



# POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

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*A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts*

## **Minutes from the Meeting of June 26, 2024**

**Board Members present:** Chair Alexandra Fallon, Maria Arlotto, Brendan Koscher, Beverly Sealey (at 6:07 p.m.)

**City Staff present:** Executive Director Brian Corr; Administrative and Project Coordinator Ryan Welsh; CPD Director of Professional Standards, Training and Certification James Mulcahy; Lieutenant Michael LeVecque, Sergeant Robert Ciriello

**Chair Fallon called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.**

### **Public Comment**

There were no comments from members of the public.

### **Introduction of New Administrative and Project Coordinator**

Exec. Dir. Corr introduced Ryan Welsh, the new Administrative and Project Coordinator for the Police Review & Advisory Board. Admin. Coord. Welsh introduced himself and all present shared a short introduction of themselves. Due to a prior conflict, Admin. Coord. Welsh left at 6:15 p.m.

### **Review and Approval of Minutes**

The Board voted by roll call vote to approve the minutes of March 27 and April 24, 2024, on a motion from Board Member Koscher, seconded by Board Member Arlotto. The March minutes were adopted unanimously. The April minutes were adopted with Chair Fallon and Board Members Arlotto, LaRoche, and Sealey voting in favor and Board Member Koscher abstaining.

### **Executive Director's Report**

- Exec. Dir. Corr introduced Admin. Coord. Welsh, explained that it was his third day and that he was already assisting in essential activities of the Peace Commission and PRAB. Of 125 applications, 12 were chosen to be interviewed, four were finalists and Admin. Coord. Welsh was the clear best choice.
- Exec. Dir. Corr updated the board on an outreach activity at Central Square Theater on May 4 which followed a performance by Youth Underground that explored the topic of school shootings and gun violence in the U.S. The goal of the discussion was to provide an opportunity for officers and youth to dialogue, ask questions, and learn from each other. Commissioner Elow, and five additional officers joined four youth performers on stage for the discussion.
- The City's IT department has completed the online complaint form. It will be launched shortly, announced by the Comms department and added to the PRAB website.
- Exec. Dir. Corr invited Board Members to join him for the NACOLE Conference October 13-17 in Tucson, AZ. He has found it to be an excellent opportunity for networking and training and hopes a board member will attend.

### **CPD Professional Standards, Training and Certification Unit Report**

- Dir. Mulcahy provided an update about the current session of the CPD/Northeastern University Police Academy. He recognized that the Board wasn't able to see any of the training in progress. They just graduated nine new Cambridge Officers who received many awards. The list of incoming civil service enrollees for Jan 2025 was just received and they are undergoing background checks.
- He also reported that the CPD is nearing the completion of the first Mass. Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission (POST) recertification of officers. They recently submitted the records for officers with surnames starting with the last third of the alphabet.
- In response to a question from the Chair about the annual Use of Force (UoF) report, he explained that there is usually an annual report and that they would share it with the Board for review.
- In response to a question about the co-responder model, he explained that Off. Qaiss Farahi has been assigned to be a work with the co-responder, who is a clinical social worker, because he has previous experience working with a co-responder in Framingham. The CPD has completed the background investigation into the social worker.
- In response to a question about potential delays to implementing the co-responder model in light of the delay in the CARE Team responding to 911 calls because of the requirement that the potential change in working conditions be negotiated with the police unions, Dir. Mulcahy explained that there was no need to bargain with the unions because this model does not involve shifting work away from officers.

### **Report from Chair Fallon**

- Chair Fallon noted that there would only be three more meetings of PRAB in the current calendar year. She encouraged the Board to do ride- and walk-alongs with officers from CPD and has been in touch with CPD Commissioner Elow and Superintendent Wells to facilitate this. Admin. Coord. Welsh will assist with this scheduling process.
- The Chair also requested an updated presentation in October from Community Safety Department and its CARE Team, noting it will have been a year since their last update.

### **Consideration of Complaints before the Board**

- Board Member Sealey moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to Section 21(a)(1) of the Mass. Open Meeting Law to discuss complaint PR-2023-011 pending before the Board. The motion was seconded by Board Member Koscher and approved by a unanimous roll call vote. The Board entered executive session at 6:52 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

At the end of the executive session, the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m., on a motion from Board Member Sealey, seconded by Board Member Koscher.

### **Documents Used During the Meeting**

- Police Review & Advisory Board Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2024 and April 24, 2024.