

**City of Syracuse
 Citizen Review Board
 Meeting Minutes
 Thursday, July 11, 2019
 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>
Carter, Mae		X	Nilsson, Lori	X				
Santana, Priscilla	X		Natale, Dana	X				
Nelson, Mary	X		Ryans, Clifford	X				
Holmes, Hatisha		X	Grinnals, R.Daniels	X				
Kutz, Ruth		X	Brunson, Cynthia	X				
McCarthy, Peter	X		Releford, Ranette	X				

On Thursday, July 11, 2019, the City of Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) held an open, stated meeting at 304 City Hall in the Common Council Chambers.

Peter McCarthy, 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. On motion duly made by Mr. Ryans, seconded by Ms. Brunson, and adopted, the Board approved the Minutes of the June 6, 2019, Board meeting, with no corrections, all agree.
2. Chairperson’s Items
 - a. The Chairperson passed out an attachment with suggested duties/responsibilities of the Board. Items discussed were attendance policy at meetings and community service events; excused vs. unexcused absences and procedure to request removal of a Board member. These policies will be helpful for potential Board members to understand the commitment required before they take the Oath. All Board members should review this document and be prepared to come to a consensus so that we can put official policy into effect January 1, 2020.
 - b. The Centro Bus ads have been installed in six shelters and thirty-five buses.
 - c. Mr. McCarthy and Ms. Releford met with the Mayor, the Police Chief and the Deputy Chief. The Chief committed to several things required by the Ordinance.
3. Administrator’s Report
 - a. The CRB received 16 new cases in June 2019, bringing the 2019 total to 58. The Board will be reviewing 5 cases this evening.
 - b. Financials are provided with a reminder that the new fiscal year began on July 1, 2019.

- c. Ms. Natale moves and Ms. Santana seconds that the Board approve payment of the Pitirre Investigations bill for \$788.00 for work done in the 2018-2019 Budget. The Board agrees unanimously.
- d. The 2018 Annual Report and 2019 First Quarter Report have been provided to the Council, the Mayor, the CRB website and to the Syracuse Police Department. The 2019 Second Quarter Report is due July 31, 2019.
- e. We do still have 24 outstanding 2017 cases and approximately 42 outstanding 2018 cases and we have been receiving feedback from SPD on these cases.
- f. Ms. Releford reminded Ms. Brunson and Ms. Santana that she needs Bios from them for the CRB website.
- g. The CRB Summer Intern was introduced.

4. Committees

a. Community Outreach

i. In June, the CRB attended the following events:

- A. Interfaith Works Duck Race to End Racism
- B. Jumpstart Info Session – directed to youth component
- C. Girls and Boys Club Meeting
- D. Juneteenth
- E. Barbeque at the Shonnard Street Girls and Boys Club
- F. SNUG BBQ at Kirk Park
- G. Pride Festival
- H. Westmoreland BBQ
- I. Black Pride Cookout
- J. World Refugee Day

ii. In July, the CRB will attend the following events. Ms. Releford encourages Board members to participate as much as possible and to make sure they let her know which events they will attend and for what period of time. All Board members should wear their CRB shirts. A calendar is provided:

- A. July 12th – Street Addiction Institute on the 100 block of Coolidge Street from 1PM – 7PM
- B. 7/24 – ADA Rally and Parade
- C. 7/25 – SPD Community Forum @ Southside Innovation
- D. 7/27 – Get the Lead Out in the Dunk N Bright lot

- iii. Ms. Brunson expressed concern that we only have one banner. Ms. Releford will check the budget to see if we can afford a banner or a tablecloth in case we have two events at the same time. Ms. Natale moves that she do so, Mr. McCarthy seconds, all agree.

b. Government Relations

- i. Before the new Chief started, Ms. Releford and Mr. McCarthy met with the City regarding the Corporation Counsel's comments about the CRB. We agreed not to publish a letter if the City agreed to meet with the CRB again. This meeting happened on July 10, 2019, with the following topics being discussed:
 - A. The Chief agreed to meet monthly with Ms. Releford.
 - B. It was agreed that OPS will catch up on backlog.
 - C. CRB can have a table at all upcoming Forums.
 - D. Clarification was made by the Chief of his comments at the Use of Force Forum. He said "it was against due process for him to investigate cases prior to my taking office", but he was only talking about old cases that already had dispositions. The SPD will still address the 2017-18 cases pending with the CRB.
- ii. The Mayor had to leave the meeting, but it was continued with the Chief and the Deputy Mayor. At this time Mr. McCarthy spoke about the perception of the CRB and how statements by the Police and the City appear to be dismissive of the CRB. Mr. McCarthy made clear to them that the City Officials need to understand that the Community is demanding that the CRB have more credibility.
- iii. The meeting ended on a less amicable note than it should have and Mr. McCarthy shared an email he sent today to the Chief and Deputy Mayor apologizing for his strong words and explaining that we all need to work collaboratively.
- iv. Mr. Ryans stated that the CRB should have more visibility in the Community and support the citizens of Syracuse.
- v. Ms. Brunson noted that she went to a community event and she feels that a lot of people don't know about the CRB.
- vi. Ms. Releford notes that Board members should be doing daily outreach in addition to what she does. All of the eleven members need to be letting the Citizens in their Districts know about the CRB. She has more than enough magnet cards available for all of the Board to have at their daily disposal. She is also working with the City to send brochures to the printshop.
- vii. Ms. Releford notes that tables are not the most effective way to disseminate information and that all Board members should consistently give the same message to citizens.
- viii. Ms. Nelson states that if we become silent, the people become silent.

- ix. Mr. McCarthy states that the people must believe that the CRB can have an effect. City Officials and the SPD have both suggested that the CRB Ordinance needs adjustment. It is our responsibility to see that the Ordinance does not get weakened.
- x. Ms. Nilsson disagrees that the CRB had anything to do with the Use of Force Policy. Ms. Releford states that the CRB was mentioned at the Use of Force Summit and the Moore Conference. Further, the SPD will be discussing the Use of Force Policy with us at the August 8th training.
- xi. Ms. Releford states that the CRB members cannot just say what they think individually. If and when we do a public statement, it should not be in response to an incident or in anger. We must be strategic and cohesively represent the CRB and think about the outcome of such statements.
- xii. Ms. Releford states that the CRB has been rebuilding for two years to have the strength to proceed and meet our goals. It will take the entire Board's cooperation to make this work.
- xiii. Mr. McCarthy suggests we discuss the CRB's public image at our next meeting.
- xiv. Ms. Nilsson suggests that someone from the Government Relations Committee be present at the next meeting with the Mayor.

c. Police Relations Committee

- i. The Police Relations Committee of the CRB met with two SPD Officers that have been assigned to the Police Liaison Committee.
- ii. An agreement was made at that time to the following: August 8, 2019, the SPD will hold training for the CRB on the Body Worn Camera, Use of Force, Chokehold and Shooting at Moving Vehicle Policies, and CRB previous recommendations. This training will be held in the training room at PSB at 5:30 p.m.
- iii. The SPD did review CRB suggestions on the Use of Force Policy when they developed the new policy.
- iv. The SPD and the CRB agreed to meet quarterly. Meetings are scheduled for September 12th at 9:00 a.m. and December 12th at 9:00 a.m.

5. New Business – none

6. Public Comment (6:30 PM)

- a. A community member notes that he is feeling very positive about the work of the current Board. He has been coming to meetings since 2012.

- b. The public needs the CRB to build trust with the Police. The Community needs the Police.
 - c. The logo's appearance on the interior bus signs are very important; the current signs do not reflect this as the logo is much smaller than anticipated.
7. Mr. Ryans moves to move to Executive Session, Ms. Brunson seconds. Meeting continued in Executive Session.

During the Executive Session, the Board voted on the following cases to determine whether to forward the case to a CRB hearing:

Case Number: 18-005	Hearing
Case Number: 18-006	Hearing
Case Number: 18-048	No Hearing
Case Number: 18-070	No Hearing
Case Number: 19-007	Closed as CRB lacks jurisdiction

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Natale
1st District Appointee, Citizen Review Board