

**City of Syracuse  
Citizen Review Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, September 4, 2014  
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>
Adan, Haji A.	X		Milliken, Carol	X				
Barber, William	X		Stuart-McIlvain, Sarah	X				
Horan, Carole J.	X		Timmons, Tafara Blake		X			
Levine, Louis	X		Turner, V. Diane	X				
Livingston, Mallory	X		Lipari, Joseph L.	X				
Masella, Joseph	X		Pearson, Betty L.	X				

On Thursday, September 4, 2014, the City of Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) held an open, stated meeting at 304 City Hall in the Common Council Chambers.

Mr. Masella, 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 Ms. Horan, seconded by Mr. Adan and adopted, the Board approved the Minutes of the August 7, 2014 Board meeting.
2. Chairman's Items
  - a. Update on Notice of Claim issue – A favorable resolution of the issue has been reached and the CRB will receive official notification from Corporation Counsel soon. From now on, the CRB will receive all documents from the Police Department even when a Notice of Claim is filed. Mr. Masella thanked Mr. Lipari for his work on the issue. The Board then discussed acquiring the previously withheld findings/reasonings from Chief Frank Fowler when a Notice of Claim had been filed under the prior policy. The Board expressed its desire to receive all of Chief Fowler's past findings that had not been received. The CRB Administrator will work with Chief Fowler to facilitate the provision of those responses.
  - b. Possible External Review of Complaint Statistics and Use of Force Policy – In response to Councilor Pamela Hunter's desire to understand how the Syracuse CRB's numbers compare to other cities, the Board discussed the possibility of contracting with an outside firm or academic expert to conduct an assessment of SPD use of force policy and disciplinary practices.

### 3. Administrator's Report

#### a. Discussion of August 19 Public Safety Committee meeting

- Mr. Lipari indicated that he would be sending a letter to Chief Fowler offering support for any grant applications for body cameras. This technology has led to significant declines in complaints and uses of force in the departments that have adopted their use, can protect officers from false allegations and can bring greater clarity to investigations that involve conflicting accounts of an incident.
- Follow up with Chief Fowler on review of Use of Force policy – At the Public Safety Committee meeting, Councilor Jean Kessner asked that there be follow up with Chief Fowler on his commitment to review the department's use of force policy in conjunction with the CRB.

#### b. Update on CRB At-Large appointment – Several candidates have been under consideration since July; however, a lack of city residency has derailed the appointment of some prospective appointees. A strong candidate from the Latino community is currently under consideration, but he too is awaiting the resolution of a residency issue before he can be appointed to the CRB.

#### c. Contracting with medical expert – Mr. Lipari suggested that the CRB enter into an annual contract with a medical expert to provide examination of medical records when necessary. He suggested an annual contract of \$5,000 to \$6,000.00 to be expended on an as-needed basis. The CRB would have to identify three contractors who would then provide proposals that would have to be selected and approved by the CRB, the Common Council, and the Mayor's office. Mr. Barber indicated that he knows individuals who do that kind of work and will assist in identifying possible contractors.

#### d. Reminder of upcoming outreach events: September 21, 2014, Westcott Street Cultural Fair

#### e. NACOLE Conference September 14 to 18, Kansas City, MO – Mr. Lipari shared the schedule, outlining the workshops he will attend.

#### f. Monthly Financial Report – Mr. Lipari shared the updated detailed breakdown of expenditures for the year.

#### g. August case statistics - Nine new cases were received in August. The total received in 2014 is 71. Five cases will be reviewed during Executive Session.

### 4. Committees

#### a. Update by Ad-hoc committee on suggested revisions to the CRB ordinance – The ad-hoc committee met to refine the suggestions for changes to the CRB ordinance and reported these suggestions to the full Board. The Board

elected to continue to review the proposals and vote on approval of these suggested revisions at next month's meeting.

- b. Police Liaison Committee – Mr. Lipari reviewed the proposed agenda items for the initial meeting. He sent invitations to the appointed officers asking for dates and times of their availability. It is expected that the first Police Liaison meeting will occur sometime during the month of September.
5. New Business  
Discussion on selection of Vice-Chair – Ms. Livingston nominated Mr. Barber and Ms. Turner seconded. Mr. Barber accepted the nomination and was elected by a unanimous vote to be the CRB's Vice Chairman.
  6. Public Comment  
Mr. Mustafa Robinson asked about Mr. Lipari's ride-along.  
Ms. Ebony Farrow asked if Ordinance changes would be in the August minutes. The response was that the process will take several months and will be in the next quarterly or annual report. She asked how Board members are appointed and Mr. Lipari explained the appointment process. She concluded by complimenting the Board on their work.  
Mr. Mikiel Anderson asked several questions including when the Committee of Five will meet to conduct the annual review of the Administrator's performance, the status of Mr. Lipari's election to the NACOLE Board, the implications for the CRB of Mayor Miner's current position on the SPD's use of force policy, the abbreviated public comment period for the Common Council's August 19 Public Safety Committee meeting, the CRB's capacity to conduct Spanish language outreach, and what effect the situation in Ferguson, MO has had on the CRB's work. Mr. Lipari and the Board responded to each of Mr. Anderson's questions.
  7. Meeting continued in Executive Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Betty L. Pearson  
Typist II, Citizen Review Board