

**City of Syracuse
 Citizen Review Board
 Meeting Minutes
 Thursday, December 6, 2018
 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
 Common Council Chambers
 Public Comment - 20 minutes at 6:30 PM**

Name	P	A	Name	P	A	Name	P	A
Carter, Mae	X		Natale, Dana	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, December 6, 2018, 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. Daniels, seconded by Ms. Nelson, and adopted, the Board approved the Minutes of the November 8, 2018, Board meeting.
2. Board Action Items – Office Intern, Alyssa is working on two projects (1) Myths and the CRB – using social media to dispel myths and (2) do other CRS’s use medical/private investigators.
3. Chairman’s Items
 - a. Interfaith Works – Mr. McCarthy and Ms. Releford have had a few meetings:
 - Racism dialogue circles
 - Annual training with them
 - By-Laws require a conciliation process – SPD hasn’t accepted any agency yet – maybe they would be interested?
 - b. A summary of Board Member terms and expiration dates is provided.
 - c. Ms. Releford is inviting the new Police Chief to meetings and will organize a meeting with him.

d. Mr. Daniels, Ms. Releford and Mr. McCarthy interviewed two private investigators in the \$50 - \$75 price range.

- CRB would like to have more than one on our approved list because both had different strengths and to avoid potential conflicts of interest.
- Having a Private Investigator will help CRB meet time constraints and take pressure off of Ms. Releford.
- There is money allocated in the budget.

e. SPAARC had a Use of Force Forum on Saturday at which Mr. McCarthy made a presentation about the history of the CRB.

- There were approximately 50 people there and it was covered by Spectrum and syracuse.com.
- Ms. Releford and Mr. McCarthy did an interview with WAER after the SPAARC meeting.
- Ms. Releford spoke with Chief Buckner regarding a video of community concerns. He did see the video.

f. The Administrator's Review was done by a five member panel and is complete.

g. The CRB is pursuing clarification from Corporate Counsel on a number of issues including confidentiality and Executive Session. Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Daniels and Ms. Natale will work on this.

h. Mr. McCarthy and Ms. Releford previously discussed that Det. Mark Rusin of SPD offered CRB four hours of Use of Force training and will follow-up with him.

i. Policy/Training Recommendations:

- Met with Public Safety Committee of the Common Council regarding our recommendations to the SPD.
- Other CRB's take part in police in-service trainings

4. Administrator's Report

a. 2018 had 75 cases with 10 in October, 5 in November and 1 in December.

b. CRB will be reviewing 9 cases tonight.

c. We went over budget for training and we will be asking for more money and looking for grants.

d. CRB is again putting Body Worn Camera recommendations forth to the Chief.

e. Use of Force Summit:

- 525 sworn officers and 5 members of civilian oversight attended
- It was emphasized the BWC footage should NOT take the place of Officer's perception
- Ms. Releford found it interesting to hear how Officer's really interact and how they really feel about the use of force and CRB's
- Good recommendations were made that the CRB should train with the Police.
- Control vs. force tactics were addressed.
- Video footage interpretation was discussed.
- IA Pro software was discussed.
- Use of force "report writing" was discussed. Ms. Releford has handouts.

5. Committees

a. Community Outreach

- December 7, 2018, is the tree lighting event.
- Mr. Ryans has spoken with schools and libraries for beginning of the year planning.
- We would also like to do presentations about the history of the CRB.

b. Board Development and Training

- 2019's Board Development training is being planned.

c. Government Relations

- Mr. Ryans met with the new County Executive.
- Mr. McCarthy and Ms. Releford met with Steve Thompson, Joe Driscoll, Tim Rudd and Latoya Allen.

d. Police Relations

- Met with Interfaith Works on Monday – may pursue them as a conciliation company.
- Met with Chief Fowler regarding early warning systems.

6. New Business - CRB Study

- Theresa is will send interview requests to members of the CRB. These will be anonymous.
- This week is the 25th anniversary of the CRB.

7. Public Comment (6:30 pm)

- Mustafa has been coming to CRB meetings since 2012 and says the CRB members took an oath to represent the citizens and that officers need to be held accountable and CRB needs to be sincere in pursuing that.
- Mustafa suggests that we record CRB meetings like the Common Council meetings.
- Mustafa notes that Peter McCarthy did a good job at the SPAARC presentation.
- Linda Ballic from SPAARC said that the meeting on Saturday was good and deeply disturbing. The stories were emotional and no public officials were there. There is a separation between City Officials and those looking for justice. Lori Nilsson asks if they were invited and Linda Ballic answers yes. She does believe Helen Hudson was watching the livestream on Facebook.
- Linda Ballic is curious what happens to CRB recommendations. Peter McCarthy notes that we don't have good historical information but that Ranette Releford is keeping much better track of that now.
- Lori Nilsson will be looking into recommendations and how/if they were/are implemented.
- Linda Ballic notes that we are looking for REAL dialogues on SRO's.
- Peter McCarthy notes that the CRB process is an effective model, but the government and police unions must cooperate.
- Ranette Releford notes that the CRB has subpoena power, outside counsel, makes policy recommendations and can refer criminal charges to the DA's office. What our CRB is missing is the requirement that police must participate.
- Clifford Ryans says that the Police Chief and the Mayor need to come to the table to address issues and cooperate.
- Peter McCarthy and Ranette Releford advise that they addressed comments made by the Corporation Counsel about the CRB with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.
- Mikiel Anderson passed out a handout full of questions. Questions were answered by Ranette Releford:
 - Is CRB OK with someone not on the Board at Executive Session? *This happened once and we are pursuing clarification.*

- Who is the legal counsel to the CRB? *Corporation Counsel unless there is a conflict of interest. Harry Williams retired and Bousquet Holstein has a replacement.*
- Is there a need for a medical consultant or an interpreter? *We have utilized interpreters and not yet seen a need for a medical consultant.*
- Are there plans to reach out to other agencies for advice on how to gather information? *Ranette Releford just received a full week of training on this topic.*

Mr. Ryans moves to continue to Executive Session, Mr. Hatisha Holmes 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:	17-022	Tabled
	17-111	Hearing
	18-014	Hearing
	18-017	No Hearing
	18-018	No Hearing
	18-020	No Hearing
	18-026	No Hearing
	18-029	Hearing

On motion duly made by Ruth Kutz, seconded by Hatisha Holmes and unanimously adopted, the Board adjourned its meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Natale
1st District Appointee