training with Bob Stewart, but we will hold off for new Board members.
 - ii. We are still waiting for Councilor Hogan to fill the 2nd District vacancy. Ms. Nilsson will reach out to him.
- c. Government Relations
 - i. Ms. Releford will be sending CRB thoughts on the draft policy for police reform as it is due to the Governor on April 1, 2021.
 - ii. Plans were discussed about holding Hearings as 20 cases are ready for a hearing.
- d. Police Relations
 - i. Ms. Releford met with SPD recently to go over FOIL requests and will spend Monday going over cases.
 - ii. Budget hearings are coming up and the CRB needs to ask the Council for investigator(s) and more staffing as evidenced by the number of SPD staff Office of Professional Standards.

iii. Ms. Releford and Ms. Nilsson met with the new PBA head and one other Officer to review procedures and expectations.

5. New Business - none

6. Public Comment (6:30 PM)

- a. Jennifer Baxtron from BLM Potsdam spoke about working for justice for Garrett Phillips. Ms. Releford will contact her privately to see who can help her in that area. Ms. Baxtron would like information about starting a group like the CRB and Ms. Releford referred her to NACOLE.
- b. Michelle Mano with the group “We the People”, which is a group of women who deal with police brutality in the CNY area, would be interested in having the CRB do a presentation for them.
- c. Tamara Cook of 1st Nation wants to learn how the CRB does things.

7. Ms. Kutz moves to go into Executive Session, Ms. Brunson 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 18-059: HEARING

Case Number 19-024: NO HEARING

Case Number 19-068: NO HEARING

Case Number 19-077: NO HEARING

Case Number 20-022: NO HEARING

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Natale, 1st District Appointee