

**City of Syracuse
Citizen Review Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 3, 2016
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>
Barrette, David	X		Livingston, Mallory	X		Common Councilor		
Bullock, Douglas	X		Masella, Joseph	X		Thompson, Steven	X	
Christiana, Peter	X		Moser, Leah	X				
Horan, Carole J.	X		Turner, V. Diane	X				
Kutz, Ruth	X		Lipari, Joseph L.	X				
Levine, Louis	X		Pearson, Betty L.	X				

On Thursday, March 3, 2016, the City of Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) held an open, stated meeting at 304 City Hall in the Common Council Chambers.

Mr. Christiana, Board Vice 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. Livingston and adopted, the Board approved the Minutes of the February 4, 2016, Board meeting.
2. Board Action Items
 - a. Election of new CRB Chairperson - On motion duly made by Ms. Horan, seconded by Mr. Masella and adopted, the Board voted Mr. Christiana as Chair for 2016.
3. Chairman's Items
 - a. Recognition of outgoing Board members William "Bill" Barber and Douglas Bullock – Mr. Christiana announced that Messrs. Barber and Bullock have tendered their resignations from the Board. Mr. Christiana reported that Mr. Barber resigned for personal reasons and Mr. Bullock had to resign since he is joining the Syracuse Police Department and entering the Syracuse Regional Police Academy for training on March 7, 2016. Mr. Christiana read resolutions of appreciation for Messrs. Barber and Bullock and thanked them for their contributions to the CRB. Mr. Lipari presented Messrs. Barber and Bullock with certificates of appreciation and copies of their respective resolution.

Resolution in appreciation of the service of William “Bill” Barber to the CRB

Whereas, he has diligently and passionately served as a member of the **Citizen Review Board** since 2013,

Whereas, during his tenure on the Board, he has been an strong advocate of civilian oversight of policing,

Whereas, he has been an enthusiastic participant in all of the Board’s activities, including Board meetings, hearing panels, and Board training,

Whereas, from January 2015 to March 2016, he served honorably as Board chairman and capably carried out all the duties of that position,

Whereas, he has provided invaluable advice and counsel to the Administrator and the Board on the operations of the CRB, and

Whereas, as a former police officer, police chief, and union representative he brought to the CRB an unparalleled level of understanding and insight into the challenges of modern policing,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved,

That, the Citizen Review Board of the City of Syracuse does hereby record its sincere appreciation of and warmest regards to **William “Bill” Barber** for his energetic and conscientious service to the Citizen Review Board and for his joyful and engaging camaraderie, and

Be It Further Resolved,

That, the Citizen Review Board of the City of Syracuse hereby wishes him all the best in his many future endeavors.

Resolution in appreciation of the service of Douglas Bullock to the CRB

Whereas, he has served as a conscientious and thoughtful member of the **Citizen Review Board** since 2015,

Whereas, during his tenure on the Board, he has been an strong advocate for effective accountability and civilian oversight of policing,

Whereas, he has been a consistent and reliable participant in all of the Board’s activities, including Board meetings and hearing panels,

Whereas, he now begins a new chapter in his career in criminal justice and service to his community as he enters the Syracuse Police Department Academy Class of 2016,

Whereas, , the Citizen Review Board looks forward to his role as the unofficial CRB Ambassador within the Syracuse Police Department, and

Whereas, the Citizen Review Board of Syracuse hopes to never have to sustain a civilian complaint against him in his new capacity as Syracuse police officer,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved,

That, the Citizen Review Board of the City of Syracuse does hereby record its sincere appreciation of and warmest regards to **Douglas Bullock** for his faithful service to the Citizen Review Board, and

Be It Further Resolved,

That, the Citizen Review Board of the City of Syracuse hereby wishes him all the best in his future career as a Syracuse police officer.

b. Introduction of new CRB member Ruth Kutz – Mr. Christiana introduced and welcomed Ruth Kutz as the newest incoming CRB member, replacing Tafara Timmons as the appointee of 4th District Councilor Khalid Bey. Mr. Christiana shared Ms. Kutz' bio and indicated that City Clerk John Copanas administered the oath of office to Ms. Kutz on March 2, 2016.

4. Administrator's Report

a. Discussion of recent Common Council proposal to bar the CRB from engaging in legal action – Mr. Lipari shared developments regarding Councilor Steve Thompson's proposal to bar the CRB from engaging in legal action and the CRB's lawsuit against Chief of Police Frank Fowler regarding the Chief's failure to provide written explanations of his disciplinary decisions in response to sustained findings by the CRB when cases are completed after the 60 day timeframe indicated in the CRB ordinance. Mr. Lipari noted that the CRB cannot fulfill its legal mandate to publicly report the number of times the Chief of Police imposes discipline when the CRB recommends it if the Chief does not respond to the CRB's findings. Mr. Lipari reported that Common Councilor Steven Thompson was seeking to amend Section 8 of the City of Syracuse's Local Law No. 1 (2012), "Legal Representation of the Board," to add "In accordance with the City Charter and applicable Local Law, nothing in the Local Law shall be construed to or shall establish a power of the CRB to initiate, join, participate or commence any legal action or proceeding." Mr. Lipari noted that as stated, the proposed amendment would restrict the Board's authority to initiate any legal action to enforce its enabling legislation and issue or enforce its subpoenas. Councilor Thompson was present and stated that his intention was to ensure that the CRB would come to the Common Council to resolve disputes over its enabling legislation. Councilor Thompson indicated that he plans to hold the amendment until it is discussed at a

Public Safety Committee meeting. Mr. Lipari indicated that a motion regarding the lawsuit is scheduled before Judge Ludington on Thursday, March 24, 2016.

- b. CRB Policy Recommendations for 2015 Annual Report – Mr. Lipari presented a draft of a Proposed Comprehensive Use of Force Policy for the Syracuse Police Department and the Policy Recommendations for the 2015 Annual Report. The board indicated its support for the proposed Use of Force policy and additional recommendations and directed Mr. Lipari to finalize the policy recommendations in preparation for the March 31, 2016 release of the CRB Annual Report.
 - c. Cancellation of SPD’s Citizen Police Academy Program – Mr. Lipari reported that although several CRB members were planning to attend the SPD’s scheduled Citizen Police Academy scheduled for Saturday, February 27, 2016, the SPD cancelled the training day due to low overall registration.
 - d. Monthly Financial Report – Mr. Lipari shared the detailed breakdown of CRB’s expenditures for the year to date.
 - e. February case statistics – Mr. Lipari reported that six new cases were received in February 2016. He stated that 12 complaints have been received so far in 2016 and that nine cases will be reviewed during Executive Session.
5. Committees
- a. Ms. Horan inquired about the possibility of a Police Liaison Committee meeting taking place before the April 7, 2016 Board meeting. Messrs. Lipari and Barrette indicated that they will speak with representatives from the department to see if a Liaison meeting can be scheduled on a quarterly basis.
6. New Business
- There was no new business.
7. Public Comment (6:30 pm)
- Mr. Barber shared his thoughts on the use of body cameras. Councilor Thompson stated that he would help to get the Police Liaison Committee reestablished and will review the CRB’s recommended revisions to its enabling legislation that the CRB previously submitted to former Councilor Pamela Hunter. Mr. Mikiel Anderson asked questions or made comments about the Chief of Police, the Common Council, community outreach, and the CRB budget.
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:

15-068 **Hearing**
15-071 **No Hearing**
15-073 **No Hearing**
16-001 **No Hearing**
16-002 **Hearing**
16-003 **No Hearing**
16-004 **No Hearing**
16-005 **Hearing**
16-006 **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