

**City of Syracuse
Citizen Review Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 2, 2023
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
Common Council Chambers
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>
Pratt, Harry	X		Carter, Mae	X		Brunson, Cynthia	X	
Bey-Wright, Jah-Quan	X		Holmes, Hatisha	X		Favata, Joseph	X	
Levy, Richard	X		Marrero, Jose	X		Nilsson, Lori	X	

On Thursday, March 2nd, 2023, the City of Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) held an open, stated meeting at 304 City Hall in the Common Council Chambers.

Richard Levy, 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

- On motion duly made by Jose Marrero, seconded by Mae Carter, and adopted, the Board approved the Minutes of the February 2, 2023, Board meeting.

2. Administrator’s Report

- Board Training: There was an open inquiry into interest and availability for training and a note that the board needs to find a new venue to host any future training. Additionally, the board encourages participation in the Syracuse Police Department’s Citizens Academy. Jose Marrero shared that it was informative regarding SPD history and present-day challenges while Ranette Releford shared that the very real scenarios can offer a better understanding of police engagement and use of force.
- Hearings: Board member availability needs to be updated. Ms. Releford cited a backlog in scheduling hearings and suggested the board define specific days each month to conduct hearings in the mornings and after 5:00pm.
- Board membership: Ms. Brynn Lovejoy-Grinnell has been chosen to fill the at-large seat vacated by Mr. Clifford Ryans. She is awaiting her swearing-in.
- Activity Report: There were 5 new complaints submitted in February totaling 14 complaints for 2023. The board has four cases to review in executive session. Office staff has been responding to multiple FOIL requests including requests from the Attorney General’s office and a discover demand stemming from litigation.

Additionally, office staff has been preparing for #CRBWeek, an acknowledgment of the Common Council's vote for the creation of a CRB on April 5, 1993.

- Mary D'Agostino is the new attorney appearing with officers during hearings, and Melissa Schwarz will represent officers in the event of any conflicts with Ms. D'Agostino.
- Police Liaison Committee Meeting: New SPD recruits are concerned with board member training in police conduct. The new labor contract will result in longer shifts for SPD officers, so the board expressed some concerns with the battery life of body worn cameras. Ms. Nilsson and Mr. Levy reported that while 99 individuals were eligible for employment with SPD, 51 declined specifically citing an unwillingness to live in the community they would police and that would salary their positions. There are several programs to encourage and assist home ownership in the city. There was also discussion of the Taylor Law in relation to the rights of labor unions in New York and the longstanding concern that individuals in law enforcement gravitate toward policing for the county and state.
- Outreach: The CRB's youth outreach can establish a trust in policing that might eventually lend to a more diverse police force representative of Syracuse residents.
- Michael Britton, data analyst, proposed an online professional development opportunity. He presented the training program, "Data Collection, Processing, and Analysis," with Certstaffix as the most flexible opportunity in terms of any possible interference with day-to-day office needs. The board approved the proposal unanimously.

3. Community Organizations

- None present.

4. Public Comment

- None.

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously adopted, the Board adjourned its meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Britton
Data Analyst
Citizen Review Board