

**City of Syracuse
Citizen Review Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 5, 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	Ryan, Chad	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, March 5, 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 February 5, 2015, Board meeting.
2. Chairman's Items
 - a. Election of Vice-Chair – On motion duly made by Mr. Masella, seconded by Ms. Horan and adopted, the Board unanimously voted Mr. Christiana as Vice-Chair for 2015.
3. Administrator's Report
 - a. Administrator's participation in US-Russia Social Expertise Exchange Program – Mr. Lipari reported that the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) has asked him to travel to Russia for two weeks as part of the Eurasia Foundation's Social Expertise Exchange (SEE) Program. Mr. Lipari reported that the foundation is sponsoring an eight-person United States – Russia working group on Rule of Law that is focused on developing civilian oversight in both Russia and the US. According to Mr. Lipari the foundation has partnered with NACOLE to identify practitioners in the field who can share best practices with our Russian counterparts. Mr. Lipari reported that he expects to be based with a civil society organization in St. Petersburg, Russia. He stated that he will observe the strategies for creating civilian oversight and will have the chance to meet with a prosecutor in the Ministry of Justice that handles prosecutions of police in Russia. Mr. Lipari reported that the working group will be responsible for producing a handbook, a video and a website that assists people in both

countries who are working to create civilian oversight agencies. Mr. Lipari stated that the Eurasia Foundation is covering all costs.

On a motion made by Mr. Masella, the CRB unanimously passed a resolution in support of the Administrator's participation in the SEE program. The resolution reads as follows:

Whereas, the Board wishes to express its high regard for and appreciation of the leadership of the Citizen Review Board provided by its Administrator, Joseph L. Lipari; and,

Whereas, the Board also wishes to acknowledge the national recognition afforded the Administrator and the Citizen Review Board by the Administrator's selection to participate in the United States-Russia Social Expertise Exchange Program at no cost to either the CRB or the City of Syracuse;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Board fully supports and encourages the Administrators' participation in the Program as a private citizen and not as a representative or spokesperson of either the Citizen Review Board or the City of Syracuse; and,

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board urges the Common Council and the Mayor of the City of Syracuse, if required, to authorize or approve the Administrator's participation in the Program.

- b. Common Council's withdrawal of medical consultant contract – Mr. Lipari reported that approval of the medical consultant contract will not go through this fiscal year because it was not included in the budget submitted for the 2014-15 fiscal year. He stated that the CRB has included a request for the medical consultant contract for its 2015-16 budget.
- c. Update on proposed revisions to CRB ordinance – Mr. Lipari reviewed the responses from Councilor Pamela Hunter to the proposed revisions to the ordinance. According to Mr. Lipari, the suggested revisions remain under review by the Common Council.
- d. Public Safety Committee meeting to review CRB annual report and operations, Monday, March 23, 2015 at 5:30 PM – Mr. Lipari shared the date and time with the Board and requested their presence and support.
- e. Progress on Investigator contract – Mr. Lipari reported progress in finding options for a contract investigator, noting that AG Investigations, LLC, The Intelligence Group, Pitirre Investigations, and Heather Kukowski Investigations LLC, all have offices in Syracuse, NY. Mr. Lipari spoke with Mike Andrews of AG Investigations and discussed their available services and fees. According to Mr. Lipari, AG Investigations charges standardized flat rates for each service, including skip tracing, property damage assessment, digital technology

investigations, accident investigations, background investigations, and court and litigation records searches. Mr. Lipari stated that three proposals from three different contract investigators will be presented to the Board at the April meeting and then the Board will select one of the contractors and submit the proposal to the Common Council and Mayor for approval.

- f. Monthly Financial Report – Mr. Lipari shared the detailed breakdown of expenditures for the year to date.
- g. February 2015 case statistics - Mr. Lipari reported that two new cases were received in February. He stated the total received in 2015 is eight and that four cases will be reviewed during Executive Session.

4. Committees

- a. Discussion of CRB Annual Training and Strategic Planning Event, February 28 and review of 2014 and priorities for 2015 - Ms. Horan thanked Board members and staff for their attendance and contributions. Mr. Lipari thanked the committee for their planning. Mr. Masella asked if any of the speakers were paid. Mr. Lipari indicated that no money was spent from the budget on the training and strategic planning session.

5. New Business

There was no new business.

6. Public Comment (6:30 pm)

Councilor Pamela Hunter shared that the purpose of the March 23 meeting is to help the Common Council understand the CRB process.

Mr. Mikiel Anderson asked questions and/or made comments pertaining to: the Police Liaison Committee; police handling of people with mental and physical disabilities; on and off-duty/plain clothed and uniform police; District Attorney William Fitzpatrick on Syracuse.com; falsified police reports; case files requested by judges; the Department of Justice and Ferguson, MO; the Taser policy; the police presence in Syracuse City Schools; the Justice Center CRB; transparency from SPD; district meetings/outreach events; annual/quarterly reports; outside counsel and ordinance revisions.

7. 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 14-096	No Hearing
Case 14-104	No Hearing
Case 14-105	No Hearing
Case 15-005	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