

**City of Syracuse  
Citizen Review Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Date: Thursday, September 5, 2013  
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM  
Common Council Chambers  
Public Comment - 20 minutes at 6:30 PM**

<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 Councilor</b>			
Levine, Louis				Timmons, Tafara Blake	X			Barrett, Jake	X		
Livingston, Mallory	X			Turner, V. Diane	X						
Mack, Raheem	X			Lipari, Joseph L.	X						

On Thursday, September 5, 2013, the City of Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) held an open, stated meeting at 304 City Hall in the Common Council Chambers.

Mr. Masella, 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 Ms. McIlvain, seconded by Ms. Livingston and adopted, the Board approved the Minutes of the August 8, 2013 Board meeting.
2. Chairman's Items
  - a. Discussion on release of names of CRB panel hearing members in future media coverage when requested – Ms. McIlvain stated that since the hearings are not public, panel members' names should not be public. Ms. Livingston cited safety issues that could arise from names being released, depending on how a complainant feels about the decision. Mr. Mack pointed out that each hearing decision can be viewed as a Board decision because the Board decides what complaints go to a hearing, therefore it should not matter who sat on a particular panel. On motion made by Ms. Livingston, seconded by Mr. Mack, names will not be released.
3. Administrator's Report
  - a. 2013 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report is ready to be released. The delay was due to waiting for Chief Fowler's disciplinary decisions. There is a significant increase in our rate of agreement on imposing discipline. Last quarter we were only 1 for 5. The Chief imposed discipline in just one case where the CRB recommended it- that was just a 20% agreement rate. For the 2nd quarter, the rate of agreement in sustained CRB hearings is 3 out of 7- about 43%. There is no way to know for sure that the increase is due to the work of the CRB and it is too early to assess whether it is going to be a sustainable and emergent trend, but

it is a sign that we are starting to see movement in the right direction. Most of the OPS conclusions/findings that the Chief considers as his written explanations to us are more substantial than in previous quarters, even when they did not agree with us. It may indicate that they are responding to our request that they explain their findings more.

- b. Meeting with Chief Fowler – It has been several months since Mr. Lipari has met with Chief Fowler and he has made numerous attempts to schedule a meeting with no success. He requested Bill Ryan of Mayor Miner’s office schedule meeting with Chief Fowler. A meeting has been scheduled for Friday, September 6, 2013, although it is not clear as to whether or not Chief Fowler will attend.
- c. Recent media coverage of CRB – Ms. McIlvain asked that Mr. Lipari notify the Board before doing public speaking or commenting to the media. She also objected to Mr. Lipari responding to comments on Syracuse.com. Mr. Mack indicated that he thought Mr. Lipari’s comments on Syracuse.com were balanced and appropriate.
  - Use of Force policy – Mr. Lipari contributed positively at a special meeting the Common Council's public safety committee called in response to a disabled man being tasered on a Centro bus in May. He compared Syracuse's policy on the use of electronic control devices with Las Vegas. After the session, he was interviewed by the media.
  - United as One Coalition event – Mr. Lipari attended the event at Southwest Community Center where he was able to meet many community members and leaders, including the new Executive Director, Sharon Owens. They discussed Messrs. Lipari and Jennings-Bey doing a presentation for the youth on how to safely interact with police.
  - Matthew Roach case - Mr. Roach chose to take his case public after his jury conviction which included a guilty finding of resisting arrest. PBA president Jeff Piedmonte responded using the jury’s decision and the judge’s impression to argue that the CRB got this one wrong. In coordination with the CRB members who were on that panel, we developed a set of responses that defended the CRB from this attack.
- d. Resignation & Replacement of Demetria Gammage – Since our last meeting, a letter of resignation was received from Ms. Gammage. Councilor Dougherty is looking for a replacement. That person may be a retired law enforcement officer.

- e. IA Pro is operational – Mr. Lipari and Ms. Pearson have been trained on the software by a member of the law enforcement community who uses it in her position and trains others across the country. We did hit an impediment when our request to SPD of the basic officer information to populate our database - rank/title, first, middle and last names, date of birth, employee identification number, current assignment: Division, District, Unit, Squad, etc., date of hire, race, sex, date of termination/separation or other indicator of currently or no longer employed, agency e-mail address for each officer/employee – was not granted. Using information available from a variety of sources, Ms. Pearson was able to create an Excel spreadsheet containing most of the information requested. The software is an excellent and powerful tool that will allow for more detailed reports.
  - f. August 2013 Case Statistics  
Five new cases were received in August. The total received in 2013 is 83. Ten cases will be reviewed during Executive Session.
4. Committee Reports
- a. Revisit Goals from 2013 Strategic Planning Seminar
    - Increase Awareness of CRB – Mr. Mack shared that the newspaper articles have helped increase awareness of the CRB and teaming up with agencies like the Southwest Community Center will also help. Questions as to if we have a target population and how we reach them were asked. It was suggested that we seek to establish partnerships with Success by Six, Say Yes to Education and social workers.
    - Create CRB Operational Excellence – Mr. Masella stated that the training at OCC was successful with room for improvement that we will continue to work out. We will seek to establish a relationship with Syracuse University College of Law.
    - Build Friends & Allies – Ms. Horan will give a report at the next meeting.
5. Public Comment – Mr. Mikiel Anderson and Councilor Jake Barrett shared comments.
6. Meeting Adjourned to Executive Session

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Betty L. Pearson  
Typist II, Citizen Review Board