

**City of Syracuse  
Citizen Review Board  
Meeting Minutes  
May 3, 2012**

**Board Members:**

Jarrold Bentley (absent)  
Crystal Collette, Chair  
Demetria Gammage  
Carole Horan (excused)  
Timothy Jennings-Bey  
Louis Levine

Sarah McIlvain  
Donna Oppedisano  
Rachel Smith  
Tafara Timmons  
Diane Turner

**Quorum Present**

**Call to order: 6:30 p.m.**

**Minutes: APPROVED with one abstention**

**General Business**

- The new administrator, Joseph Lipari will begin on May 16
  - Discussion of orienting Joey to the job and introducing him to the community
  - Diane will set up his first meeting with the Mayor. Crystal will also attend
  - Rachel will work on helping introduce him within the faith communities
  - Joan Kessner suggested that there are TNT meetings in each district and the legislators from each would know the key people to whom Joey should be introduced. She has offered to work on this
  - Noble discussed the Trauma Response Team “barbeques” taking place around the community and he has suggested that the Joey and the board be at some of these events. The first will be held on the corner of Ostrander and Midland May 12, 2012 from 12-3-ish (until the food runs out ☺)
  - Suggestion was also made that he should go out to some of the festivals in Syr. To mingle
  - Discussion of TV and radio interviews
- Priorities for the new administrator:
  - By-Laws
  - Complaint form
  - Structure and procedure for hearing panels
  - Cases
- Crystal has been in touch with Joey and he has expressed concern about the board having to do investigations. He has asked that we hold off until he arrives

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Community and Youth Engagement:**

- The committee is trying to set up its first community forum for May 6<sup>th</sup> at the Southwest Community Center...stay tuned for more info

### **Training Committee:**

- Has only connected over e-mail
- 3 trainings so far
- Next training will be May 17 with OPS (Captain Galvin) on levels of sanctions imposed upon police officers. This will be held in the PS beginning at 6:30. Board Members should come with questions
- Crystal requested that the committee begin the planning for a retreat for board members in which we will establish goals, do some bonding and address board concerns. This will be scheduled for Sept 8 or Sept 15...Time and place TBD

### **Government and Police Interface:**

- No Report

### **Old Business**

- Budget:
  - The meeting with Joey and the Councilors went well. Our concern over the slim margins of our budget (constraining us from meeting all but our most basic of goals) was well received
  - Lance let the chair know that the request to increase by \$5,000 for equipment as well as the addition of another \$15,000 for the line item "other contracts", meant to help us with our need to hire outside council when necessary, would be included in the budget that they submit to the mayor
  - Donna and Crystal will draft a letter expressing the community's high expectations of and the importance of the CRB
  - We will also reach out to those who wrote the legislation and to the various allies
- We re-visited the issue of "How old is too old?" to investigate a case.
  - It was agreed that because there was such a significant population that was not served by the previous board we should be open to all old complaints that are newly filed or about which there are inquiries
  - Although we may have to handle them a bit differently so as to protect our process, we should look carefully at them and use discretion in how broadly or deeply we investigate
  - Crystal said that she has taken some calls about this and that most people just want to know what is in their files, whether there was any action taken and some have requested copies of the files

- Diane reminded us that those files may not be available to us and may reside over at the Police Department

**Motion to Adjourn: 7:34 All in favor**

**Next Meeting: May 17<sup>th</sup>, Training  
June 6<sup>th</sup> Community Forum  
June 7<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting**

**Public Comment Period:**

The following concerns and questions were raised by members of the community:

- We need an updated flier with new meeting dates and would like printed on the back a description of what the board is and what it does. Tafara will take care of this
- Many in the community still do not know who we are or what we do
- Will there be a press conference to introduce the new administrator?

Respectfully Submitted  
Donna M. Oppedisano,  
Recording Secretary  
5/4/2012

