POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes from the meeting of March 25, 2015

Board Members present: Mertin Betts (Chair), Ann Coyne, Lucy Murray-Brown, Beverly Sealey.

City Staff Present: Executive Secretary Brian Corr, Dept. Supt. Steve DeMarco, Project & Outreach Coordinator, V. Muna Kangsen

Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM.

Review and approval of Minutes
The Board reviewed the minutes from the February 25, 2015 meeting and approved them unanimously on a motion from Board Member Coyne seconded by Board Member Murray-Brown.

Executive Secretary's report
Executive Secretary Corr met with Dr. Yoshiki Kobayashi, a former police chief at the prefecture level in Japan, who is conducting research on civilian oversight of law enforcement in the US. Dr. Kobayashi will present his research to the Board during the April meeting.

Corr met with Dr. Hartmut Aden from the Berlin School of Economics and Law who is conducting research on civilian oversight of law enforcement in the US and Germany.

Corr participated in a forum on the Cambridge Policing Project at Harvard Law School. Concerns and practices around civilian oversight, and Cambridge Police Department strategies to promote legitimacy were discussed. Supt. Chris Burke, Dep. Supt. DeMarco, Dep. Supt. Christine Elow and the Cambridge Police Department's legal counsel participated in the forum.

Corr met with Natashia Tidwell, a member of the City of Boston's Community Ombudsman Oversight Panel. Executive Secretary Corr is working to invite the COOP into NACOLE. Corr will present to the COOP at a future date.

NACOLE's annual conference will take place from October 4 – 8, 2015 in Riverside, California. Registration for the conference has begun. Corr is organizing two workshops at the conference. The first workshop *Building a Road Map to Community Trust*, will explore various strategies to build trust between the police and community with panelists who have been engaged in this type of effort. The second workshop *Racial Reconciliation, Truth-Telling, and Police Legitimacy* will explore ways to address historic tensions, grievances and misconceptions which are an impediment to collaboration between police and the communities they serve.

Corr participated in a meeting on the Cambridge Police Department's gun buy-back program, a collaboration between the CPD, Public Health Department, Many Helping Hands, the Black Pastors Conference and the Peace Commission. Items discussed during the meeting included: how best to engage the community in the effort, possible drop-off venues and how to preserve the anonymity of people returning firearms. The serial number of

returned firearms will be verified to determine if they were stolen.

Executive Secretary Corr gave Board Members copies of the recommendations from President Obama's 21st Century Policing Initiative. The recommendations will be discussed in the May meeting of the Board.

Executive Secretary Corr updated the Board on NACOLE's work with the city of Ferguson, MO to develop a civilian oversight Board.

Project & Outreach Coordinator Kangsen conducted outreach visits to Just a Start in Cambridge on March 13 and March 20, and tabled at the Rindge Towers. Kangsen is organizing more outreach visits and will inform Board Members who would like to participate in these visits.

Professional Standards Unit Report
The Cambridge Police Department will be conducting door-to-door visits in North Cambridge. These visits, are organized by the Department's Community Relations Unit and will be done in all Cambridge neighborhoods.

The Cambridge Police Department will be hiring 10 new officers. Background investigations will be completed next week. The recruits have to take and pass a physical exam before they can join the academy. Recruits will also be interviewed by a panel of 3 including: Commissioner Haas, Supt. Burke and Dep. Supt. DeMarco.

A Cambridge Police Officer was fired upon while responding to a call about a robbery. A suspect in the shooting committed suicide in a New Hampshire hotel room. The Police Department will conduct two investigations into the shooting: a firearms discharge investigation and use of force investigation. It is standard practice for the Department to undertake these investigations when an officer fires her weapon.

Dep. Supt. Ames, Elow and Wilson will participate in an event hosted by Vice Mayor Benzan on President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing.

The Cambridge Police Department's Youth Police Academy will begin in July. The purpose of the academy is to introduce youth to police work and promote understanding between youth and the police. Participants in the academy are usually high school-aged youth.

The Cambridge Police Department is working with LaSalle College on an initiative to promote bicycle and pedestrian safety in Cambridge. As part of the initiative, bicyclists in Cambridge will be asked to wear GoPro cameras to help to identify the dangers of riding a bicycle or walking in Cambridge. The objective of the initiative is to identify better and safer ways to use and share the city's roadways.

Request from Ferguson
Executive Secretary Corr updated the Board on NACOLE's work with the City of Ferguson, MO to establish a civilian oversight Board. When NACOLE first met with officials from Ferguson to discuss a civilian oversight Board, officials suggested a review Board that had no real power. Executive Secretary Corr shared with the Board excerpts of a letter he sent to an official in Ferguson regarding the formation of the Police Review & Advisory Board and how the Board goes about its work.

New Business
Board Members received copies of the report from the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. The

Board will discuss the report during the May meeting. In the June meeting, the Board will hear from the Police Department about which of the report's recommendations it is already implementing and how they plan to implement the other recommendations.

Consideration of Complaints before the Board
Board Member Coyne moved that the Board go into executive session to review complaints before the Board pursuant to M.G.L. Chap. 30A, Sec. 21 (a) (1). The motion was seconded by Board Member Sealey and approved by unanimous vote.

Adjournment
Board Member Coyne moved that the Board adjourn. The motion was seconded by Board Member Murray-Brown and approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM after reconvening in open session