



POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes from the meeting of June 29, 2016

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

City staff present: Executive Secretary Brian Corr, Administrative Coordinator Crystal Rosa, Deputy Superintendent Paul Ames, and Sergeant Casey McGrath.

Board Members absent: Lucy Murray-Brown.

The meeting was called to order at 6:11 p.m.

No Public Comment

Review and Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the March 23, 2016 regular meeting and approved them unanimously on a motion from Board Member Kimbrough, seconded by Board Member Murray-Brown.

Executive Secretary's Report

- There was a community meeting and vigil for Anthony Clay, who was fatally shot near Greene-Rose Park in The Port neighborhood early on Saturday, June 26. The Community Response Network helped organize the event with the Riverside Trauma Center at the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House. Deputy Superintendent Elow and Commissioner Burke spoke about the details surrounding the event and investigation. The DA's office has the investigation and believes that the victim was targeted. Bishop Brian Greene led the prayer service for the vigil.

Outreach

- Board Member Kimbrough reported on his outreach on behalf of the Board at the annual Hoops 'N' Health event on Saturday, June 18 in The Port neighborhood. Board Member Kimbrough spoke with 10 participants about PRAB and one person suggested that PRAB have an FAQ explaining protections for complainants against once a complaint has been filed an officer. Board Member Kimbrough was informed that the City is currently working on revamping the city's website, which includes each department. More information will be available in the coming months. Board Member Kimbrough also voiced his concern about addressing public smoking of marijuana at a playground. Board Member Kimbrough explained that there were several children in the playground and someone was smoking publically. How do community members address issues regarding quality of life when police officers are not allowed to enforce those issues?
- There is a session with the Cambridge Community Center for its youth program, The Hip Hop Transformation, scheduled on July 14 at 1 p.m.

- Executive Director Corr was planning to meet with Christina Alexis, the new Executive Director of Margaret Fuller House, on June 28, but the meeting was postponed due to planning the community meeting and vigil last night.

Training

- Executive Director Corr attended a groundbreaking five-day train-the-trainer session on Trauma-Informed Policing organized by the Cambridge Police, City of Cambridge Gender-based Violence Prevention Coordinator Liz Speakman and CPD Social Worker Cathy Pemberton. This training took about a year to plan and program, and featured trainers from across the nation, including Dr. James Hopper of Harvard Medical School. Approximately 40 people participated in the training, with about 60% being police officers and the balance service providers and City staff.

Professional Standards Unit Report

- Dep. Supt. Ames reported that CPD is working on an immersion program to provide tools on resiliency to 25 officers. The DA is currently providing a similar training on sexual assault. The program will include a two-day training on Adverse Childhood Experience. In addition, CPD is also working on a Shooting Trauma Homicide training with community partners to provide more resources for dealing with trauma.
- Dep. Supt. Ames also mentioned the five-day train-the-trainer session on Trauma-Informed Policing and its importance to both Cambridge and the future of policing.
- Dep. Supt. Ames stated that Gun Buy Back on June 11 was successful. The event also involved the communities of Arlington, Belmont, Cambridge and Somerville.
- Dep. Supt. Ames announced that ECC has rolled out the long awaited app called Haven that sends cell phone callers directly to Cambridge 911, instead of the State police.
- The Professional Standards Unit is still collaborating with the Regional CIT unit on a weeklong Critical Incident SWAT training to include the communities of Somerville, Arlington, and Everett and Chelsea. Dep. Supt. Ames stated that the training would have some emphasis on working with individuals in a mental health crisis.

Consideration of Complaints before the Board

Board Member Sealey 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 6:39 p.m.

Reconvened in Regular Session

The Board reconvened in regular session at 7:37 p.m.

New Business

- No new business.

Adjournment

Board Member Sealey moved that the Board adjourn. The motion was seconded by Board Member Kimbrough and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.