



POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes from the Meeting of May 26, 2021

Board Members present: Alexandra Fallon, Gina LaRoche, Franziskus Lepionka, Acting Chair Lucy Murray-Brown

City Staff present: Executive Director Brian Corr, Project Coordinator Crystal Rosa; CPD Director of Professional Standards and Training and Certification Unit James Mulcahy, Lieutenant Phil McDavitt,

Acting Chair Murray-Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

There were no comments from members of the public.

Introductions

Acting Chair Murray-Brown welcomed new Board members Fallon, LaRoche, and Lepionka, and then Board members and City staff briefly introduced themselves to each other.

Consideration of Complaints before the Board

Acting Chair Murray-Brown moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to Section 21(a)(1) of the Mass. Open Meeting Law to discuss a request for a hearing for complaint PR 2020-008. The motion was seconded by Board Member LaRoche and approved by a unanimous vote. The Board entered executive session at 6:07 p.m. The Board returned to regular session after adjourning from executive session at 7:26 p.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of March 31, 2021, on a motion from Board Member Fallon seconded by Board Member LaRoche.

Executive Director's Report

ED Corr provided an update on current efforts and activities:

- ED Corr announced the next Police Review & Advisory Board meeting is being rescheduled for Tuesday, June 22 due to conflicts with the usual date of the last Wednesday of the month.
- ED Corr is working with the Professional Standards Unit on scheduling the trainings for the Board, including: 911 emergency communications, open meeting law, ethics, reviewing video evidence, the work of the CPD Social Justice Unit, walk-alongs with CPD officers, and "Shoot, Don't Shoot" training simulator for de-escalation.
- ED Corr reported that on May 24, the City Manager's Task Force on the Future of Public Safety submitted its report to City Council, and an independent organization called The Black Response created a separate proposal that the City Council has also received, and both are being considered.
- ED Corr provided an update of his external activities since the previous meeting:
 - April 8: Presented as part of a community session held by the Oklahoma City Community Task Force on Police Oversight.

- April 15: Met with members of the Town of Bennington, Vermont Select Board (equivalent to the city council) as they develop a proposal for creating a “Safety and Equity Board” with oversight of the Bennington Police Dept.
- May 6: Conducted a training with NACOLE staff for the Charlottesville, Virginia Police Civilian Review Board training series, *Challenges and Opportunities*.
- May 14: Met with Stephanie Everett, the first director of Boston’s new Office of Police Accountability and Transparency (OPAT), which has replaced the prior civilian oversight entity, the Community Ombudsman Oversight Panel (CO-OP).
- May 26: Conducted a remote training with NACOLE staff for the Cedar Rapids City Council on the role and function of civilian oversight to help them prepare to appoint the inaugural civilian oversight board in that city.
- April 30 and May 1: Attended the virtual annual regional conference of the National Organization for Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)
- May 10 and 11: Attended the Canadian Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (CACOLE) virtual annual conference.

Professional Standards Unit Report

Director Mulcahy shared updates from the Cambridge Police Department (CPD):

- Director Mulcahy provided a brief history of the partnership with Northeastern University in creating a joint state-accredited police training academy and announced that the academy will graduate its third call in June.
- Director Mulcahy explained that CPD is currently working on an accreditation process and is conducting a comprehensive review of its policies.
- Director Mulcahy stated that CPD has signed on to participate in Project ABLE (Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement) based at the Georgetown University School of Law, to provide trainings in Fall 2021 on duty to intervene, effective ways to intervene, officer wellbeing. ED Corr noted that the training curriculum and program model started with an initiative by community leaders and activists collaborating with the New Orleans Police Dept. and is built on research and writing by Professor Ervin Staub of UMass Amherst, a survivor of the Holocaust.

Adjournment

Board Member Lepionka moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m., seconded by Board Member Fallon.

Documents Used During the Meeting

- Police Review & Advisory Board Minutes of March 31, 2021