

**City of Syracuse  
Citizen Review Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, February 4, 2022  
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM  
WebEx meeting (virtual)  
Public Comment - 20 minutes at 6:30 PM**

Name	P	A	Name	P	A	Name	P	A
Brunson, Cynthia		X	Nilsson, Lori	x				
Carter, Mae		X	Pratt, Harry	x				
Favata, Joseph	X		Ryan, Clifford	x				
Holmes, Hatisha	x							
Kutz, Ruth		X						
Levy, Richard	x							

On Thursday, February 4, 2022, the City of Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) held an open, stated, virtual meeting via WebEx due to Covid 19 concerns.

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.

Ms. Releford was welcomed back from parental leave.

1. Board Action Items

- A. After discussing the need for additional staff in the CRB office, a motion was made by Mr. Favata and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Pratt to forward the following hiring proposals to the appropriate City office(s): 1 Data Analyst, 1 Legal Secretary II, 1 Policy Analyst, 1 Community Engagement Specialist and 1 Investigator. Motion carried.
- B. Motion made by Mr. Favata and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Pratt to appoint Lori Nilsson (Chair and district appointee), Mae Carter (Mayoral appointee) and Hatisha Holmes (At Large Councilor's appointee), along with the Mayor (or his representative) and the Chair of the Public Safety Committee (Chol Majok) as the committee to write the Administrator's evaluation. Motion carried.

2. Chairperson's Items

- A. There are currently two vacancies on the board. The Mayor and the Councilor's at large have been reminded that they have these two vacancies to consider. Councilor Schultz has appointed Richard Levy to represent the 1<sup>st</sup> Council District.
- B. Ms. Nilsson asked members of the board to review their committee appointments and advise if they would like to continue or change these assignments.

3. Administrator's Report

- A. There are no cases to be reviewed tonight.
- B. While Ms. Releford was on leave, our Private Investigator completed eight case reviews that we will review in March.
- C. There were nine complaints filed in December, bringing the 2021 total to 50. There were four complaints filed in January.
- D. The Office of Professional Standards has forwarded five cases (some past the 18-month discipline deadline) to our office.
- E. Three students from Syracuse University have applied to be interns this semester. Ms. Nilsson and Ms. Releford interviewed two of them this week. We will hopefully have two interns this semester, with plans to have one of them update data to our webpage to make it accurate.
- F. Now that Ms. Releford has returned, we will begin in March to have our scheduled meetings with the Chief, Councilor Majok and any other routine meetings. We will also plan to meet with the Public Safety committee prior to budget meetings to discuss our budget needs with them.
- G. Discussed the new department under the NYS Attorney General which requires police departments to report to the AG any officer who has three or more complaints filed against them in a 2-year period.
- H. We are in the process of trying to hire a Legal Secretary I to fill the current vacancy.

4. Committees

No reports

5. New Business

None

6. Public Comment (6:30 pm)

A member of the community was present and inquired into the proposal to the Council regarding use of force. We will hold off on formal comment until there is a concrete plan.

This community member also wondered if the CRB would be providing information on complaints against individual officers. We advised that at this time, we will not and will await legal decisions regarding this.

On motion duly made by Mr. Favata and unanimously adopted, the Board adjourned its meeting at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Nilsson