



POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes from the Meeting of February 28, 2018

Board Members: Lucy Murray-Brown, Ann Coyne, Ted Robitaille, Beverly Sealey.

City Staff: Police Commissioner Branville Bard, CPD Chief Administrative Officer Andrea Brown, Executive Secretary Brian Corr, Project Coordinator Crystal Rosa

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Chair Coyne.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of January 31, 2018, meeting and approved them unanimously on a motion from Board Member Robitaille, seconded by Board Member Murray-Brown.

Discussion with Cambridge Police Commissioner Branville Bard

Commissioner Bard joined the Cambridge Police Department after serving as the Chief of Police and Director of Public Safety for the Philadelphia Housing Authority. Commissioner Bard has served on police departments for 21 years in numerous positions for the Philadelphia Police Department, including Police Inspector, and Police Captain for the 22nd District, which is the largest police district in the city in terms of assigned personnel. Commissioner Bard explained that he is most excited about having the opportunity to continue and advance the progressive nature of policing that has become synonymous with the Cambridge Police Department, continue to build and establish meaningful relationships in the City of Cambridge, and strengthen the innovative social service programs that assist and protect vulnerable populations. The Commissioner and the members of the Board discussed his personal views regarding policing and opportunities for growth for CPD.

Chief Administrative Officer Andrea Brown also introduced herself to the Board members who were unable to meet her at the last meeting. CAO Brown noted that she speaks Spanish, and was a trial attorney in employment law for the City of Boston. CAO Brown also worked in the Personnel Office for the City of Cambridge. Her work has ranged from focusing on investigations, discipline, training units, civil rights, conducting audits, and developing in service training.

Executive Secretary's Report

Exec. Sec. Corr has finalized a date with CPD Lieutenant Flynn for a training on March 7 at 6 pm. The Board will receive more information as the training is developed.

Exec. Sec. Corr announced that Laurance Kimbrough had to resign because he was elected to the School Committee and cannot serve on a municipal board or commission while also being an elected official.

Exec. Sec. Corr participated on a panel, on Friday, February 23, hosted by Simmons College in response to the documentary, "Whose Streets?" – a Black Lives Matter perspective of Ferguson in the wake of Michael Brown's death. The other panelists were Judge Jonathan Tynes, Carline Griffiths Sekou from Black Lives Matter, Rev. Laura Jarrett, and Carl Williams from the ACLU of Massachusetts.

Exec. Sec. Corr will be moderating a workshop he proposed on a Trauma-Informed Approach to Policing at the 42nd Annual Training Conference of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) in August.

Professional Standards Unit Report

CAO Brown shared a number of updates from the CPD:

- The Criminal Investigation Unit is focusing more on cyber matters, including working with regional banks.
- The CPD and City Councillor Siddiqui participated in a competition to collect the most pairs of wool socks (>60% blend) for the Warm Hearts for Warm Feet effort to help people who are living on the streets. They collected more than 1,000 pairs of socks.
- On April 19, CPD will participate in the Cambridge Science Festival, demonstrating crime scene investigations (CSI) techniques. It will take place on the first floor Community Room at Police headquarters.
- The five main squares (Kendall, Central, Inman, Harvard, and Porter) have been designated as “safety zones” with speed limits reduced to 20 mph to support the City’s Vision Zero initiative.
- CPD will be doing a Know Your Rights training for immigrants with the Commission on Immigrant Rights and Citizenship (CIRC) at the Islamic Society of Boston located at 204 Prospect St., Cambridge on Wednesday, March 14.
- The Dept. of Human Service Programs (DHSP) and CPD will be conducting the City’s Door-to-Door Campaign in early April.
- Commissioner Bard informed the Board that if anyone would like to participate in a ride-along they simply need to reach out in advance to schedule and sign a waiver.

Outreach

Member Robitaille suggested that CPD include information about PRAB on their social media.

New Business

No new business.

Adjournment

Board Member Murray-Brown moved that the Board adjourn. The motion was seconded by Board Member Sealey and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.