

**City of Syracuse
Citizen Review Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 1, 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, July 1, 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. Favata moves to approve the June meeting minutes, Mr. Ryan seconds, all agree.

1. Chairperson’s Items:

- a. On the City of Syracuse website, the CRB terms differ from our records, possibly due to the City’s upgrade of the website.
- b. The CRB will have control to update the website once the conversion is done. All CRB Board members should go on the website and advise Mr. Arias of any changes that need to be made.
- c. On the new website, we will have an online complaint form and online links such as NACOLE.
- d. There have been no hearings since the last meeting as the SPD Attorney has been out on leave. The SPD Attorney only represents subpoenaed Officers.
- e. Mr. Favata introduces Resolution 2021-1 regarding pretext stops that were made by the Gun Violence Suppression detail knowing that they would not be prosecuted, copy attached. These stops resulted in 27 guns being confiscated with over 1,000 tickets issued.
 - i. Mr. Favata makes a motion to get a legal opinion as to whether the CRB can do an investigation and have a hearing without a complaint. And, further, if

Corporation Counsel cannot give an opinion without a conflict of interest, the CRB will go to their own Counsel

ii. Ms. Holmes seconds the motion.

iii. Mr. Grinnals abstains, all others agree, motion passes,

2. Administrator's Report

- a. The Board will be reviewing 5 cases this evening. We will be scheduling a second Executive Session to review 5 more cases.
- b. The bid for new t-shirts is now \$410 and will not exceed \$550 so we can assure that all Board members get a shirt. All CRB members should provide their shirt size to Mr. Arias.
- c. Mr. Ryan makes a motion that we approve \$550 for CRB t-shirts are purchased through GL Imprinting. Ms. Holmes seconds the motion. All agree. Motion passes.
- d. The 2020-21 Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2021. A new Budget is provided.
- e. The CRB exceeded our contract services of \$15,000 for our Attorney last fiscal year. Mr. Favata makes a motion to increase the budget for legal services to \$16,000. Ms. Carter seconds the motion. All agree. Motion passes.
- f. Ms. Releford is part of the committee to make sure the City Reform Plan is being implemented. The CRB and OPS information appears on the back of the Right to Know Cards with Officer First Initial, last name, and IBM #. To make sure this is happening we will add a question to the CRB Complaint Form-

At any point during or after your encounter with the police officer or officers, did you receive any information regarding CRB? If yes, please state when you received it and how?

- g. The CRB has one intern from OnPoint from July 5th – August 13th. The CRB does not pay for the interns wages out of its budget because an outside funding sources has been designated to cover the cost.

3. Committees

a. Community Relations

- i. Board members must be sure to respond to emails asking for participation in Community Events. We will not be doing as many tables if Board members do not advise in advance of their availability. We have noticed that tabling does

not yield many complaints but mingling during the events increases our community engagement.

- ii. Ms. Releford attended a Black Cuse Pride Event, National Gun Violence Awareness Day and the Juneteenth flag raising during the month of June.

b. Board Development and Training

- i. Bob Stewart gave August dates. He would like to do a more interactive session with our suggested topics and timeframe.
- ii. SPAARC will come and speak about their initiatives/action plan/mission.
- iii. The District Attorney's Office may come and give some updates regarding forwarding cases to them.
- iv. Last year SPD gave the CRB \$5,000 from their DOJ grant for training and travel. This may not happen again.
- v. Board can email suggestions for training to Ms. Releford.
- vi. NACOLE has upcoming virtual and in-person training coming up. Board Members should check their email for details.

c. Government Relations

- i. Ms. Nilsson and Ms. Releford meet monthly with Councilor Majok to keep in touch, particularly as a result of the comments at the Budget Hearing.
- ii. This is helping to develop deeper mutual understanding.

d. Police Relations

- i. Mr. Ryan highly recommends the Civilian Police Academy to new members.
- ii. Ms. Releford states that the CRB needs to know how Officers are trained to make policy decisions, but we do want to make sure we remain neutral so there is a need to seek other training as well outside of SPD.
- iii. We made a lot of progress last year despite COVID. We have had more communication with SPD, which did result in more legal fees. Officers are now coming to hearings and sometimes testifying if complainant is present and at

the discretion of their legal counsel. We want to continue to move forward this fiscal year.

- iv. We continue to review our Legislation and how it relates to 50a.
- v. Sergeant Rusin is going to provide information to the CRB on their new policy updates and what they took account from the CRB and what the SPD did and didn't do and why.

4. New Business

- a. Mr. Grinnals comments on the Attorney General's office request for our fully completed 2020 cases.
- b. He questions whether we should require a subpoena for that information. Corporation Counsel advised that it would not be out of line to ask for one but, in the interest of the spirit of cooperation, the City has not requested one.
- c. Ms. Nilsson and Mr. Grinnals agree that the SPD Officers are not trained to identify mental illness.

5. Public Comment (6:30 PM)

- a. A guest is looking to be a Police Officer. Mr. Ryan will be sure to let him know the dates of the Civilian Police Academy. He will also forward information about SPD trainings on how to join SPD,
- b. A community member opines that it is important to look into the marijuana stops that resulted in gun confiscation.

6. Mr. Favata moves to go into Executive Session, Mr. Ryan 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 19-075:	HEARING
Case Number 19-093:	NO HEARING
Case Number 20-036:	NO HEARING
Case Number 20-042:	NO HEARING
Case Number 21-008:	NO HEARING

Mr. Favata 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. Natale and unanimously adopted, the Board adjourned its meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Natale, 1st District Appointee