

**City of Syracuse  
Citizen Review Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Date: Thursday, January 3, 2013  
6:00 PM- 8:00 PM  
Common Council Chambers  
Public Comment - 20 minutes at the close of the business meeting**

<u>Name</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>E</u>
Gammage, Demetria	X			Masella, Joseph	X			Pearson, Betty L.	X		
Horan, Carole J.	X			Oppedisano, Donna	X						
Jennings-Bey, Timothy	X			Stuart-McIlvain, Sarah	X			<b>Common Councilors</b>			
Levine, Louis	X			Timmons, Tafara Blake			X	Barrett, Jake	X		
Livingston, Mallory	X			Turner, V. Diane	X			Dougherty, Bob	X		
Mack, Raheem	X			Lipari, Joseph L.	X			Kessner, Jean	X		

On Thursday, January 3, 2013, the City of Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) held an open, stated meeting at City Hall in the Common Council Chambers.

Mr. Masella called the meeting to order and announced that the meeting was being held pursuant to notice and that a quorum was present.

1. Mr. Lipari introduces and welcomed Mallory Livingston as the new CRB member, replacing Crystal Collette. Ms. Livingston will be sworn in at the next meeting. She shared her background, highlighting her professional life as an attorney.
2. On motion duly made by Ms. Horan, seconded by Ms. Turner and adopted, the Board approved the Minutes of the December 6, 2012 Board meeting.
3. On motion duly made by Ms. Oppedisano, seconded by Ms. Turner, the Board elected Mr. Masella as acting CRB Chairperson and Mr. Mack as acting Vice-Chair until they and all reappointed members are sworn in at the next meeting. They were unanimously voted into the positions.
4. Mr. Lipari shared that the reaction to 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Report has been positive from the Mayor's office and the Common Council as well as other elected officials and the public. He briefly mentioned the article and editorial in *The Post-Standard* and the positive outcome from them. Ms. Oppedisano shared a comment she received from a member of the Syracuse Peace Council as he was surprised that there were not more complaints of excessive force.
5. Mr. Lipari shared the current CRB budget and asked where, if any, changes should be requested for Fiscal Year 2013-2014. Ms. Oppedisano felt that more money is needed for Line 416 – Travel, Training and Development. Ms. Horan felt it should be at least \$5,000.00. An increase of \$3,500.00 will be requested. Mr. Masella asked if security

for the office comes out of the budget. As far as could be ascertained, it does not. Councilor Barrett suggested installing a combination lock on the office door similar to those on the restrooms in City Hall and City Hall Commons. Councilor Dougherty suggested that a security professional should come and check out the layout of the office to determine what security measures should/could be taken including installing a buzzer system.

6. Ms. Oppedisano shared that the Training Committee met to plan the CRB Training Seminar scheduled to take place on Saturday, January 26, 2013 at 250 South Clinton Street, Suite 200. The agenda for the day and responsibilities were reviewed and approved.
7. Mr. Lipari provided an update on on-going training for the CRB: we will continue to pursue training through Onondaga Community College and are working on a plan for scheduling the training. Ms. McIlvain asked how the training will be done with a rotating board. The answer is that modules will be created. Mr. Masella felt that there is a need to revisit using the Syracuse Police Department for training. Mr. Lipari shared benefits to using both agencies. Ms. Gammage felt that OCC should not be put on the back burner and rely solely on SPD because SPD is subject to change their minds again about providing training in the future.
8. Common Council President Van Robinson would like to meet with Mr. Lipari and Chief Frank Fowler in the near future. The meeting may also include the Chair and/or Vice Chair.
9. Councilors Barrett and Dougherty extended an invitation to attend a Public Safety Committee meeting/ hearing in February to discuss the CRB's role. Councilor Kessner shared that historically it is the police union that is the main source of resistance to the CRB and has been from the beginning.
10. Mr. Lipari was invited to the Valley TNT meeting by Councilor Dougherty, Wednesday, January 9, at 7:00 pm at the Bob Cecile Community Center, 176 West Seneca Turnpike. On Wednesday, January 23, the Northside TNT meets at 7:00 pm at Grant Middle School. Ms. Gammage reiterated that we need to get the word out to the community as to what we do.
11. Mr. Lipari shared that he is on the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) Strategic Planning Committee to work on the Peer Review Process. Ms. Oppedisano asked if that will require him to travel and if so, would the expense come out of our budget. At this time, the committee communicates via e-mail and conference calls and probably will not meet in person until the annual conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, September 22-26, 2013.

12. Mr. Lipari reviewed the December 2012 case statistics. Out of 69 cases, 15 have gone to hearings with ten resulting in sustained findings. Mr. Levine asked how we compare to other cities and Mr. Lipari answered that each city has different ways of receiving and processing complaints. Mr. Levine felt it may be perceived that the majority of our cases are not sustainable. He asked about other cities in Upstate New York. Albany, Buffalo, Ithaca, Rochester and Syracuse are the only Upstate cities with any type of CRB with Syracuse having the most active CRB. A discussion developed as to how to best geographically categorize cases. At this time they are done by Council District of where the incident took place. Some feel it should be by ZIP Code, ward or TNT Area. It was pointed out that where a complainant lives is not always reflected in the statistics because the cases are grouped by Council District of where the incident occurred. Some complainants do not live in the City of Syracuse.
13. A discussion of moving public comment period to 7:00 pm resulted in Ms. Gammage suggesting that public-oriented items be placed at the top of the agenda. Ms. McIlvain recommended that some of the items on the agenda be given in a report by Mr. Lipari. A time limit will be placed on each agenda item as was done at the November 2012 meeting. Future meetings will include committee reports.
14. Meeting Recesses for Public Comment - On motion made by Ms. Oppedisano, seconded by Ms. McIlvain, the meeting recessed for public comment.
15. Meeting Adjourns to Executive Session to vote on cases to go to Panel Hearings

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

Respectfully submitted,

Betty L. Pearson  
Typist II, Citizen Review Board