



POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes from the Meeting of June 27, 2018

Board Members present: Lucy Murray-Brown, Ted Robitaille, Beverly Sealey, and Bet MacArthur

City Staff: Chief of Professional Standards Andrea Brown, Executive Secretary Brian Corr, Project Coordinator Crystal Rosa

Acting Chair Murray-Brown called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Public Comment

Trisha Lewis, a Cambridge resident who has submitted a complaint with the Board, addressed the Board and alleged that the police report regarding her complaint questions her mental health. Ms. Lewis asserted that she is “of sound mind and body.” Ms. Lewis also provided a brief autobiography and her associations with Cambridge.

Dwayne Callendar, of the Alliance for Cambridge Tenants, stated that Ms. Lewis asked him to be present at the meeting to vouch for her.

The third member of the public stated that she was invited by Ms. Lewis but was not intending to speak. She identified herself as Valerie.

Introductions

The members of the Board introduced themselves to the newest member of the Board, Bet MacArthur, a retired social worker who also served on the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities, including a period as chair.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of April 25, 2018, meeting and postponed a vote until edits were addressed on a motion from Board Member Sealey, seconded by Board Member Robitaille. The Board also reviewed the minutes of May 23, 2018, on a motion from Board Member Robitaille, seconded by Board Member Sealey.

Executive Secretary’s Report

Exec. Sec. Corr attended the Canadian Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (CACOLE) annual conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Exec. Sec. Corr did a plenary presentation on the nature and state of policing and civilian oversight in the United States. He noted the attendees’ surprise at the lack of uniformity in laws and regulations and the complicated nature of civilian oversight in the U.S.

Exec. Sec. Corr conducted a training for the Springfield, Mass. Community Police Hearing Board. The Board consists of seven members who review complaints made against the Springfield Police.

Exec. Sec. Corr, Police Commissioner Branville Bard, and CPD Superintendent Steve DeMarco and Liz Speakman presented at the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) conference about Cambridge’s Trauma-Informed Approach to Policing training.

Professional Standards Unit Report

Chief Brown shared several updates from the Cambridge Police Department (CPD):

- There was a promotion ceremony for Deputy Superintendent Wagner, as well as a lieutenant and two sergeants. CPD has hired a new officer who has transferred from the Belmont Police Dept. Currently, there are 10 Cambridge recruits training at the regional Police Academy in Lowell.
- CPD held their quarterly Stakeholders Meeting. There were over 100 people attending the meeting, which

included discussion of “hotspot policing” research by the Police Foundation, as well as and how it is being used to enhance community safety and build stronger connections with the community. CPD has established a taskforce to address gun violence in the Port.

- CPD will continue offering a three-day Trauma-Informed Approach to Policing training. There was a highlight of police response to homelessness in a PERF report.
- CPD successfully blocked the transfer of \$95,000 from a victim to international scammers, after a potential victim alerted police.
- CPD will provide security during the Music in the Park programming and Screen on the Green at Danehy Park.
- CPD participated in another Homeless Court which provides social services to individuals who are brought to the court for infractions that would not be issued if they had a home.
- CPD completed the Annual Crime Report which showed a 7% reduction on seniors and property. The Bridge State report also indicated a 6% drop in violent crime and property crime.
- CPD will hold a community meeting at the Cambridge Community Center on June 13 to discuss and get feedback on the public safety plan for the Cambridge Carnival.
- There will be a Peace Walk in the Port organized on June 14 by Superintendent Elow and First Holiness Church.
- CPD collected 17 guns and 2 fully loaded BB guns at the Third Annual Gift Cards for Guns buy back on June 9th
- CPD is starting their annual in-service training with various topics such as mental health and legal updates.

New Business

Board Member Robitaille conducted outreach for the Police Review & Advisory Board during Hoops ‘N’ Health in Clement Morgan Park in the Port. Between 30 and 50 of the attendees at the event came to the Board’s table to get information. Board Member Robitaille stated that he was also successful at networking and sharing information with other organizations that were present. Through that outreach, they identified six organizations that would like to have an outreach visit from members of the Board.

Exec. Sec. Corr and members of the board discussed the city’s policy on social media.

Consideration of Complaints before the Board

Board Member MacArthur 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 Sealey and approved by unanimous vote. The Board entered executive session at 7:00 p.m.

Reconvened in Regular Session

The Board reconvened in regular session at 7:35 p.m.

Additional New Business

Board Member Sealey asked how the Board should engage with the public. Board Member Murray-Brown stated that she explained expectations about the meeting and sign-in sheet protocol to Ms. Lewis and the other members of the public before the meeting started. The members of the Board concluded that a FAQ flyer would be helpful for members of the public who attend the meeting.

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 7:50 p.m.

Documents Used During the Meeting

- Police Review & Advisory Board Minutes of April 25, 2018
- Police Review & Advisory Board Minutes of May 23, 2018
- City of Cambridge Social Media Policy