

**City of Syracuse
Citizen Review Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 3, 2018
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
215 City Hall, iLab Room
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 | | Natale, Dana | X | | | | |
| Comeau, Herve | | X | Nelson, Mary | | X | | | |
| Grinnals, R. Daniels | X | | Nilsson, Lori | X | | | | |
| Holmes, Hatisha | X | | Ryans, Clifford | X | | | | |
| Kutz, Ruth | X | | Releford, Ranette | X | | | | |
| McCarthy, Peter | X | | Pearson, Betty L. | X | | | | |

On Thursday, May 3, 2018, the City of Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) held an open, stated meeting at 215 City Hall in the iLab Room.

Ms. Kutz, 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 Mr. McCarthy and adopted, the Board approved the Minutes of the April 12, 2018, Board meeting.
2. Chairman's Items
 - a. Board Vacancy – The Second District appointment remains open.
 - b. Resignation of CRB Chairperson/Election of new CRB Chairperson – Ms. Kutz announced that she is resigning as CRB Chairperson. On motion made by Ms. Holmes, seconded by Ms. Natale, the Board voted to accept Ms. Kutz' resignation. On nomination made by Ms. Carter, seconded Ms. Natale, the Board voted Mr. McCarthy as Chair. Ms. Holmes will continue as Vice Chair. Ms. Kutz turned the meeting over to Mr. McCarthy.
 - c. Administrator's Six-Month Evaluation – Ms. Releford received a six-month evaluation. A salary adjustment will go in effect in July. Funds to cover the adjustment will have to be moved from other areas of the approved 2018-19 budget.
3. Administrator's Report
 - a. Activity Report

Search For A New Police Chief – Ms. Releford reported attending most of the public meetings the City of Syracuse held for community participation in the search for a new chief of police. Each area has a unique perspective based on the

makeup of the community. The process for becoming an officer was also discussed as a new class of recruits is expected to start the academy this year. The next step for hiring a new chief is to hire a search firm, if necessary, that specializes in law enforcement hiring. In May, the candidate profile will be developed, reviewed with stakeholders and a public forum held to introduce the search firm. The search will be conducted in June, July and August with finalists selected by September 1. Public engagement with finalists will be in mid-October. The release of the final candidate's profile and naming of the next chief will be in November with him or her on the job by December.

- b. Syracuse Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition – Ms. Releford reported attending a Syracuse Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition meeting to help formulate the Youth Advisory Committee. The Prevention Network will host “Hidden Mischief” Thursday, May 17, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at 906 Spencer Street. The “Hidden Mischief” program is for parents and other caring adults in the community. It gives participants an opportunity to explore a mock teen bedroom to search for hidden drugs and paraphernalia, while learning about concealment methods and drug culture references. It will be a revelation for just how easy it is for drug and alcohol references to be hidden in plain sight. Many of the objects set up in the room have special hidden compartments that can be used to stash things like drugs. A discussion about the room and current trends and an opportunity for questions and answers will follow.
 - c. 2018 First Quarter – Ms. Releford stated that the 2018 First Quarter Report would be complete by the end of May.
 - d. Monthly Financial Report – Ms. Releford shared the detailed breakdown of expenditures for the year to date. On motion made by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Ms. Natale, the Board voted to pay an invoice for \$131.65 from Industrial Color Labs. On motion made by Ms. Nilsson, seconded by Ms. Kutz, the Board voted to pay an invoice for \$3,149.25 from Bousquet Holstein PLLC.
 - e. April case statistics – Ms. Releford reported that 11 new cases were received in April. She stated the total received in 2018 is 32 and that five cases will be reviewed during Executive Session. She shared a breakdown of letters received from Chief Frank Fowler. She is still waiting for letters for cases before the lawsuit.
4. Committees
- a. Community Outreach and Public Education – Ms. Holmes reported that the CRB will present or participate in:
 - “Know Your Rights” with Teens, Thursday, May 31, 6:00 PM at NEHDA, Inc./Syracuse Northeast Community Center, 716 Hawley Avenue. Training for Board members will be Monday, May 14, 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM and Thursday,

May 24, 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM in the City Hall Commons Atrium. Ms. Releford reported that the Onondaga County Probation Department would like “Know Your Rights” presented at Hillbrook Juvenile Detention Center. It will also be used at pop-up meetings.

- b. Board Developments and Training – Mr. McCarthy reported that the full-day training will take place on Saturday, May 19, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the 1199SEIU Office, 250 South Clinton Street. Ms. Nancy Keefe Rhodes, Former Common Councilor Charles Anderson and Attorney Alan Rosenthal will present the CRB’s history. Outside Counsel Harry Williams will speak on the lawsuit. First Chief ADA Rick Trunfio will speak on referring cases to the District Attorney. Chief Frank Fowler will present “Live to Tell Your Story.” Former Board members Ms. Diane Turner and Mr. Louis Levine will speak on being a CRB member and a community member.
 - c. Government Relations – Ms. Nelson and Mr. Ryans walked through the community with Common Councilors. Mr. Ryans attended the vigil on Cortland Avenue for three shooting victims.
 - d. Police Relations – Ms. Releford stated that Detective Mark Rusin, Sergeant Brian Williams and Ms. Christine DeJoseph from the Corporation Counsel’s office would be in Executive Session to explain use of force in cases to be discussed at that meeting, so come with questions. Ms. Holmes asked if the questions can be asked in the public meeting as only Board members should be in Executive Session. The answer was that they will not be there when the cases are reviewed.
5. Public Comment (6:30 pm)
- Mr. Mustafa Robinson spoke regarding the search for the police chief stating the he does not feel hiring from within is a good idea. We need someone not intimidated by the union who will hold officers accountable.
- Mr. Mikiel Anderson made statements or asked questions regarding the budget hearings. Since the Department of Personnel & Labor Relations negotiates the contract for the police, Personnel & Labor Relations should be utilized to compel officers to come to hearings. The Syracuse Police Department has funds budgeted for a program with InterFaith Works to improve community relations. One Councilor feels that is a duplication of services. SPD should collaborate with the CRB doing community outreach. The money saved could go towards hiring a part-time investigator and medical examiner.
6. 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:

17-053 Hearing
17-063 No Hearing
17-066 Tabled
18-022 No Hearing
18-025 No Hearing

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

Respectfully submitted,

Betty L. Pearson
Typist II, Citizen Review Board