

**City of Syracuse  
Citizen Review Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, February 6, 2020  
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		Nilsson, Lori	X				
Santana, Priscilla		X	Natale, Dana	X				
Nelson, Mary	X		Ryans, Clifford	X				
Holmes, Hatisha	X		Grinnals, R. Daniels	X				
Kutz, Ruth	X		Brunson, Cynthia	X				
McCarthy, Peter	X		Releford, Ranette	X				

On Thursday , February 6, 2020, the City of Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) held an open, stated meeting at 304 City Hall in the Common Council Chambers.

Peter 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 Mr. Ryans, seconded by Ms. Nelson, the Board discusses the Minutes of the January 9, 2020, Board meeting. Mr. Grinnals questions the attendance. He feels he was at the January meeting. Mr. Ryans will check the YouTube footage. Pending that review the Board votes to approve the minutes, nine agree one disagrees.
2. Board Action Items:
  - a. The Board will postpone discussion on Committee assignments until the March meeting when the Board can review the size and composition of the Committees.
3. Chairperson’s Items:
  - a. Mr. McCarthy apologizes for December’s contentious meeting and reminds the Board that we will follow Robert’s Rules in that Board Members must be recognized before speaking. He adds that, since we are a smaller group, we will not limit the number of times one person can speak.
4. Administrator’s Report
  - a. The CRB received 4 new cases in January 2020. The Board will be reviewing five cases this evening.
  - b. The Board needs to vote on whether we plan to spend our advertising budget money. Last year we spent \$3,400.00 on Centro bus and bus stop advertising. After discussion, Ms. Natale moves that the Board vote to use the \$5,000.00 in our advertising budget for advertising, with specifics to be decided

later. Ms. Holmes seconds the motion, all agree. Ms. Releford will let the City know that we do plan to use the money.

- c. Ms. Releford advises that the \$5,000.00 JAG Grant is now available to use for training and training related expenses.
  - Ms. Releford provides a bill from Bobcat Training and Consulting to provide training at the March 21, 2020, CRB training. Mr. Ryans moves that we use the JAG Grant funds to pay the \$500.00 bill. Ms. Brunson seconds and all agree.
  - Ms. Releford provides a letter from her requesting approval to attend an international Crisis Intervention Training (“CIT”) in Pittsburgh, from August 24–26, 2020. The cost will be approximately \$1,695.00. The CIT will provide valuable guidance on developing Best Practices for dealing with people with mental illness. Locally, Access CNY only provides such training to law enforcement and first responders. Mr. Ryans moves that Ms. Releford go to the Budget Department and request approval to use \$1,695.00 of the JAG Grant for the CIT in Pittsburgh, Ms. Natale seconds, all agree.
- d. The CRB has a new intern, Samantha Pierce. She is from Syracuse University’s Political Science group. She started last Wednesday and comes in on Wednesdays and Fridays to do research.

## 5. Committees

- a. Community Outreach – nothing yet this month. Ms. Releford encourages all Board Members to look for opportunities in their Districts and advise her of them. Board contribution is necessary to ensure the CRB is visible in the entire Community.
- b. Board Development and Training
  - i. March 21, 2020, will be a mandatory Board Training from 8:30 – 4:30. It will be at the 1199 SEIU Building we used for last year’s training site.
  - ii. Bobcat and Peter Wilner from InterFaith Works will be attending.
- c. Government Relations meeting will be held on February 11, 2020, at 3 PM in the Mayor’s Conference Room.
  - i. Ms. Natale, Mr. McCarthy and Ms. Releford will attend. Our attorney and Corporation Counsel have met working to decipher what the CRB is supposed to get from OOPS. An update will be provided by them at this meeting.
  - ii. Going forward, the Public Safety Chair, Chol Majok, has advised that they will have Public Meetings every month. If the CRB has something to discuss. CRB members should check the

Council schedule to see if the CRB is on the calendar. This will decrease the number of Government Relations meetings. The Public Safety Committee covers the SPD and the SFD.

iii. Ms. Releford will continue to meet with Chief Buckner every month.

d. Police Liaison Committee meeting schedule is as follows. The meetings are scheduled for the middle of each quarter in the PSB Conference room.

- i. May 21, 2020 at 2PM
- ii. August 20, 2020 at 2PM
- iii. November 19, 2020 at 2PM

6. New Business - none

7. Public Comment (6:30 PM)

- a. Mustafa comments that the bus signs are a good idea because they stay on the buses for years and hit several different areas.
- b. Nader Maroun stopped by to say thank you to the CRB. He was on the City Council when creation of the CRB was discussed.
- c. Former CRB members Diane Turner, Peter Christiana, and Lou Levine were in attendance. Diane thinks we are doing a wonderful job.
- d. A woman who filed a complaint this fall wants us to know how the citizens are affected by the Syracuse Police Department's carelessness. She was injured by an SPD Officer's carelessness which have led to the loss of her job. The CRB process doesn't seem to move fast enough to really help people. Ms. Releford suggests reaching out to the Common Council and the Mayor to help expedite the process and require the SPD to live up to their deadlines. Mr. McCarthy advises that we are trying to work with the SPD and the Chief as committed to resolving old cases. Citizens can also reach out to Chol Majoje.
- e. Presentation by Yusuf Abdul-Qadir of the NYCLU regarding the "Right to Know Act" Legislation that he is working to get passed. It is a two-part act that would:
  - i. Require SPD Officers to let people know why they were being stopped and/or searched; and
  - ii. Require that citizens who are stopped to be given a "business card" by the Officer informing them in writing who the Officer is, why they were stopped/searched and where they can complain if they feel they were treated poorly or unfairly.
  - iii. He is hoping that the Syracuse bill would be better than the NYC bill as Syracuse will benefit from their experience.

- iv. The hope is to have SPD Officers provide a card at all stops to make encounters more reportable.
- v. The NYCLU is having a Community Forum on 2/17/2020 at 5PM at the Community Folk Art Center on Genesee Street.

8. Mr. Grinnals moves to move to Executive Session, Ms. Kutz seconds. 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:

- Case Number: 18-044** Dismiss for NO CONTACT
- Case Number: 18-079** NO HEARING
- Case Number 19-038** Complainant satisfied with SPD finding of misconduct, so sending withdrawal letter to Complainant
- Case Number 19-059** WITHDRAW
- Case Number 19-078** NO HEARING

On motion duly made by Mr. Ryans, seconded by Ms. Carter and unanimously adopted, the Board adjourned its meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Natale, 1<sup>st</sup> District Appointee