

SYRACUSE

CRB

CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD

Quarterly Report
October 1 to December 31, 2012

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BOARD MEMBERS & TERMS

The Board Members serve staggered three-year terms and are all volunteers. Board members have worked an average of eight to ten hours per month on CRB matters. This includes their attendance at monthly meetings, preparation for and participation in panel hearings, training, and community outreach.

Current Members of the Syracuse Citizen Review Board

Mayoral Appointees

- Timothy Jennings-Bey - term expires December 2014
- Joseph Masella, Board Chair - term expires December 2015
- Diane Turner - term expires December 2013

District Councilor Appointees

- Sarah McIlvain - 1st District - term expires December 2014
- Carole Horan - 2nd District - term expires December 2015
- Demetria Gammage - 3rd District - term expires December 2015
- Tafara Timmons - 4th District - term expires December 2014
- Louis Levine - 5th District - term expires December 2013

At-Large Councilor Appointees

- Mallory Livingston - term expires December 2015
- Raheem Mack, Board Vice Chair, - term expires December 2015
- Donna Oppedisano - term expires December 2013

OPERATIONS

The second quarter of full operations by the newly reestablished Citizen Review Board was another busy and productive quarter. In addition to holding its regular business meetings and panel hearings, the CRB was active in meeting with local and state elected officials, criminal justice & legal aid organizations, and with other community stakeholders. In an effort to connect with and learn from other oversight agencies around the country, the CRB Administrator also attended the annual conference of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement.

Between October 1 and December 31, 2012, the full CRB membership held three monthly business meetings that were open to the public. Quorum was met for each meeting and all regular operating business was able to be carried out.

During this quarter, the CRB received a total of 17 new complaints. Ten of the new complaints were for Excessive Force.

During this same period, the CRB scheduled eight hearings to examine nine complaints (two complaints involved the same incident). Four of those hearings resulted in a sustained finding against one or more officers. The CRB made disciplinary recommendations to the Chief of Police in five cases with disciplinary sanctions recommended against six different officers. The Chief of

Police imposed discipline in one of the five cases where the CRB provided disciplinary recommendations to him. The CRB was informed of the disciplinary decisions by the Chief of Police in a timely fashion; however, the Chief's reasons for not imposing discipline for the cases in which the CRB recommended discipline but none was imposed have not yet been provided to the CRB by the Chief as required by Section 7 (3) (g) of the CRB ordinance.

Throughout the quarter, the CRB Administrator met with numerous local, county, and state elected officials to spread the word that the new CRB is operational again and ready to serve their constituents. Complaint forms and flyers for meeting dates were provided to the offices of the elected officials to share with their constituents.

The CRB Administrator met for a second time with a group of ministers in Mayor Minor's office on October 1, 2012. The ministers were updated on the latest statistics and findings coming out of the CRB and engaged in a detailed conversation about the investigative role of the CRB and its jurisdiction.

From October 14-17, 2012, the CRB Administrator attended the 18th annual conference of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) in San Diego, CA. The conference provided an opportunity to discuss best practices in the fields of civilian oversight and law enforcement and to connect with a national and international network of civilian oversight administrators and police chiefs. The conference theme was "Building Community Trust." The conference featured panels on a wide variety of topics including: legal standards for oversight practitioners, community outreach, policy recommendations, public protests, police and mental health providers, and pattern and practice reform.

On November 7, 2012 the CRB Administrator appeared as a special guest at an Onondaga Community College course on problems in law enforcement. Appearing at the class was an opportunity to both publicize the revitalization of Syracuse's new CRB and to encourage the students enrolled in the course to enter the expanding professional field of civilian oversight. The students were eager to learn about the types of cases handled by the CRB and the precise nature of the CRB process.

Throughout this quarter the CRB Administrator has taken an active role in participating in the ongoing collaboration between local mental health providers and law enforcement agencies to improve the police response to individuals suffering mental health crises or problems. The Police-Mental Health Community working group includes all the major mental health service providers and representatives from all of the major local law enforcement agencies. The group has met most recently to map out the avenues for mental health treatment and to identify where there are gaps in that treatment with particular focus on the role of police and other emergency service providers. This is an ongoing effort in which the CRB Administrator is committed to remaining engaged. The goal is to design a new police training and procedure paradigm for Onondaga county law enforcement agencies to adopt which is modeled on the mental health community's collaboration with law enforcement in Memphis, TN.

The CRB Administrator also delivered a presentation to the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York on December 12. The presentation was well received and a lively discussion ensued.

Total Complaints Received during Last Quarter of 2012 (October 1 – December 31, 2012): 17

Categories of complaints as defined in CRB Ordinance (totals from all complaints received during the CRB's second full quarter, October 1 to December 31, 2012):

Active Misconduct: 15
Passive Misconduct (Failure to Act): 2
Damage to Property: 1
Denial or Violation of Constitutional Rights: 0
Lack of Truthfulness in a Police Report: 1

The number of cases fully processed and closed by the Board during last quarter of 2012: 26

The number of cases where a CRB panel recommended disciplinary sanctions be imposed by the Chief of Police during the last quarter of 2012: 5*

The number of CRB cases where the Chief of Police imposed sanctions or discipline when disciplinary recommendations were made by a CRB panel during the last quarter of 2012: 1

The number of complaints not sent to panel hearing during the quarter: 17

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: 2

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

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: 1

Hearing outcomes

Panel hearings scheduled: 8
Panel hearings held: 8*
Panel hearings resulting in disciplinary recommendations from CRB: 4
Panel hearings resulting in no disciplinary recommendations from CRB: 4

***One hearing was held for two complaints regarding the same incident**

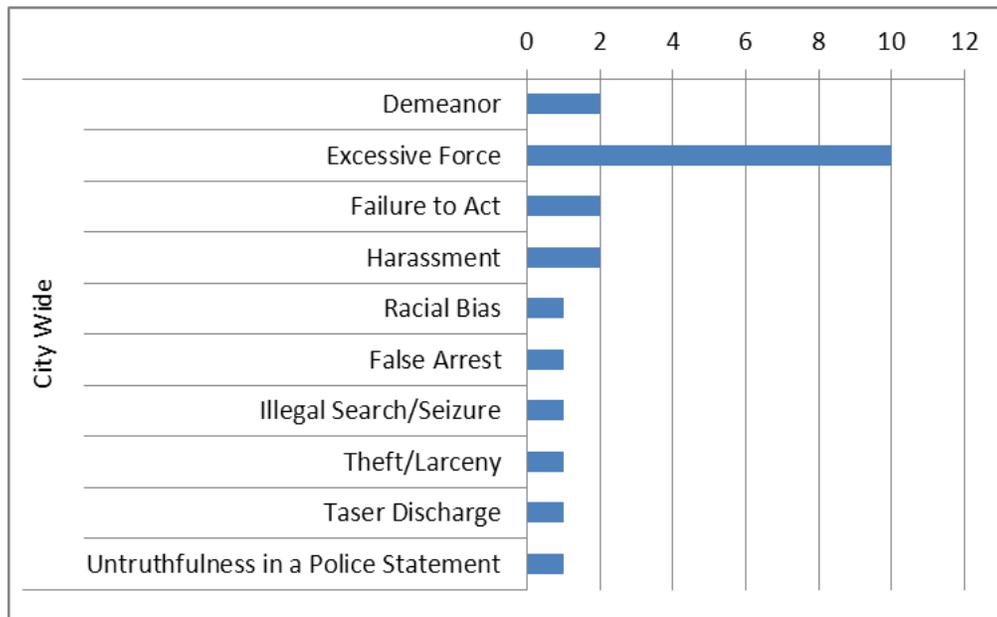
2012 Sustain Rate: 17.6% (9 sustained cases out of 51 fully processed as of December 31, 2012)

Categories of complaints received by the CRB between October 1 and December 31, 2012

City Wide

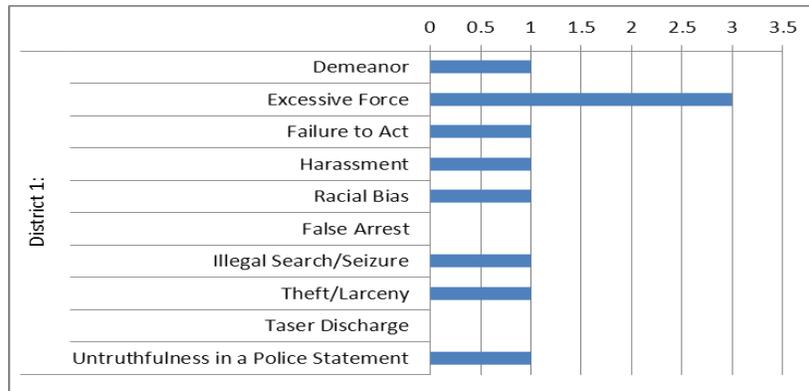
| Demeanor | Excessive Force | Failure to Act | Harassment | Racial Bias | False Arrest | Illegal Search/Seizure | Theft/Larceny | Taser Discharge | Untruthfulness in a Police Statement |
|----------|-----------------|----------------|------------|-------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2 | 10* | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1* | 1 |

*Includes one complaint from an incident that occurred in the City of Syracuse but involved the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department. The CRB's jurisdiction does not extend to the Sheriff's Department.

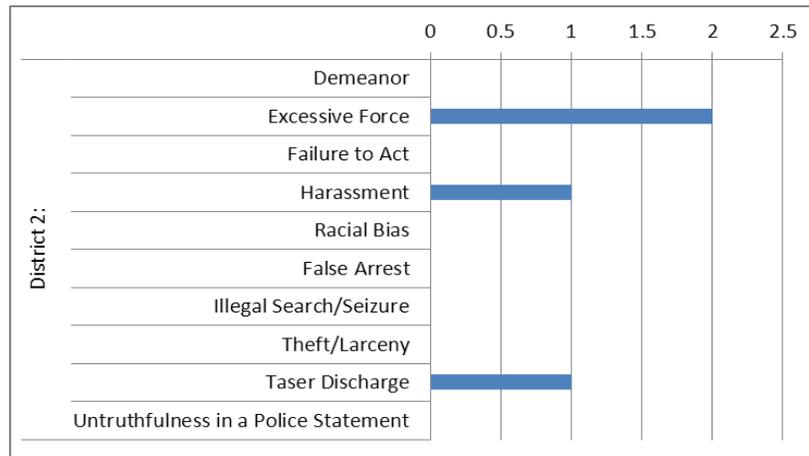


Number and type of complaints in Common Council Districts during 4th quarter of 2012

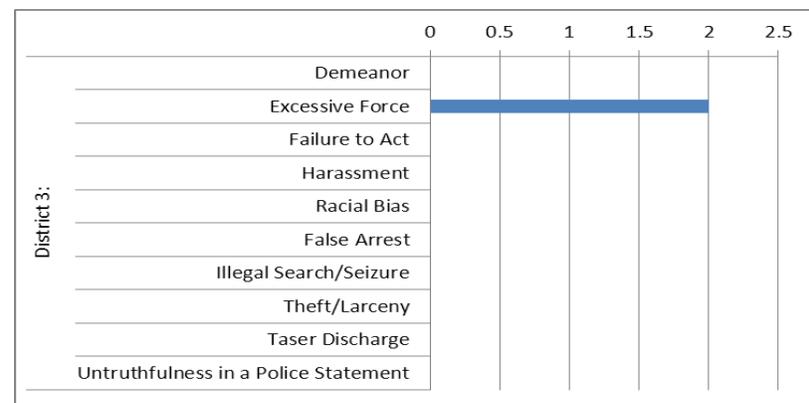
District 1:



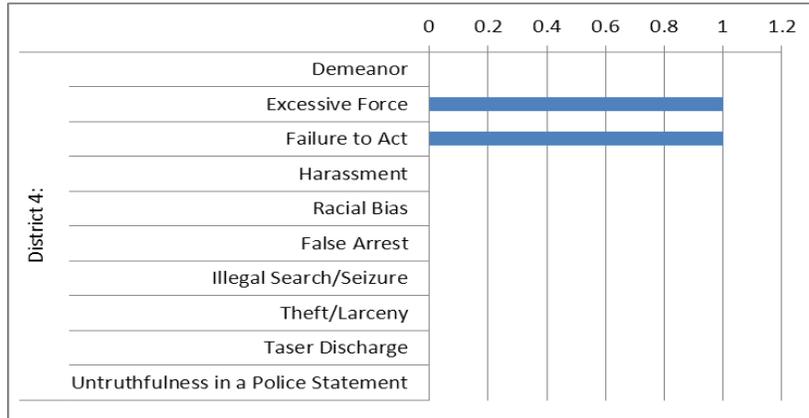
District 2:



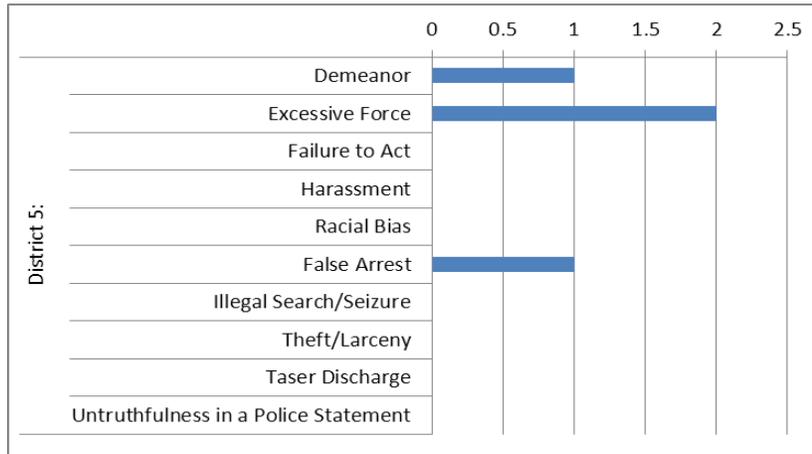
District 3:



District 4:

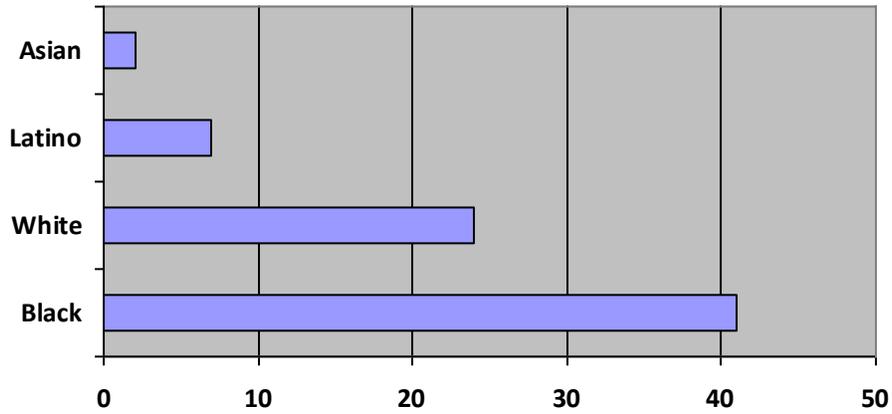


District 5:

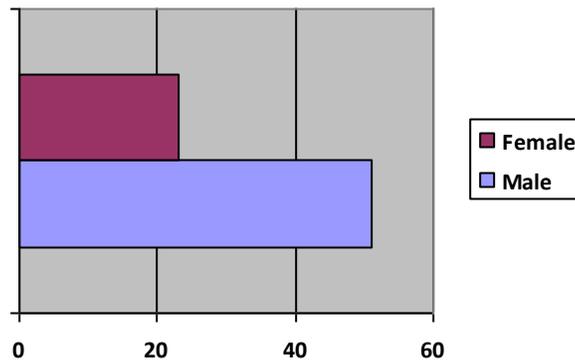


Graphs of Complainant Demographics for All Complaints Received in 2012

| Black | White | Latino | Asian | Total |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 41 | 24 | 7 | 2 | 74 |
| 55.4% | 32.4% | 9.4% | 2.7% | 100% |



| Sex | | |
|------------|----|-----|
| Male | 51 | 69% |
| Female | 23 | 31% |



| Age | | |
|----------|----|-------|
| Under 18 | 3 | 4% |
| 18-35 | 21 | 28.4% |
| 36-50 | 32 | 43.2% |
| 51+ | 18 | 24.3% |

