



POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes from the Meeting of April 24, 2019

Board Members present: Ann Coyne, Bet MacArthur, Ted Robitaille

City Staff: Executive Secretary Brian Corr, CPD Lieutenant Sil Ferreira, Deputy City Solicitor Arthur Goldberg, Assistant City Solicitor Sean McKendry, Project Coordinator Crystal Rosa

Chair Coyne called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Mr. Marc Levy confirmed the meeting was being recorded.

Public Comment

Cambridge resident Marc Levy stated that the Board was being improperly guided by City staff regarding procedures and the law and encouraged Board members to contact him, noting that they could speak “off the record” with him.

Cambridge resident Kim Courtney referred to an Open Meeting Law (OML) complaint she filed with the Board. She stated that while the agenda noted that the complaint would be discussed in an executive session during the meeting, she was not personally notified and invited to attend, and that furthermore it was an OML violation because the OML complaint was a matter of procedure and not about personnel. She also stated that City staff do not have the authority to dismiss complaints. She stated that she believes that whenever the Board is going to consider a complaint, the complainant must be notified and invited to attend.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the March 27, 2019 meeting, on a motion by Board Member Robitaille, seconded by Board Member MacArthur.

Executive Secretary’s Report

- Exec. Sec. Corr noted that he will be at a conference during the last Wednesday in May, the usual meeting day for the Board. The Board agreed to schedule the meeting for May 22.
- Exec. Sec. Corr stated is in the process of planning the 30th Annual Holocaust Commemoration, scheduled for Thursday, May 2. The speaker is Cambridge resident Frieda Grayzel, a survivor of Auschwitz.

Professional Standards Unit Report

Lieutenant Ferreira shared several updates from the Cambridge Police Department:

- CPD recently held their quarterly Community Stakeholders meeting, which included the Central Square Business District Improvement group, and CASPAR, a local nonprofit.
- Lieutenant Ferreira informed the Board that Police Commissioner Bard was honored by Riverside Community Care at its annual gala, for CPD’s progressive work with youth and its partnership. Riverside, a behavioral healthcare and human services organization that offers a range of services in Cambridge, has been an active member of the Cambridge Safety Net Collaborative since its inception.
- Lieutenant Ferreira also announced that two CPD Deputy Superintendents – Stephen Ahern and Jack Albert – were selected for the National Preparedness Leadership Initiative’s inaugural Meta-Leadership Project Hall of Fame. The National Preparedness Leadership Initiative is a joint program of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Center for Public

Leadership at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

- Lieutenant Ferreira stated that CPD investigators recovered \$95,000 from a scam that was sending the money to China.
- National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day will be Saturday, April 27, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. This is a safe, convenient, and responsible way to dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs. Drop-offs are anonymous and can be taken to the Cambridge Police Department at 125 6th Street in Cambridge.
- CPD will be holding a Coffee with a Cop at the Starbucks located at 1662 Mass. Ave. on Wednesday, May 1.
- CPD is also announcing that it will be launching a new Cadet Program to provide another pathway within the civil service system for Cambridge residents to become Cambridge Police officers, which is expected to begin on May 31, 2019. This program is designed for Cambridge residents between the ages of 18 and 23 who are interested in pursuing a career in policing. The program will offer on-the-job and classroom training. Cadets will be required to make a two-year commitment, and will receive a salary, benefits and vacation time.

New Business

Board Member Robitaille discussed the possibility of creating an “advisory” to address concerns he has heard from members of the community about police contacts with homeless individuals.

Consideration of Complaints before the Board

Board Member MacArthur moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to Section 21(a)(3) of the Open Meeting Law to discuss the OML complaint of Kim Courtney and Xavier Dietrich and pursuant to Section 21(a)(1) of the OML to discuss complaints pending before the Board. The motion was seconded by Board Member Robitaille and approved by unanimous vote. The Board entered executive session at 6:23 p.m.

Adjournment

After the Board adjourned from Executive Session, Board Member Robitaille moved that the Board adjourn. The motion was seconded by Board Member MacArthur and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Documents Used During the Meeting

- Police Review & Advisory Board Minutes of March 27, 2019