



**CITIZEN
REVIEW BOARD
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK**

Building Trust Through Accountability

**Quarterly Report
October 1 to December 31, 2020**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Statistical Summary of 2 nd Quarter Operations.....	1
Mission & Objectives	2
Board Members & Terms	3
Filing a Complaint with the CRB	4
Public Meetings & Outreach	4
Operations.....	5
Hearings & Recommendations	5
Case Summaries of Sustained Findings.....	5
Budget.....	6
Case Statistics.....	7

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF 2020 2ND QUARTER CRB OPERATIONS
October to December 2020

Number of New Cases Received:	9
Number of Existing Cases Processed:	10
Number of Hearings Held:	0
Number of Hearings with Sustained Findings:	0
Number of Officers with Sustained Findings:	0
Types of Allegations Sustained:	0
CRB Sustain Rate:	0
SPD Imposed Discipline/Retraining:	0
SPD Disciplinary Action Rate:	0%

MISSION & OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Citizen Review Board is to provide an open, independent, and impartial review of allegations of misconduct by members of the Syracuse Police Department; to assess the validity of those allegations through the investigation and hearing of cases; to recommend disciplinary sanctions where warranted; and to make recommendations on Syracuse police policies, practices and procedures.

In fulfillment of its legislative purpose and mission, the Board is committed to:

- Creating an institution that encourages citizens to feel welcome in filing a complaint when they believe that they have been a victim of police misconduct;
- Making the public aware of the CRB's existence and process through ongoing community outreach events and coverage by local media;
- Completing investigations and reviews of complaints in a thorough, yet timely fashion;
- Remaining unbiased, impartial, objective and fair in the investigation, evaluation, and hearing of complaints;
- Engaging in community dialog that encourages citizen input with the CRB;
- Respecting the rights of complainants and subject officers;
- Upholding the integrity and purpose of the CRB's enabling legislation;
- Reporting to the Mayor, the Common Council, the Chief of Police and the public patterns or practices of police misconduct discovered during the course of investigation and review of complaints; and
- Operating in an open and transparent manner to the extent permitted by applicable municipal and state laws, regulations and ordinances.

BOARD MEMBERS & TERMS

The Board Members serve staggered three-year terms and are all unpaid volunteers. Board members devote an average of ten hours per month to CRB matters, some considerably more. This includes their preparation for and attendance at monthly board meetings, preparation for and participation in panel hearings, training, and community outreach. Biographies of each board member are available on the CRB website at www.syracuse.ny.us/CRB_Members.aspx.

Members of the Syracuse Citizen Review Board

Mayoral Appointees
Ms. Mary Nelson - term expires December 31, 2019
Mr. Peter McCarthy, Board Chairman - term expires December 31, 2020
Ms. Mae Carter - term expires December 31, 2019

District Councilor Appointees
Ms. Dana Natale - 1st District - term expires December 31, 2020
Open- 2nd District
Ms. Lori Nilsson - 3rd District - term expires December 31, 2021
Ms. Ruth Kutz, - 4th District - term expires December 31, 2020
Ms. Cynthia Brunson- 5th District - term expires December 31, 2019

At-Large Councilor Appointees
Mr. Clifford Ryans - term expires December 31, 2019
Mr. R. Daniel Grinnals, - term expires December 31, 2021
Ms. Hatisha Holmes, Vice Chair – term expires December 31, 2021

FILING A COMPLAINT WITH THE CRB

The Syracuse CRB accepts complaints against members of the Syracuse Police Department (SPD) involving allegations of misconduct that may violate SPD rules and regulations, as well as state, local and/or federal law. The CRB accepts complaints on active misconduct – such as excessive force, constitutional violations, harassment, racial or gender bias, poor demeanor, search & seizure violations, theft or damage to property, untruthfulness, and false arrest – as well as passive misconduct such as failure to respond or refusal to take a complaint.

Any member of the public can file a complaint with the Syracuse CRB; a complainant need not be a resident of the City of Syracuse. There are several ways a complaint can be filed. A complainant can come to the CRB office in City Hall Commons at 201 East Washington Street, Suite 705, to fill out a complaint, contact our office to have a complaint form mailed to their address, download the complaint form from the CRB website, or request a home visit if necessary. The form can be hand delivered or mailed to our office. The CRB website is www.syracuse.ny.us/CRB.aspx. The CRB office telephone number is 315-448-8750. The CRB can be reached by e-mail at [crb@syr.gov.net](mailto:crb@syr.gov).

PUBLIC MEETINGS & OUTREACH

The CRB typically meets on the first Thursday evening each month from 5:30 to 7:30 PM in Common Council chambers in City Hall. The meeting schedule is posted at area libraries, on the CRB website, and on the calendar on the City’s main webpage. These meetings are open to the public and there is a public comment period that begins no later than 6:30 PM. The purpose of the public meeting is to develop and refine CRB policies and procedures in an open, transparent and accountable fashion and to conduct the ongoing business of the CRB. The Board meetings typically include a vote on items that require Board approval, a series of items presented by the Chairman for the Board’s consideration, a report on the CRB’s monthly activities by the Administrator, a variety of committee reports and an opportunity for public comment. After the conclusion of the public comment period, the Board continues its meeting in a confidential Executive Session to deliberate and vote on whether or not to send investigated complaints to a hearing. During the Executive Sessions, the Board processes on average five to fifteen complaints per month depending on current case load.

CRB 2020 Outreach Completion				
Name&Time	Host	Location	CC District	Date
Say Their Names	Black Arts Collective	149 Beattie Street	5 th	10/14/20
Free Haircuts	Mutual Aid	Clinton Square	4 th	10/19/20
Black Men Suited	BMU	County Court House	4 th	10/10/20

OPERATIONS

Between October 1 and December 31, 2020, the CRB membership held three monthly web business meetings that were open to the public via WebEx. Quorum was met for each meeting, and all regular operating business was able to be conducted.

During this quarter, the CRB received a total of 9 new complaints and fully processed 10 existing cases.

During this second quarter of 2020, the CRB held 0 hearings due to COVID-19 and orders from the State Governor Cuomo.

HEARINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

No hearings were held due to COVID-19 and orders from the State Governor Cuomo

CASE SUMMARIES OF SUSTAINED FINDINGS

No cases to report

BUDGET

2018-2020 Adopted
DETAIL ANALYSIS OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

PERSONNEL SERVICES

510100	Salaries	\$ 96,550.00
--------	----------	--------------

CONTRACTUAL & OTHER SERVICES

540300	Office Supplies (Contractual & Other Expenses)	\$ 3,290.00
--------	--	-------------

540500	Operating Supplies & Expenses	\$ 10,175.00
--------	-------------------------------	--------------

541500	Professional Services	\$ 15,900.00
--------	-----------------------	--------------

541600	Travel, Training & Development	\$ <u>2,625.00</u>
--------	--------------------------------	--------------------

TOTAL:		\$128,540.00
---------------	--	---------------------

Total Complaints Received during 4th of 2020 (October 1 to December 31, 2020): 9

Categories of complaints as defined in CRB Ordinance (totals from all complaints received from April 1 to June 30, 2020):

	Excessive Force	False Arrest	Customer Service	Demeanor	Failure to Act	Unnecessary Force
#	3	2	1	1	1	1
% of total	33	22	11	11	11	11

*Note that a single complaint can involve multiple allegations

The number of cases fully processed and closed by the Board during second quarter of 2020: 10

The number of cases where a CRB panel recommended disciplinary sanctions be imposed by the Chief of Police during second quarter of 2020: 0

The number of complaints processed and not sent to a panel hearing during the quarter: 16

The number of cases that successfully were routed to conciliation: 0

The number of complainants who initiated extended contact with the CRB but did not follow through with a formal signed complaint: 0

The length of time each case was pending before the Board: 2 months on average (but some occasionally take slightly longer due to unavoidable delays).

The number of complaints in which the Board recommended that the City provide restitution to the complainant and type of restitution recommended: 0

The number of complainants who filed a Notice of Claim against the City of Syracuse while their complaint was being considered by the Board: 0

Hearing outcomes

Panel hearings scheduled: 0

Panel hearings held: 0

Panel hearings resulting in disciplinary recommendations from CRB: 0

Panel hearings resulting in no disciplinary recommendations from CRB: 0

Second Quarter of 2020 CRB Sustain Rate: 0

Complaints Received per Common Council District during the 4th quarter of 2020*

District 1:

False Arrest: 1

District 2:

Excessive Force: 1

False Arrest: 1

District 3:

Failure to Act: 1

District 4:

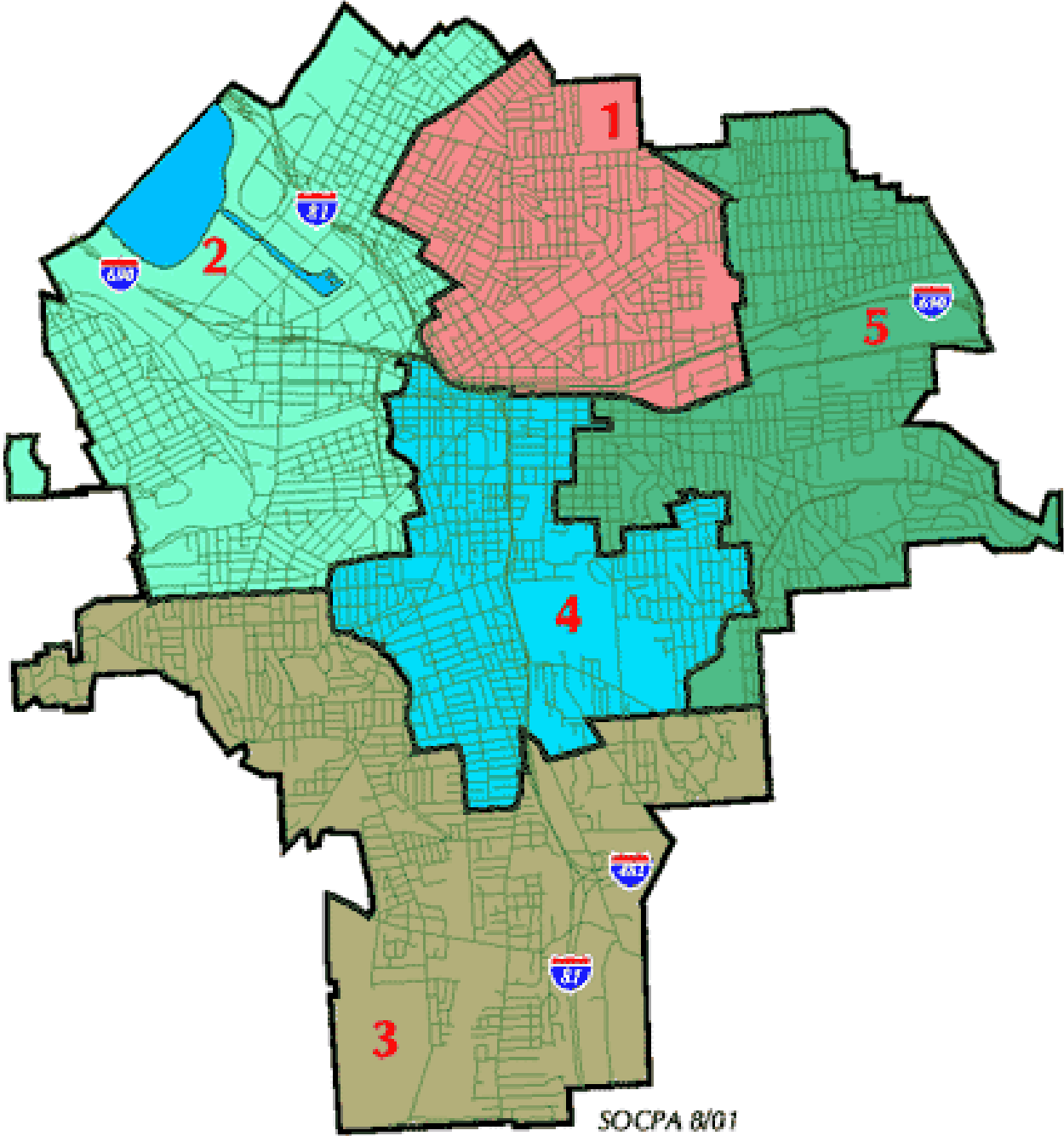
Customer Service: 1

District 5:

Wrongfully Accused: 1

***See the following page for a map of the Common Council Districts**

CITY OF SYRACUSE COMMON COUNCIL DISTRICTS



Complainant Demographics for All Complaints Received in Fourth Quarter of 2020

Ethnicity	#	% of complaints	% of city population*
Black	7		29.7
White	1		55.0
Other	1		-
Total	7	-	-

*based on 2010 census

Sex	#	% of city population*
Male	7	47.6
Female	2	52.4

Age		
Under 18	0	0%
19-35	2	50%
36-50	0	30%
51+	3	20%