

City Of Syracuse Citizen's Review Board

Meeting Minutes September 2012

Those Present:

Crystal Collette, *Chair*
Carole Horan
Louis Levine
Sarah McIlvain
Donna Oppedisano
Diane Turner
Joseph Masella
Quorum Present

Those Absent:

Timothy Jennings-Bey
Tafara Timmons
Demetria Gammage

Administrator: Joey Lipari (present)

Minutes: Because there was no quorum in the month of August, no votes were taken and July minutes were not approved.

Motion to APPROVE July minutes: PASSED with 2 abstentions

Motion to APPROVE August minutes PASSED with 3 abstentions

New Business:

New board member/observations and questions

- Joseph Masella was introduced to the board
 - Joe M. then raised a question as to whether or not the board members were legally covered in their actions. Joey said that it seemed that this is the case but that he would have Corporation Counsel check into it
 - In response to a question, a discussion ensued as to the extent to which hearings should be recommending sanctions/discipline/policy changes.
 - The question was then raised about findings when either a) the policy is ambiguous or b) no policy exists to address the situation in question
 - The suggestion was made that we have more training on how the internal operation of the PD functions in an effort to make better recommendations of sanctions, etc.

Hiring Update

- Joey is still working on hiring the administrative assistant
 - The position, Typist II was a category 4 but is now a category 8 pay position (\$30,500-\$34,000+ benefits) because another department hired for this category at a higher rate, which means that in order to not discriminate, all must now be hired at that rate
 - Hiring from the Civil Service list can be a lengthy and a slow process

Review/discussion/approval of the Hearing Procedure Working Draft, By-Laws and Complaint Policies and Procedures

- After some discussion, the following recommendations were made:
 - Witness Testimony was amended
 - A few minor wording changes were made for clarity (see approved document)
- **MOTION to APPROVE the Draft Document with changes as our hearing procedure APPROVED Unanimously**
- **MOTION to APPROVE the by-laws with changes APPROVED Unanimously**
- **MOTION to APPROVE the Complaint Policies and Procedures with changes APPROVED Unanimously**

Disciplinary Disclosure

- In his initial disciplinary statements to the CRB, Chief Fowler gave no specific info on disciplinary decisions and Joey asked for more information that would be in accordance with the CRB ordinance.
 - Joey arranged for a Memorandum of Understanding to be drafted by Corporation Counsel that would reflect the disciplinary disclosure agreement between the CRB and SPD.

August/YTD Case Stats

- Overall, we have had 47 cases filed since the new board has been convened and the law took effect
 - We are making good progress on input/output of cases. We were behind in the beginning because we lacked an administrator but have made up lots of ground. Joey expressed satisfaction with the progress and confidence that we would soon be up-to-date

Quarterly Report

- The 3rd quarter ends Sept. 30 and Joey is busily preparing the report
 - He will share his preliminary report around that time and ask for suggestions from the board
 - The board decided that this first quarterly report will not include policy recommendations

Committee Reports:

Community and Youth Engagement Committee

- Outreach #2 is being planned. It will be at Pioneer Homes (Near West-Side) on a date TBA

Training Committee

- Use of Force Sept. 20th (postponed until October 18 while SPD training dept. considers the next round of training)

Motion to Adjourn 8:30pm: APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Comment Period:

- One thing still missing is our Police-Liaison Committee. This committee would help provide clarity to the board and to the public. We will pursue this in a careful manner.

Motion to Enter Exec Session 8:37pm: APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion to Adjourn: APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY