

**City of Syracuse
Citizen Review Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 2, 2015
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		Masella, Joseph	X		Common Councilor		
Barber, William	X		Milliken, Carol	X		Hunter, Pamela	X	
Christiana, Peter		X	Timmons, Tafara Blake	X				
Horan, Carole J.	X		Turner, V. Diane	X				
Levine, Louis	X		Lipari, Joseph L.	X				
Livingston, Mallory	X		Pearson, Betty L.	X				

On Thursday, April 2, 2015, the City of Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) held an open, stated meeting at 304 City Hall in the Common Council Chambers.

Mr. Barber, 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. Masella, seconded by Ms. Horan and adopted, the Board approved the Minutes of the March 5, 2015, Board meeting, as corrected.
2. Board Action Items
 - a. Review and Vote on Contract Investigator Proposals – Mr. Lipari provided proposals from AG Investigations, LLC and Pitrre Investigations. Mr. Lipari stated that he is waiting on one from Heather Kukowski Investigations LLC as in most cases three proposals are needed. On motion made by Ms. Horan, seconded by Mr. Adan and adopted, the Board approved the selection of AG Investigations, LLC.
3. Chairman’s Items
 - a. Report on Annual Evaluation of Administrator – Bill Barber reported on the ongoing evaluation process. Barber reported that the committee of five has met and discussed the evaluation. The committee is now in the process of finalizing the evaluation.
 - b. Discussion of DOJ’s Report on Ferguson, MO – Discussion was tabled for a future meeting.
4. Administrator’s Report
 - a. Report on March 23 Public Safety Committee meeting on CRB Annual Report – Mr. Lipari reported on the CRB appearance before the Common Council to review

the CRB's 2014 Annual Report. Mr. Lipari stated that the report was well received and the councilors asked many questions regarding the CRB process, panel findings, and the implementation of the CRB's annual policy recommendations. Mr. Lipari reported that it appeared that the CRB retains strong support amongst the Common Council. Mr. Lipari thanked the Board members who were able to attend for their presence.

- b. Renewed emphasis on developing the CRB conciliation process – Mr. Lipari reported that during the Annual Report review with the Common Council, concern was expressed that there has not been sufficient emphasis on offering conciliation during the complaint process. Mr. Lipari reported that as a result, he has reached out to New Justice Conflict Resolution Services and an option for conciliation will be added to the complaint form. Mr. Lipari also stated that additional language regarding the conciliation process will also be added to all letters that are sent to complainants and officers. The Board discussed how and when conciliation would be offered and the fact that both the complainant and the officer(s) would have to agree to conciliation before it is scheduled.
- c. CRB Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget Hearing – Mr. Lipari indicated that the hearing for the 2015-16 CRB budget with the Common Council will be Thursday, April 9 at 10:00 AM in Council Chambers. All Board members who are able to were asked to attend.
- d. Administrator's participation in US-Russia Social Expertise Exchange Program, April 19 to May 1 – Mr. Lipari reported on his upcoming trip to St. Petersburg, Russia as part of the U.S. – Russia Social Expertise Exchange Program. Mr. Lipari stated that SEE (www.usrussiasocialexpertise.org) is an expansion of the US-Russia Civil Society Partnership Program (CSPP) that was launched in May 2011. He also stated that the Eurasia Foundation (www.eurasia.org) funds and implements the SEE program. Mr. Lipari noted that he will be traveling to St. Petersburg as an Advanced Practitioner Fellow to share the history and practice of civilian oversight of law enforcement in the U.S. with Russian colleagues and to learn about the challenges currently facing advocates of civilian oversight of police in Russia.
- e. Monthly Financial Report – Mr. Lipari shared the detailed breakdown of expenditures for the year to date.
- f. March case statistics – Mr. Lipari reported that ten new cases were received in March. He stated the total received in 2015 is 18 and that seven cases will be reviewed during Executive Session.

5. Committees

- a. Outreach Committee: Planning 2015 Outreach Events – Mr. Lipari asked the Outreach Committee to think of topics that would be of interest to the public on which he or someone else can do provide community outreach presentations.
- b. Police Liaison Committee: Developing a Tiered System of Disciplinary Recommendations – Mr. Lipari shared a sample of a tiered system for disciplinary recommendations that could be used to determine disciplinary recommendations when allegations in a complaint are sustained. The board liked the standardization of the disciplinary options, but rejected the idea proposed by the police department through the Liaison Committee that the CRB panels should solely indicate the level or seriousness of the infraction instead of specific disciplinary recommendations.

6. New Business

There was no new business.

7. Public Comment (6:30 pm)

There were no comments from the public.

After discussion, the board passed the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the CRB hereby directs the Administrator to make all inquiries necessary or desirable to determine whether and/or under what circumstances:

(a) any panel hearing conducted by the CRB more than sixty (60) days after the filing of the complaint pertaining thereto is both authorized and valid pursuant to the CRB ordinance and applicable law, and (b) procedures for holding and concluding hearings for any cases which heretofore or hereafter did or would occur later than such sixty (60) day interval. Such inquiries shall include without limitation requesting written analysis and opinion from outside counsel.

8. Meeting continued in Executive Session.

During the Executive Session Mr. Lipari and Ms. Pearson were asked to leave Council Chambers while the Board discussed the specifics of the current evaluation of the Administrator.

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

15-007	No Hearing
15-008	No Hearing
15-009	Hearing
15-010	No Hearing
15-011	No Hearing
15-014	No Hearing
15-015	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