

**City of Syracuse  
Citizen Review Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 6, 2023  
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM  
Common Council Chambers  
Public Comment - 20 minutes at 6:30 PM**

<b>Name</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>A</b>
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, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 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 Cynthia Brunson, and adopted, the Board approved the Minutes of the March 2, 2023, Board meeting.
- The Citizen Review Board is concluding CRB Week. The board had a civic proclamation of its 30 years of service to the community at Hopps Memorial Church on Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023. On Wednesday, April 5, 2023, the board held a march from Dunbar Center to the steps of City Hall where former Common Councilor Charles Anderson re-enacted a speech that he delivered before fellow Common Councilors on the day of the vote for his proposed CRB legislation. The City of Syracuse honored Mr. Anderson by proclaiming April 5 “Charles Anderson Day” in Syracuse. New York State 48<sup>th</sup> District Senator Rachel May offered a state proclamation of the CRB’s 30 years of service to the community, and Common Council President Helen Hudson spoke regarding the board’s value, history, and future. The evening of April 5, 2023, the board hosted a reception to acknowledge the 30-year anniversary of its legislation. It offered a silent tour of the history and opportunities for former CRB-affiliates to speak.
- Most of the CRB Week events are available to watch on the board’s Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/people/City-Of-Syracuse-Citizen-Review-Board/100068917971765/>)
- News Channel 9 (WSYR) intends to host a live interview next week with a member of the board or its administrator.
- The new appointee to the board, Bryn Lovejoy-Grinnell will be formally introduced at the next meeting as she is not in attendance presently.

## 2. Administrator's Report

- Like any event, those of CRB Week had highs and lows, but overall did justice to the board's thirty years.
- Former Administrator Felicia Pitts-Davis spoke at the CRB Week reception on April 5, 2023. In preparing its program materials, the board reserved silence concerning Judge Pitts-Davis' tenure with the CRB. This was purposeful because the CRB's information was derived from what had been reported and sensationalized in local news. Judge Pitts-Davis' rousing contribution to the reception will now allow for a more whole and balanced historical narrative that acknowledges the many unseen and unrecognized efforts as the first and longest-serving CRB administrator.
- The CRB extends its deep gratitude to board members and staff who assisted in the event and to the members of the community who continue to support the CRB and attend CRB Week events.
- Reminder that the CRB's budget hearing is next week, Wednesday April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. To those members of the board and the community who continue to support the CRB and its mission, please show up to pack the Common Council Chambers.
- Activity Report: The board received six new cases in the month of March and will be reviewing four cases in executive session.
- Community Outreach:
  - Board Chair Richard Levy went to a community policing session at the Northeast Community Center. There were about 10-15 others in attendance including representatives of Interfaith Works. Mr. Levy heard the following sentiments reported by the community members: unaware of the board's existence; unaware of the ability to complain about demeanor; local patrolmen never talk to or engage with the community so there is little trust or reliance; the police sometimes act like another gang on the streets of Syracuse.
  - CRB Data Analyst Michael Britton and Community Engagement Specialist Anthony Heard each attested to the success of CRB Week.
- Government Relations: The CRB received a letter from Ms. Susan Katzoff, the city's newly appointed Corporation Counsel, entitled "CRB Policy and Procedural Improvements." The letter suggested revisions to the CRB's legislation and policies that would limit complainants' ability to seek redress, restrict the scope of the board's recommendations, and alter the board's methodology for report generation. CRB Administrator Ranette Releford and Board Chair Richard Levy attended a Zoom meeting with Attorney Ryan Suser, Esq., and came to understand the letter as a negotiation ploy. The CRB is working on a formal response to Corporation Counsel's concerns that includes a reminder that the Common Council is the only body with the authority to amend CRB legislation.
- The board is awaiting a date for the next Police Liaison Committee meeting.
- Board Administrator Ranette Releford acknowledged the contributions of Mr. Lamont Mitchell, the board's community engagement fellow. Mr. Mitchell marched with us and was instrumental in getting the word out on the CRB's mission and

events of CRB Week. CRB interns Janine White and Charles Tang were also key to in-office preparation for CRB Week.

- CRB Community Engagement Specialist Anthony Heard recognized Officer Brandon Hanks and Officer Nikki Hendrix as prime examples of officers who build relationships and trust with members of the community.

### 3. Public Comment

- None.

### 4. Community Organizations

- None present.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Britton  
Data Analyst  
Citizen Review Board