



POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes from the Meeting of January 29, 2020

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

City Staff present: Executive Secretary Brian Corr, CPD Sergeant Phil McDavitt, Project Coordinator Crystal Rosa

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

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the December 4, 2019 meeting, on a motion by Board Chair Robitaille, seconded by Board Member Coyne.

Introductions

Cambridge Police Department Sergeant Phil McDavitt of the Professional Standards Unit introduced himself to the Board. Sergeant McDavitt has worked in law enforcement with CPD for 30 years.

Executive Secretary's Report

- Exec. Sec. Corr announced that he will not be in town for the February meeting. The Board agreed to keep the March meeting without rescheduling a new date for the February meeting.
- Exec. Sec. Corr is participating in a training for City leadership that focuses on microaggressions and creating an inclusive environment in the workplace.
- Exec. Sec. Corr announced that the NACOLE conference is scheduled for August 30 – September 3.

Professional Standards Unit Report

Sergeant McDavitt shared updates from the Cambridge Police Department:

- Sgt. McDavitt announced that this year's National Consumer Protection Week will take place from March 1 to 7, 2020. CPD will participate in this effort to help individuals and businesses learn how to keep themselves secure and provide free resources to protect consumers from fraud, scams, and identity theft.
- Sgt. McDavitt stated that the Cambridge Police Department is reporting that 2019 saw the lowest crime rates in the city in 50 years, with serious crime down 5% from 2018.
- Sgt. McDavitt stated that CPD is assisting with the logistics for the Hasty Pudding Parade at Harvard Square and Elizabeth Banks is the celebrity attending this year. This led to a discussion on how the City decides which events occur. Specifically, Board Member Robitaille expressed concern about potentially unfair treatment by the City because this parade is happening while with Cambridge Caribbean Carnival was canceled this in 2019.

New Business

- Board Member Murray-Brown discussed her outreach efforts with the Cambridge Housing Authority and Alliance of Cambridge Tenants. Board Member Murray-Brown noted that she has contacted a number of housing developments regarding outreach opportunities, including: Manning Apartments, Lincoln Way Apartments, Washington Elms, and Newton Court. Board Member Murray also met with the legal team at Boston Area Rape Crisis Center to discuss the work of the Board.

Consideration of Complaints before the Board

Board Member Sealey moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to Section 21(a)(1) of the OML to discuss pending complaint PR-2019-007 and to consider the late filing of complaint 2019-006. The motion was seconded by Board Member Coyne and approved by a unanimous vote. The Board entered executive session at 7:01 p.m.

Adjournment

After the Board adjourned from Executive Session at 7:48 p.m., Board Member Coyne moved that the Board adjourn. The motion was seconded by Board Chair Robitaille and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Documents Used During the Meeting

- Police Review & Advisory Board Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2019