



POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes from the Meeting of March 27, 2019

Board Members present: Ann Coyne, Bet MacArthur, Lucy Murray-Brown, Ted Robitaille, Beverly Sealey

City Staff: Executive Secretary Brian Corr, CPD Sergeant Michael Cresta, Project Coordinator Crystal Rosa

Chair Coyne called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.
Chair Coyne noted that the meeting was being recorded.

Public Comment

Cambridge resident Marc Levy addressed the Board regarding an Open Meeting Law complaint he had made concerning the Board. He read a portion of a letter he received from the Attorney General's Office noting that it was granting the City of Cambridge an extension of the time to respond to the complaint with the hope that the additional time would allow the parties to arrive at a mutually agreeable resolution. Mr. Levy noted that the Board did not invite him to participate in the public meeting, and that the Board was not responding to his questions before and during public comment. He stated that those were indications that the Board was not operating in good faith.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the February 27, 2019 meeting, on a motion by Board Member MacArthur seconded by Board Member Murray-Brown.

Executive Secretary's Report

- On February 28, Exec. Sec. Corr met with the Jose Batista, the new director of the Providence External Review Authority to offer support and guidance as he begins his work in the field of civilian oversight.
- On March 7, Exec. Sec. Corr testified as one of four national experts at a public hearing on police accountability before the New York City Charter Review Commission His panel was specifically on strengthening civilian oversight of the New York City Police Department and enhancing the work of the NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board and the NYC Office of the Inspector General of the NYPD.

Professional Standards Unit Report

Sgt. Cresta shared several updates from the Cambridge Police Department:

- The Family and Procedural Justice unit went through a training on Mental Health First Aid.
- CPD will participate in an Implicit Bias training by Harvard Prof. Mahzarin Banaji, Chair of the Department of Psychology at Harvard University and author of *Blindspot: The Hidden Biases of Good People*.
- CPD is also leading a pilot training on Bystander Intervention with the Mending Cambridge group.
- Sgt. Cresta informed the Board that CPD is developing a Cold Case unit.
- Sgt. Cresta announced that violent crime decreased 26% while property crime increased 14% in Cambridge in 2018.

New Business

Board Member Robitaille asked Sgt. Cresta about the status of his request for data on race and gender regarding all CPD's interaction with the public. Sgt. Cresta was not aware but stated that he would follow up with Lt. Sil Ferreira.

Consideration of Complaints before the Board

Board Member Robitaille moved that the Board go into executive session to review complaints pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 30A, §21(a)(1). The motion was seconded by Board Member Murray-Brown and approved by unanimous vote. Chair Coyne informed the members of the public present that the Board would not reconvene in Regular Session to conduct any business after the adjournment of Executive Session. The Board entered executive session at 6:18 p.m.

Adjournment

After the Board adjourned from Executive Session, Board Member Murray-Brown moved that the Board adjourn. The motion was seconded by Board Member Robitaille and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Documents Used During the Meeting

- Police Review & Advisory Board Minutes of February 27, 2019