

**City of Syracuse  
Citizen Review Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, September 6, 2018  
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>
Carter, Mae	X		Natale, Dana		X			
Comeau, Herve		X	Nelson, Mary	X				
Grinnals, R. Daniels	X		Nilsson, Lori	X				
Holmes, Hatisha	X		Ryans, Clifford	X				
Kutz, Ruth	X		Releford, Ranette	X				
McCarthy, Peter	X		Pearson, Betty L.	X				

On Thursday, September 6, 2018, the City of Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) held an open, stated meeting at 304 City Hall in the Common Council Chambers.

Mr. McCarthy, 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. Nilsson, seconded by Ms. Kutz and adopted, the Board approved the Minutes of the August 2, 2018.
2. Chairman's Items
  - a. Member participation in Community Outreach events – Mr. McCarthy reported that Unity Day, Friday, August 17, was cancelled and that there was no CRB. Board member(s) were present at 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Mary Nelson School Supply Giveaway and Southwest Showcase Sunday.
  - b. Intern from Syracuse University – PSC 317 - Local Political Internship, Professor Grant Reeher. Students are placed in a variety of legislative, judicial, activist, and campaign-oriented offices and work eight to nine hours a week, or about 110 hours during the semester. Kendall Lorraine Cooper (not able to attend meeting), Alyssa Justine McKenzie, majors in Political Science and Philosophy provided statements related to her desire to intern with the Board and the need our community has for the CRB Board, and Ryan Peterson Mullins advised he had taken another inter offer, but wanted to attend meeting to gain information regarding the Board.
  - c. Police Chief Search-Community Input Report - Mr. McCarthy reported that ten sessions were held throughout the city. The themes expressed by the community was the need to reduce crime; more accountability and transparency; building community relations and understanding community

concerns. Mr. Grinnals asked if a list of candidates have been provided and Ms. Releford advised not yet and the Deputy Mayor Sharon Owens stated during the forums they were considering holding similar community forums held by the School District in hiring Superintendent Contreras with the candidates once the list had been narrowed to their top three.

3. Administrator's Report

- a. Attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual New York State Trailblazers Reception, a private gathering of some of the top trailblazers who serve the people of New York State to celebrate the leaders who inspire and blaze the way to success for others, hosted by Latino Village at the New York State Fair, Friday, August 24, 5:00 PM. Latino Village in its first year at the Fair hosted this special event
- b. CRB Facebook Page-Ms. Releford presented guidelines received from the Mayor's office regarding all City Facebook pages. She explained the policy and provided Board members with materials from the training she attended on the policy. Board members who would like to post on the Facebook page will have to attend the training.
- c. National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement Conference-The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of NACOLE is September 30 to October 4, 2018 in St. Petersburg, FL. Ms. Releford will attend to learn and bring back the best practices in civilian oversight of law enforcement. The date of the October Board meeting will be changed from Thursday, October 4.
- d. Interfaith Works-Peter Wilner discussed and provided informational materials to the Board about the Police Community Dialogue which resumed in January 2015 after Michael Brown was killed. During the dialogue session's people to talk about what happens in Syracuse; seven sessions were held in the fall 2017 to spring 2018. Ms. Nilsson asked how people are chosen to be in the dialogue circle and Mr. Wilner explained Officer Recruitment is quite intensive and the public participants are chosen selectively as well. In the report they state, each circle typically has a ratio of 1 officer to 2, or even 3, community members. The dialogue has been accepted by SPD leadership, but is still a new program and penetration across the full department continues to evolve. Another way to think about it: what both CRB and Police-Community Dialogue have in \*common\* is that the vast majority of the department has not participated. We seek all officers to participate in dialogues about race and about racism.
- e. Grants-Ms. Releford met with Janet Burke from the City's Research Department and expressed the CRB's need to look for grant funding. She explained the amount we would be seeking and what the funding would be used for: Food for Outreach events sponsored solely by CRB, stipend for Board members after

completing a portion of their term, advertisement (t-shirts and yard signs) to name a few.

- f. Bus Advertisements- Ms. Releford presented the Board with a package for advertising on Centro buses. Ms. McCarthy asked the Outreach Committee to come up with a proposal.
  - g. Board Vacancy – Ms. Releford reported that she interviewed a potential Board member for the Second Council District and have been urging Councilors Thompson and Ryan to fill the vacancy.
  - h. Syracuse Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition – Ms. Releford reported attending a Syracuse Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition meeting on September 6 to help formulate the Youth Advisory Committee.
  - i. Use of Force Summit-Ms. Releford discussed the training scheduled for November 27-29, 2018 in Uncasville, CT. She proposed using a city vehicle to cut cost associated with travel and sought a motion from the Board to attend. A motion was made by Mr. Ryan and seconded Ms. Kutz with one no vote from Ms. Nelson for attendance at this conference to learn the best practices related to use of force by a police officer and force science information. Ms. Releford advised there is one hundred dollar saving if the registration is paid prior to 10/15.
  - j. Monthly Financial Report – Ms. Releford shared the detailed breakdown of expenditures for the year to date.
  - k. August case statistics – Ms. Releford reported that four new cases were received in August. She stated the total received in 2018 is 50 and that four cases will be reviewed during Executive Session.
4. Committees
- a. Community Outreach and Public Education – Mr. Ryans/Ms. Releford reported that the CRB participated in or presented:
    - Syracuse Night Out Against Crime 2018, Tuesday, August 7, 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Destiny USA
    - Elk Street Block Party, Saturday, August 11, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
    - Jubilee Homes Community Meeting, Tuesday, August 14, 6:00 PM, Living Water Church Of God in Christ
    - Near Westside Initiative Multicultural Block Party, Thursday, August 16, 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM, Skiddy Park
    - 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Mary Nelson School Supply Giveaway, Saturday, August 18. Ms. Nelson reported that no one attended the Mary Nelson Giveaway as the CRB. However, Mr. Ryan stated he was at the event and provided informational material related to the Board. Ms. Nelson stated that she asked around and

was informed no information was provided. Mr. Ryan apologized for not officially having a table and pointed out that he attended the Steezo Basketball Tournament at Westmoreland Park through Pastor Mark Harris and Bethany Baptist Eastside Community Day.

- Southwest Showcase Sunday, August 19, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Jubilee Park, South Avenue (Board members present)
- “Operation Safe Surrender,” Friday, August 24, 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM, Southwest Community Center
- LGBTQ Pride Day, Friday, August 24, New York State Fair
- 1<sup>st</sup> Annual New York State Trailblazers Reception, hosted by Latino Village at the New York State Fair, Friday, August 24, 5:00 PM
- International Overdose Awareness Day and Vigil, Friday, August 31, 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM, Syracuse City Hall

and will participate in:

- Urban Cinematheque 2018 Arts & Culture Fair: Black Panther, Friday, September 7, 7:00 to 11:00 PM, Everson Museum
- Westcott Street Cultural Fair, Sunday, September 23, 12:00 PM to 6:30 PM, Westcott Street (and side streets) between Concord and Dell Streets

b. Board Developments and Training – No Report

c. Government Relations – CRB has been asked to attend a Press Conference on Saturday, September 8, @ 11:30 a.m. in support of \$300,000 state grant, secured by State Senator David Valesky will pay for the launch operation of the program for one year.

d. Police Relations – Police Liaison Committee meeting needs to be scheduled prior to end of Third Quarter. Ms. Releford asked for the members of the Police Relations committee to provide her with dates for a meeting.

5. CRB Study – Ms. Theresa Rocha Beardall (J.D. and a Ph.D. Candidate at Cornell University) gave a progress report on her study of the Board. Ms. Beardall stated that her reading on the CRB-City relations has taught her more about the treatment of the CRB by previous mayors. Specifically, she noted the lack of mayoral investment and attention to the CRB's important role in promoting cooperative working relationships between police and residents. She also reports that she has been spending the majority of her time in recent weeks learning from local organizations and resident groups concerned with police in Syracuse, many of which who voice their desire to strengthen the CRB by ensuring that all appointed Board seats are filled and that police policy recommendations be implemented by SPD.

6. New Business- No new business was discussed.

7. Public Comment (6:30 pm)- Mr. Mikiel Anderson made statements or made comments and asked questions related to the administrator's evaluation, hiring of investigator and medical consultant, Second Quarter Report availability online, responses from SPD, community outreach requirement in each common council district, and Board vacancies.

Ms. Beardall asked questions related to why would the CRB attend the Press Conference related to BWC funding, if we have not seen the Body Worn Camera Policy yet? She stated that the press conference is related to additional funding of the Body Worn Cameras and the information from SPD is not consistent. How do you support what you are not allowed to see? Ms. Beardall also commented on Board vacancy and stated the Board through its Ordinance has the ability to fill the vacancy. The Board can make recommendations to the Councilor that has a vacancy.

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:

17-103	Hearing
18-002	No Hearing
18-003	Tabled
18-015	No Hearing

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ranette L. Releford  
Administrator, Citizen Review Board