



POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes from the Meeting of October 30, 2019

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

City Staff present: Executive Secretary Brian Corr, CPD Lieutenant Sil Ferreira, Project Coordinator Crystal Rosa

Chair Ann Coyne called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the October 2, 2019 meeting, on a motion by Board Member Robitaille, seconded by Board Member MacArthur.

Election of the Chair

Executive Secretary explained the process for the annual election of a chair and open the floor for nominations. Board Member Coyne nominated Board Member Robitaille and Board Member Murray-Brown seconded the nomination. Board Member MacArthur nominated Board Member Murray-Brown and Board Member Robitaille seconded the nomination. Board Member MacArthur moved to close the nominations and Board Member Coyne seconded. Both Board Members Robitaille and Murray-Brown spoke as to why they would be interested in being chair.

Board Members Coyne, Murray-Brown, and Robitaille voted for Robitaille and Board Member MacArthur voted for Murray-Brown, electing Robitaille as chair for the next year.

Executive Secretary's Report

- Exec. Sec. Corr attended the Riverside Trauma Center 2019 Conference: "Holding Steady in Unsteady Times: Working in Contexts of Ongoing Traumatic or Toxic Stress."
- Exec. Sec. Corr spoke at Harvard Graduate Commons Program: "The Challenges of Community Police Relations for Cambridge and Beyond."
- Exec. Sec. Corr attended the Boston University Law Review's Annual Conference: "Beyond Bad Apples: Exploring the Legal Determinants of Police Violence." Yale Professor Tom Tyler addressed the possibility of structural reform through four approaches: exiting, collaboration, specialization, civilianization. Exiting would limit policing to violent crime and withdraw from social work problems. Collaboration being the cooperation with social service agencies, diversion efforts, etc. Both Exiting and Collaboration are designed to limit access of the police to the community. Specialization being the other types of training for different skillsets, like DV, CIT; and how it can conduct effective triage, which decreases the need for armed police officers. According to Prof. Tyler, triage is key to direct unarmed and armed officers to situations. Civilianization meaning bringing in civilians to do some of the work. Exec. Sec. Corr explained that unless the framework is changed, excessive force is intractable, and these are all possible changes.
- Exec. Sec. Corr reported that Commissioner Bard will attend the December 4, 2019 meeting at the Board's request.

- Exec. Sec. Corr asked the Board what kinds of training they would be interested in for the next CPD training, reminding them that past trainings include: Use of Force policy and scenario-based training with the FATS simulator; the role of the Peer Support Team and the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team; the Mass. Open Meeting Law; and the work of the Clinical Support Unit the Community Services Unit. The Board asked to be trained on how CPD conducts investigations and their interactions with the homeless community. Since the dates for training are flexible, the Board suggested a poll to narrow down which time slots are available before scheduling dates. Exec. Sec. Corr encouraged board members to contact Lt. Ferreira to schedule ride alongs.

Professional Standards Unit Report

Lt. Ferreira shared several updates from the Cambridge Police Department:

- Lt. Ferreira explained that there are 20 vacancies at CPD. Lt. Ferreira stated there are currently 22 applicants eligible from the Massachusetts Civil Service test.
- Lt. Ferreira announced that CPD made a 15-minute video about CPD's training academy.

New Business

- No new business reported.

Consideration of Complaints before the Board

Board Member Murray-Brown moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to Section 21(a)(1) of the OML to discuss pending complaint PR-2019-004. The motion was seconded by Board Member MacArthur and approved by a unanimous vote. The Board entered executive session at 6:45 p.m.

Adjournment

After the Board adjourned from Executive Session at 6:55 p.m., Board Member Coyne moved that the Board adjourn. The motion was seconded by Board Member MacArthur and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Documents Used During the Meeting

- Police Review & Advisory Board Minutes of October 2, 2019