



POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes from the Meeting of November 12, 2024

(DRAFT: Subject to the approval of the Board)

Board Members present: Chair Alexandra Fallon, Maria Arlotto, Gina LaRoche, Brendan Koscher

City Staff present: Interim Executive Secretary Carolina Almonte; Administrative and Project Coordinator Ryan Welsh

Chair Fallon called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Public Comment

There were no comments from members of the public.

Review and Approval of Minutes from June 26, 2024

The Board voted by roll call vote to approve the minutes from June 26, 2024 with a change to the attendance log. Member LaRoche had been absent from that meeting. On a motion from Board Member Koscher, seconded by Board Member Arlotto, the minutes were adopted unanimously with the one small change.

Interim Executive Secretary's Report

- Introductions to the Board
 - Each of the Board members, and staff members introduced themselves to one another.
- Update on launching an online complaint form
 - Admin. Coord. Welsh provided an update on the recent launch of the online complaint form.
 - Board members shared ideas for how and where else the online form could be shared to raise awareness of it.
 - In coordination with a publicity push, Admin. Coord. Welsh shared his plans to update the PRAB Brochure with plain language and to get it translated, along with the new complaint form.
- Update on NACOLE annual conference in October
 - Admin. Coord. Welsh shared insights and takeaways from the recent NACOLE conference, including ideas for projects the Board could work on in the future.
 - In response to a question about if Board members should attend, Admin. Coord. Welsh explained that there were many Board members at the conference and that in his estimation, it would be a great opportunity for Board members to learn more.
- Update on future ECC/CARE team meeting presentations
 - Admin. Coord. Welsh shared plans to visit with both CARE and ECC.
 - He will update at the next meeting on scheduling their shared presentation.

Report from Board Chair Fallon

- Status of the 2024 goals of the Board

- The Board reviewed the 2024 goals documents, shared with the Board via email.
- The Board sought clarity from Interim Exec. Sec. Almonte about how to update their rules and regulations and how to update the ordinance that governs the Board.
- The Board discussed setting time to look together at the incident report that resulted from the officer-involved shooting in 2023 and get an update from Commissioner Elow regarding where things stand with implementation of the recommendations from that report.
- Reports from ride-alongs with CPD
 - Chair Fallon and Board Members Koscher and Arlotto shared the highlights and takeaways from their ride-alongs with CPD. All participants were impressed by the level of candor officers had about their jobs, the stressors, the pressures, and their day-to-day.
 - A Board member visited a protest as part of their ride-along and remarked on the number of officers at the event, compared with the number of protesters. The Board looks forward to understanding more about the Emergency Call Center and the policies surrounding police responses when ECC gives an update in the next few months.

Annual election of a Chair

- Before taking up a motion to seat a new Board Chair, Members asked questions about the various Members' statuses and term expirations. All Board Members present expressed an interest in keeping all seats filled and anticipating the coming vacancy from Member Sealey. Chair Fallon shared that last time there was a vacancy, the Board had around 20 applicants and interviewed 12 of them.
- Board Member LaRoche made a motion to nominate Board Member Koscher as the new Chair. Member Arlotto seconded the motion. Following a unanimous roll call vote, Member Koscher was voted to become the new Board Chair.

Adjournment

The Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m., on a motion from Chair Koscher, seconded by Board Member LaRoche.

Documents Used During the Meeting

- PRAB – 2024 Goal Review.pdf