



POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes from the Meeting of February 27, 2019

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

City Staff: Executive Secretary Brian Corr, CPD Lieutenant Sil Ferreira, and Project Coordinator Crystal Rosa

Chair Coyne called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Cambridge resident Demarquin Johnson addressed the Board. He stated that based on his research, he had three points to raise with the Board:

- He requested an update on and procedures for reviewing the report from the CPD investigation of the April 13, 2018 incident involving the arrest of a Harvard student.
- He applauded the Board for its transparency, stating that because he cannot always attend the meetings he appreciates the minutes being available for review, while noting that the file posted online for the September 2018 meeting minutes are the June 2018 minutes.
- He suggested that based on his research, the Board should build capacity to do its own investigations by securing an independent investigator.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the January 30, 2019 meeting, on a motion by Board Member Murray-Brown, seconded by Board Member Robitaille.

Executive Secretary's Report

- Exec. Sec. Corr attended the first-ever national conference on Officer Wellness and Safety, which was held in San Antonio, Texas over the Presidents Day holiday long weekend. It was organized by the US Dept. of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. There were experts that spoke about tactical safety, officers' emotional wellness, health, resiliency, and mindfulness. Exec. Sec. Corr attended numerous sessions concerning the effects of trauma on police officers and the impact that has on their work in the community. While there, Exec. Sec. Corr met with Professor Bryan Vila from Washington State University who is a pioneer in research regarding the impact of trauma and PTSD on police officers.

Professional Standards Unit Report

Lt. Sil Ferreira shared several updates from the Cambridge Police Department:

- The next Coffee with a Cop will be at the YWCA Cambridge.
- A Harvard professor is conducting an Implicit Bias workshop for sworn and nonsworn CPD staff in June.
- Dr. Anjali Fulambarker from Simmons College is doing a study of the effectiveness of the trauma-informed policing training.
- Two weeks ago, forty Cambridge residents attended an information session about the civil service exam for police officers.
- Cambridge Police Department is participating in a national study of four police departments on Hot Spot policing. There are twelve officers participating.

New Business

Board Member Robitaille followed up on his request for data on race and gender regarding all CPD's interaction with the public, as he would like to compare that information with the cases that the Board receives and reviews. Lieutenant Ferreira will follow up with CPD Dep. Superintendent Daniel Wagner for the information.

Board Member Sealey noted that there was an online article regarding the Board that she wished to discuss. As the other Board Members had not read the article, there was no further discussion.

Consideration of Complaints before the Board

Board Member Robitaille 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 Murray-Brown and approved by unanimous vote. The Board entered executive session at 6:25 p.m.

Reconvene in Regular Session

The Board reconvened in regular session at 7:14 p.m.

The Board discussed how best to address requests for information raised during public comment, and what the practices of other boards and commissions are.

On a motion by Board Member Robitaille, seconded by Board Member Sealey, the Board voted unanimously to look into the possibility of hiring an independent investigator.

Adjournment

Board Member Murray-Brown moved that the Board adjourn. The motion was seconded by Board Member Robitaille and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Documents Used During the Meeting

- Police Review & Advisory Board Minutes of January 30, 2019