

Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) Quarterly Report: April – June 2026

I. Mission and Operational Status

The Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) remains the primary liaison between the community and law enforcement, dedicated to ensuring that every citizen is heard and that police oversight remains a reality.

Significant Update: Suspension of Investigative Powers On April 20, 2026, the CRB was directed by Corporation Counsel to suspend its investigative powers, including the holding of hearings. This directive follows an appellate court decision (*Rochester Police Locust Club Inc. v. City of Rochester*) affecting the Rochester Police Accountability Board.

While investigative functions are currently paused, the CRB continues to:

- Accept complaints on behalf of community members.
- Provide procedural guidance to complainants.
- Advocate for transparency and act as a bridge between the public and SYPD.
- Confer with Corporation Counsel to determine the lawful exercise of its statutory powers moving forward.

II. Community Engagement Highlights and Important Meetings

The CRB maintained a vigorous presence at local events to clarify its evolving role and distribute updated literature.

April 2026: Monthly Board Meeting open to the community April 7th. Staff attended virtually the NACOLE data forum to stay aligned with best practices April 7th, and the NYS Oversight Conference in person April 14th. Outreach included the 16th District Community Resource Fair, and the Shine Your Light Talent Show, 100 Black Men Gala, and Swell Wellness young professional mixer.

An emergency meeting was called April 20th - informing CRB of the suspension of our investigative powers due to the appellate court ruling. April 21st - Budget hearing

- **May 2026:** Meet and Greet with Mayor Owens and Chief Rusin, Attended Hiscock Legal ID networking event at Salt City Market, The CRB engaged with youth at the Nottingham Unified Basketball Game and supported civil rights at the NAACP Annual Freedom Fund Awards Dinner hosting a table of 10 including youth from the community. Staff also conducted targeted outreach for seniors at Congressman Mannion's Senior Fair.
- **June 2026:** The board was active in high-visibility events, including the Juneteenth Flag Raising Ceremony, Jazz in the City, CNY United, SUN, CommUnity outreach day by FORCE and a virtual meeting with the National Abolition Hall of Fame.

III. Inter-Agency Collaboration and Advocacy

The CRB continues to meet with city officials to ensure constituent concerns are addressed:

- Chief's Quarterly Meeting (May 5): CRB staff and board members met with police leadership to maintain a presence in departmental discussions.

- Virtual meeting with Rochester PAB (May11) discussed making collaborative report on policy and outcome between both police departments
- Legislative Advocacy (June 10): Leadership met with Councilman Marty Nave to focus on direct advocacy and community concerns.
- "The Right to Know Report" (June 23): Staff and Chief Rusin received a vital briefing from CRB Data Analyst Elias Fierro to facilitate transparency regarding department data and compliance with local ordinances.
- Conducted research on different models of civilian oversight committees
- Reviewed a draft policy of generative AI and drones and offered recommendations
- Event Planning: The CRB is currently coordinating an upcoming community event with Chief Rusin tailored toward Autism awareness for families and individuals on the spectrum.

IV. Administrative & Secretarial Operations (June Data)

To ensure public responsiveness during this transition, the following administrative actions were taken:

- **Public Inquiries:** Handled 7 calls specifically regarding how to file a complaint and responded to numerous emails and form requests.
- **Board Support:** Finalized all previous meeting minutes and completed preparations for the July monthly meeting.
- **Technical Support:** Managed logistical setups for virtual community forums to ensure continued public access to board activities.

V. Strategic Outlook

The CRB remains committed to being visible, active, and responsive. We will continue to process complaints and represent the voices of Syracuse residents while navigating the legal challenges currently impacting our investigative role.