# A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

## Minutes for the Meeting of June 29, 2011

Board Members Present: Mertin Betts (chair) Alexandra Detjens, Susan Melucci

City Staff Present: Acting Executive Secretary Brian Corr, Deputy Superintendent Christine Elow

Public Present: King Downing, Brigitt Keller

The meeting began at 6:12 PM.

Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

#### **Public Comment:**

Brigitt Keller expressed her desire to know whether Acting Executive Secretary Brian Corr would be made permanent, and if there will be a search for a new staff person after the resignation of Joseph Johnson.

King Downing asked for a minute of reflection for Martin and appreciation for his work and service, offered congratulations to Brian, and recognized Joe Johnson for his service and time. He also asked when the agendas for meetings are posted, and whether time can be reserved for the public to make comments during the course of the meeting, rather than only at the beginning.

Brian Corr took a moment to explain that the shift back to public comment being done only at the beginning of the meeting was made in order to keep and allow the Board to do its work in the time it generally has allotted during its meetings.

## Presentation from Deputy Supt. Christine Elow, Cambridge Police Department:

Deputy Supt. Elow described a presentation on legitimacy in policing that she and other members of the Cambridge Police Department conducted at a meeting of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police. The police chief for the City of Lowell liked it and now they will be doing it for the Regional Police Academy based in Lowell.

Deputy Supt. Elow also reported on Cambridge's new disorderly arrest policy being developed by Commissioner Haas, which is apparently the first in the nation. The draft of the Disorderly Arrest Review Report is in progress, and once done its recommendations will be implemented as policy. The Cambridge Police Department will be issuing a report on all disorderly arrests and whether or not there are disparities between how different people are handled, or between how different officers handle such arrests.

Deputy Supt. Elow explained that the new Disorderly Arrest Policy will provide guidance to officers in a range of situations, and they will be focusing on tactical disengagement, especially when the officer is the only target of the disorderly conduct. She noted that this is a change in how police understand what

maintaining control of a situation is defined and thought of, and can mean walking away or making a criminal complaint rather than an arrest.

## **New Business**

In response to a question about whether we PRAB will be hiring an another staff person, Acting Executive Secretary Brian Corr discussed the need to balance the role of investigation and the role of outreach, as well as the need to demonstrate that in tight fiscal times this is position is needed.

Board Member Melucci moved to go into executive session pursuant to M.G.L. chap. 39, s.23B(2). The motion was seconded by Board Member Detjens and approved in a unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM after executive session.