

**City of Syracuse
Citizen Review Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 2, 2018
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		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, August 2, 2018, the City of Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) held an open, stated meeting at 304 City Hall in the Common Council Chambers.

Mr. 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. Natale and adopted, the Board approved the Minutes of the June 7, 2018, Board meeting.
2. Chairman's Items
 - a. CRB's Letter with recommendations for Syracuse Police Department Body-Worn Camera Policy – A letter was submitted to Deputy Mayor Sharon Owens who shared it with the Syracuse Police Department. Mr. Joseph R. H. Doyle, Esq. of the SPD contacted Ms. Releford to thank her for her thorough research and indicated he would be in touch with her as SPD and Corporation Counsel formulate the policy. SPD will not use the cameras until the policy is in place. Mr. McCarthy asked who approves the final policy. Mr. Ryans stated that it is his understanding that the chief of police does. Mr. Grinnals asked if the Board was consulted on formulating the policy. The answer is yes. The material presented to Deputy Mayor Owens included information gathered from the Manlius Police Department, Syracuse University's Department of Public Safety, the United States Department of Justice and Civil Rights leaders.
 - b. Member participation in Community Outreach and Public Education events – Mr. McCarthy asked Board members to sign up for Community Outreach and Public Education events on the sign-up sheets provided.

3. Administrator's Report

- a. June and July Hearing Response Letters – Ms. Releford reported that two hearings were held between June and July and she is awaiting Chief Frank Fowler's responses.
- b. Second Quarterly Report – Ms. Releford reported that the second quarterly report is complete with the exception of Chief Fowler's responses.
- c. National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement Conference – The 24th Annual Conference of NACOLE is September 30 to October 4, 2018 in St. Petersburg, FL. Ms. Releford will attend to learn and bring back the best practices in civilian oversight of law enforcement. The date of the October Board meeting will be changed from Thursday, October 4.
- d. Board Vacancy – Ms. Releford reported that she interviewed a potential Board member and that the Second Council District vacancy may be filled by the end of the quarter.
- e. Monthly Financial Report – Ms. Releford shared the detailed breakdown of expenditures for the year to date.
- f. June and July case statistics – Ms. Releford reported that two new cases were received in June and eight in July. She stated the total received in 2018 is 46 and that ten cases will be reviewed during Executive Session.

4. Committees

- a. Community Outreach and Public Education – Mr. Ryans and Ms. Releford reported that the CRB participated in or presented:
 - Syracuse City School District's Parent University "Know Your Rights" Presentation Tuesday, June 12, 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM, Southwest Community Center
 - Juneteenth, Saturday, June 16, 12:00 PM to 10:00 PM, Clinton Square
 - Central New York Pride Festival Saturday, June 16, 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM, near the Inner Harbor
 - Southwest Showcase Sunday, June 17, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Jubilee Park, South Avenue
 - Unity Day, Friday, June 22, 3:00 PM to 6:30 PM, Kirk Park
 - "Operation Safe Surrender," Friday, June 29, 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM, Southwest Community Center

"Operation Safe Surrender" is a program that clears warrants for minor offenses. It applies to warrants in the City of Syracuse for charges that include non-criminal and traffic violations. Individuals who take part in the program do not face arrest and their charges are addressed and resolved. It is part of

an effort to help the community as expunging the warrants could clear a path to a job or driver's license.

- Southwest Showcase Sunday, July 8, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Jubilee Park, South Avenue
- Unity Day, Friday, July 13, 3:00 PM to 6:30 PM, Wilson Park
- Southwest Showcase Sunday, July 22, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM Jubilee Park, South Avenue
- 2018 CNY Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Celebration – program and parade, Thursday, July 26, City Hall Commons Atrium
- “Operation Safe Surrender,” Friday, July 27, 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM, Southwest Community Center

and will participate in:

- Elk Street Block Party, Saturday, August 11, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
- Near Westside Initiative Multicultural Block Party, Thursday, August 16, 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM, Skiddy Park
- Unity Day, Friday, August 17, 3:00 PM to 6:30 PM, East Fayette and Ellis Streets
- 16th Annual Mary Nelson School Supply Giveaway, Saturday, August 18, 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM, South Salina Street and Wood Avenue
- Southwest Showcase Sunday, August 19, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Jubilee Park, South Avenue
- “Operation Safe Surrender,” Friday, August 24, 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM, Southwest Community Center
- Westcott Street Cultural Fair, Sunday, September 23, 12:00 PM to 6:30 PM, Westcott Street (and side streets) between Concord and Dell Streets

Ms. Releford reported that the Onondaga County District Attorney's office is considering holding “Operation Safe Surrender” in other areas of the city. Ms. Releford shared that she will attend the opening ceremony of the Great New York State Fair's Latino Village, Friday, August 24. The Village will operate to Sunday, August 26 at the Fair's New York Experience area on the western end of the Fairgrounds and is part of the Fair's ongoing effort to represent the diverse cultures of New York State.

Ms. Nilsson asked the public to attend the events. The events will be added to the CRB's Facebook page.

b. Board Developments and Training – No report.

c. Government Relations – Mr. Ryans reported participating in a door-to-door “See Something, Say Something” campaign with Mayor Ben Walsh, Deputy Mayor Owens, Police Chief Frank Fowler, Fire Chief Michael Monds and Common Councilors Latoya Allen and Khalid Bey in the Southwest area. He stated other city departments may participate in the future.

- Ms. Releford reported that she and Mr. McCarthy met with Mr. Gary Peterson, a former police chief for the City of Martinez, CA and President and CEO of Public Sector Search & Consulting, Inc. of Rocklin, CA. The firm is helping with the search for the new police chief. Mr. Peterson shared information on other CRBs, Seattle, WA, in particular. The Seattle police department is under a consent decree. Mr. Peterson encouraged the Syracuse CRB to push harder in the relationship with the police.
- d. Police Relations – The Police Liaison Committee needs to meet prior to end of third quarter.
5. New Business
 - a. Summer Intern – Ms. Releford introduced Ms. Dyna “Toni” Umutoni, the CRB’s summer intern and explained some of the projects she has been working on. Toni is a graduate of Henninger High School. She will attend Wells College.
 6. CRB Study – Ms. Theresa Rocha Beardall, J.D., and a Ph.D. candidate at Cornell University gave a progress report on her study of the Board. She has begun to create an organizational timeline of the Board from the newspaper clippings that she has categorized for history, training and education. She commented on the pushback from former mayors and police chiefs and the support from the newspapers and community members. It was not uncommon for Board chairs to write letters to the editors, giving progress reports or to offer insight about the Board.
 7. Public Comment (6:30 pm)

Mr. Mustafa Robinson shared thoughts on publicity for the CRB.

Ms. Carole Horan thanked the CRB for her resolution, asked if the CRB will be at the Near Westside Initiative Multicultural Block Party and asked about the capacity of the Board.

Mr. Mikiel Anderson made statements or asked questions regarding the labor agreement between the City of Syracuse and the Police Benevolent Association that was to be voted on at the July 30, 2018, Common Council meeting; investigator and medical consultant; CRB communication with SPD and Corporation Counsel on body-worn cameras and the chief search; and outreach in each Council district.

Ms. Kristen Smith, Corporation Counsel, offered clarification on the labor agreement referenced. A vote was to be taken to amend the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 and July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 city budgets to reflect the salary increases pursuant to a labor agreement between the City of Syracuse and the Police Benevolent Association. The agenda item was tabled. A vote was to be taken to approve the labor agreement between the City of Syracuse and the Police Benevolent Association for the period of January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017 with a 2% salary increase effective January 1, 2016; a 2% salary increase effective January 1, 2017; and longevity payment increased as detailed in the ordinance effective December 31, 2017. The agenda item was held. Negotiations for 2018 and beyond are restarting.

Ms. Rocha Beardall asked how the CRB is going to use Mayor Walsh's honeymoon period and how the community can help. Let the community know the vision so they can help. Mr. McCarthy stated that there is a need for public support on implementing policy recommendations because they are ignored by SPD.

8. 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:

17-072	No Hearing	17-105	No Hearing
17-088	No Hearing	17-113	No Hearing
17-099	No Hearing	17-117	No Hearing
17-102	Hearing	17-118	No Hearing
17-103	Tabled	18-001	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