



POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes from the meeting of January 4, 2017

Board Members present: Ann Coyne (chair), Beverly Sealey, 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: Laurance Kimbrough.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the December 7, 2016 regular meeting and approved them unanimously on a motion from Board Member Murray-Brown, seconded by Board Member Robitaille.

Executive Secretary's Report

- Executive Director Corr described his involvement with the City's response to the massive December 3 fire in East Cambridge that left more than 100 people without housing. Executive Director Corr spent most of the week after the fire collecting community offers of support. There were two fundraisers at Middle East Restaurant and Puritan Restaurant in support of the victims who lost their housing in the fire. At this moment, there is only one family in need of housing and all of the other families who were displaced have been housed in Cambridge.
- The National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) is assisting the City of Chicago in its work to hire for the new position of Deputy Inspector General for Public Safety, who will have oversight of both the Chicago Police Department and the city's new civilian oversight agency (the Civilian Office of Police Accountability) through the office of the Inspector General. Executive Director Corr is working on NACOLE's 2017 conference scheduled for September 14-18 in Spokane, WA.

Professional Standards Unit Report

- Dep. Supt. Ames stated that Dep. Supt. Elow has been presenting information about the federal Secure Communities Program in "Know Your Rights" trainings coordinated by the Cambridge Commission on Immigrant Rights and Citizenship at local faith communities.
- Dep. Supt. Ames explained that he has been working with Board Member Kimbrough to develop a training on historical racism and implicit bias. Board Member Sealey suggested educators from Simmons College who have specialized in the field as possible trainers.
- Dep. Supt. Ames announced that Interim Commissioner Burke has retired. There is a projected 6 to 8 months to hire a new Commissioner. The Interim Commissioner has not been announced yet.
- Dep. Supt. Ames provided information regarding an incident that occurred at the Galleria Mall on November 7, 2016. Dep. Supt. Ames explained that a Boston Celtics player and music performer were scheduled to appear inside a store at the Galleria Mall. The event was first-come, first-served, drawing hundreds of young people to the mall. Based on the information

provided by the Galleria Mall, there were initially only three officers present, along with mall security. The event quickly became overcrowded and the officers had to call for back up to manage the crowd, because people were getting hurt as people began to push forward. The police officers tried to disperse the crowd by giving verbal commands to move back. As the crowd grew to over 1000 people, the police officers were losing control of the situation, with also aggressive behavior by some people in the crowd and the danger of people being trampled and people began to run through the food court. After the crowd received several orders to move back, OC spray (also known as pepper spray) was deployed to keep people back. A Lieutenant was at the scene and called for all units to respond to the Mall. Somerville Police and State Police responded to the location and helped maneuver everyone out of the mall. There were 6 arrests and 1 person hospitalized. There were no complaints made to Cambridge Police nor had the Board staff or members heard of any. Dep. Supt. Ames further explained that because of the use of force (using OC spray) Sgt. McGrath reviewed the incident and concluded that the officers attempted to minimize the ongoing disturbance and that after several warnings the crowd was physically resistant, therefore police officers deployed OC spray in accordance with CPD policy. Dep. Supt. Ames noted that an officer needs to provide at least three verbal commands that are not complied with before any force is used.

New Business

- Executive Director Corr shared an email he had received asking the Board to review the incident with Sergeant Thomas Ahern and Mr. Cleon Hodge. The Board discussed the email and acknowledged that they had already reviewed the incident during the December meeting. The Board determined that it respond by providing the sender a copy of the December minutes for their reference.
- Executive Director Corr invited any interested members to attend a joint meeting of a number of City of Cambridge boards and commissions meeting convened by the Civic Unity Committee on Thursday, January 19 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Board Members Coyne and Sealey stated that they would attempt to attend the meeting.
- Board Members Sealey asked Dep. Supt. Ames about a suspect in hit-and-run accident who was identified as a CPD officer in media reports. Dep. Supt. Ames stated that the officer would be arraigned at a pretrial conference in January. Dep. Supt. Ames explained that a Staff Investigation will take place after the criminal trial is over.
- Board Member Murray-Brown reported on her outreach efforts, including visits to the YWCA Cambridge, On the Rise and at a meeting of the GLBT Commission.

Consideration of Complaints before the Board

Board Member Murray-Brown 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 Kimbrough, 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 8:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Board Member Sealey moved that the Board adjourn. The motion was seconded by Board Member Murray-Brown and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.