

**City of Syracuse
Citizen Review Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 5, 2019
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		Nilsson, Lori	X				
Santana, Priscilla	X		Natale, Dana	X				
Nelson, Mary		X	Ryans, Clifford	X				
Holmes, Hatisha	X		Grinnals, R.Daniels	X				
Kutz, Ruth	X		Brunson, Cynthia		X			
McCarthy, Peter	X		Releford, Ranette	X				

On Thursday, September 5, 2019, 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 Ms. Carter, seconded by Mr. Ryans, and adopted, the Board approved the Minutes of the August 1, 2019, Board meeting, with no corrections, all agree.
2. Chairperson's Items
 - a. Discussion is held about the Duties/Responsibilities of a Board Member. By-laws can be changed by a majority vote, but we still need to request that the Common Council remove a member. Final wording regarding removal of a member is agreed to: "A pattern of failure to adhere to the above agreements will be grounds for the recommendation of removal from the CRB, AFTER a meeting with the Administrator, Chair and Co-Chair." Ms. Kutz makes a motion to accept, Mr. Ryans seconds and all agree. The approved Duties/Responsibilities will go into effect on January 1, 2020.
 - b. The Annual Board Training is tentatively set for March 2020. Potential speakers are Bob Stewart and the new Chief. All Board Members should forward suggestions to Ms. Releford.
 - c. A list of all Board Member contact information and terms of service are attached. The By-laws say a member can serve two full terms, then you must get off for one year.
 - d. Those who have terms expiring in December should speak with the person by whom they were appointed for timely renewal.
 - e. It is time for the Administrator's evaluation. Any Board Member who would like to volunteer for the Administrator Review Panel should contact Mr. McCarthy.

3. Administrator's Report

- a. The CRB received 13 new cases in August 2019. The Board will be reviewing 4 cases this evening. One case is from 2017 and two are from 2018.
- b. Several meetings were held this month with reports to follow.
- c. Board members should let Ms. Releford know if they have comments on the 2019 2nd Quarter Report. We have started the new 2019-20 Budget Year.
- d. Ms. Releford will be attending the NACOLE Conference in Detroit from September 21st – 26th. NACOLE is a national organization on Citizen Oversight. Those expenses are listed on the TRAINING line in the Financials. We did get \$5,000 out of a \$50,000 SPD Training Grant. We could use that money to pay for Speakers. Also, the current wording only includes "Training" but it will be changed to include "Travel".
- e. Mr. Ryans moves that we purchase a new tent, Ms. Nilsson seconds. Ms. Releford will look for prices to provide at the next meeting.
- f. The City provided us with a credit card so we do not have to front money for expenses.
- g. Ms. Releford met with a new Private Investigator. The resume is included in tonight's packet. Board members should let Ms. Releford know if we want to meet with her. We are adding a third in order to get some more experience and help avoid conflicts of interest. Freeland Investigations is former SPD at a cost of \$75/hour.

4. Committees

a. Community Outreach

- i. September 4th was City Wide Youth Day at City Parks.
- ii. September 6th is the 32nd Annual Show and Tell at which groups from around the City give a 5-10-minute presentation. Ms. Releford will present at 1:48PM.
- iii. September 6th is also the Westmoreland Community Center Ribbon Cutting.
- iv. SPD had an event at McChesney Community Center at which parking/trash and property crime complaints were discussed. Ms. Releford attended.
- v. CRB has tables at all SPD/Mayoral events.

- vi. The CRB was invited to the SPD Promotional Ceremony and Ms. Releford attended.
- vii. There was a Police Liaison Committee meeting on September 2nd.
- viii. September 11th is a TNT presentation at the Valley Cecil Center.
- ix. September 27th is a SPD Forum at the East Fayette Boys and Girls Club at 5:30PM.

b. Board Development and Training

- i. We are looking at developing a new brochure by the end of the year.
- ii. The Board would like to pursue further training on the SPD Use of Force Policy.

c. Government Relations

- i. At a meeting with Mark Rusin of SPD, Christi DeJoseph of Corporation Counsel, Ms. Nilsson, Mr. McCarty, Ms. Releford and Ms. Holmes it was discussed that SPD wants to put a joint document together regarding past CRB recommendations and how the SPD has used them and what progress has been made.
- ii. Ms. Nilsson notes that it was interesting why SPD does not implement certain recommendations.
- iii. Ms. Holmes notes that it was very interesting to learn EVERYONE's role and how important it is that we all follow and respect the process.
- iv. Mr. Ryans notes that Federal Laws are a part of SPD action and would like our recommendations to mention these laws.
- v. SPD has to review everything to make sure they keep their accreditation. They have to look at all effects and ramifications of any policy changes. They cannot set bad precedent.
- vi. SPD and the CRB will continue to have discussions regarding policies on mental illness.
- vii. The Police Liaison Committee will meet on September 12th at 9AM.
- viii. Ms. Releford met with the Chief for their first monthly meeting. The Chief came to our office.
- ix. Ms. Releford will write a document with common questions she has about OOPS Reports based on her research and experience and other agencies' "Best Practices".
- x. Ms. Kutz questioned whether the SPD got rid of the CRT. Ms. Releford answered that the News says they got rid of them because of low staffing and that's all we know.

5. New Business – none

6. Public Comment (6:30 PM)

- a. Beverly Carter says the Community must be informed about the CRB and wonders how we as a people inform our Community? The SPD, the Community and the CRB have to come together in order to make a change.
 - b. Mr. Ryans notes that we have been doing several community events and “Know Your Rights” presentations.
 - c. The CRB does have a Facebook Page and everyone should be encouraged to follow it.
 - d. Other advertising is done through brochures and bus signs.
 - e. Mr. McCarthy notes that part of the problem is the public perception that the CRB “has no teeth”. We have successes, such as the Use of Force Policy that say different.
 - f. “Tabling” is not necessarily the most informative way to spread information. Community organized events with CRB speakers will be more effective.
 - g. Ms. Clark notes that maybe we need “testimonies”.
 - h. Mustafa is feeling very good about this Board and the Administrator.
 - i. A Social Work student at SU and a Law student at SU introduce themselves.
7. Ms. Natale moves to move to Executive Session, Mr. Ryans 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: 17-090	No Hearing
Case Number: 18-034	No Hearing
Case Number: 18-036	No Hearing
Case Number: 19-020	No Hearing

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

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Natale