



POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes from the meeting of February 22, 2017

Board Members present: Ann Coyne (chair), Laurance Kimbrough, Ted Robitaille, and Lucy Murray-Brown.

City staff present: Executive Secretary Brian Corr, Project Coordinator Crystal Rosa, and Deputy Superintendent Paul Ames.

Board Members absent: Beverly Sealey

Members of the Public present: Ashley Herring and Naomi Dunson.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. No one was recording the meeting.

Public Comment

Ashley Herring, a teacher in Dorchester, local activist, and resident of Cambridge, expressed concerns about the incident involving Sergeant Thomas Ahern and Mr. Cleon Hodge, along with the use of OC spray at the Galleria Mall.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of January 4, 2016 regular meeting and approved them unanimously on a motion from Board Member Kimbrough, seconded by Board Member Robitaille.

Executive Secretary's Report

- Executive Secretary Corr attended the annual in-person board meeting in Spokane, Washington, where the board used the information gathered in a 2-year NACOLE survey to create work plans to execute.
- Executive Secretary Corr further explains that NACOLE was granted a 2-year COPS grant to research on models of oversight. The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) is a component within the United States Department of Justice. NACOLE hired a full-time employee to conduct the research. Cambridge will be one of the 9 cities to participate in a site visit.
- Executive Secretary Corr will also be speaking at American Constitution Society Symposium on Policing in a New Political Era regarding President Obama's Taskforce on 21st Century Policing.
- In April, Executive Secretary Corr will be presenting at a seminar for local police, community activists, and government officials in White Plains, New York, organized by the Westchester Coalition for Police Reform. No municipality in Westchester County has civilian oversight, and a local movement has been built in the wake a police officer recently shot and killed a military veteran with mental health issues after being called to provide assistance the individual when he was in crisis.

Professional Standards Unit Report

- Dep. Supt. Ames announced that Brent B. Larrabee was appointed Acting Police Commissioner for the City of Cambridge Police Department following the retirement of Acting Commissioner

Christopher J. Burke. Dep. Supt. Ames explained that the City of Cambridge is looking to have a permanent Commissioner by July.

- Dep. Supt. Ames stated that there will be 15 recruits in May, all of which will be residents of Cambridge 12 months before taking the police exam. CPD is offering free test preparation to residents on Saturday, February 25 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Dep. Supt. Ames also explained that CPD will be offering the Trauma Training Initiative District Attorney's, police officers, service providers, sexual assault investigators, and will be presenting at the NACOLE conference in September.
- Dep. Supt. Ames and Executive Secretary Corr are working on scheduling 1 night a month to cover police related issues, such as Use of Force, Defense Tactics, Deescalation, Trauma and Resilience, Eye Witness Testimony, and How to Respond to People with Mental Illness.
- Dep. Supt. Ames is also working with Board Member Kimbrough on an Implicit Bias training with Dep. Supt Elow, to improve relations between the community and how police officers interact with the public.

New Business

- Board Member Kimbrough further discussed his idea on recognizing implicit bias and anti-racism work within the police department. Ideally, the next steps would understand the experience of black people, oppression in the country, and early forms of policing. Executive Secretary Corr suggested Dep. Supt. Ames reach out to Dr. Lori Fridell, a national expert on implicit bias training, and to David Kennedy at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and who led Project Ceasefire in Boston in the 1990s, for a possible collaboration on this training.

Consideration of Complaints before the Board

Board Member Kimbrough moved that the Board go into executive session to review complaints pursuant to M.G.L Ch. 30A, §21(a)(1). The motion was seconded by Board Member Robitaille, and approved by unanimous vote. The Board entered executive session at 7:30 p.m.

Reconvened in Regular Session

The Board reconvened in regular session at 8:15 p.m.

Adjournment

Board Member Kimbrough moved that the Board adjourn. The motion was seconded by Board Member Robitaille and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.