



POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes from the Meeting of May 23, 2018

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

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

Chair Coyne called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

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.

Executive Secretary's Report

Exec. Sec. Corr announced that the Law Department will be providing an Open Meeting Law Training for Board Members before the regular meeting on Wednesday, June 27, 2018 and will take approximately 30 minutes.

Exec. Sec. Corr is planning to meet with the Springfield, Mass. Community Police Hearing Board in June, with the date still to be confirmed. This stems from an brief conversation Exec. Sec. Corr had with Springfield Mayor Dominic Sarno when they were both attending a conference in March.

Board Member Robitaille asked Exec. Sec. Corr if the Board could have a Twitter account, having noted that the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) has an active presence on Twitter. Exec. Sec. Corr explained that there is a City of Cambridge Media Policy that covers all such social media and shared that policy with the Board members. He also noted that he maintains the Twitter account for the Peace Commission, but only tweets from time to time about events and other City of Cambridge activities as there is not a great deal content to share, and there would be even less for the Board. He noted that the CCRB is the largest civilian oversight agency in the U.S. and shares a wide range of general information through its social media. Exec. Sec. Corr noted that there is a Police Review & Advisory Board Facebook page. Board Member Robitaille stated that he would look at that and think about ways that it might be used to support outreach efforts.

Board Member Sealey suggested that Exec. Sec. Corr could start a column in the Cambridge Chronicle on behalf of the City. Exec. Sec. Corr noted that any such column would be on behalf of the City as a whole and not just the Board. Board Member Sealey asked Chief Brown about the new developments surrounding the Procedural Justice Unit. Chief Brown explained that Commissioner Bard spoke at the Budget Hearing to City Council about the new department regarding increases to staffing. The reorganization is to move the social justice related units under the same umbrella.

Professional Standards Unit Report

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

- CPD has created a part-time 30-hour/week position for an additional victim advocate to assist the current full-time victim advocate. The position is open until filled.
- CPD participated in the Door-to-Door Campaign with the Community Engagement Team from the Dept. of Human Service Programs (DHSP) doing outreach about City programs and services at Rindge Towers in North Cambridge, Newtowne Court in the Port, and Putnam Gardens in Riverside. The Door-to-Door Campaign is an initiative of DSHP to connect with and inform communities who may be underserved.
- CPD will be participating in May's Bike Safety Month and on May 2, will help students identify safe

bike routes to school and teach strategies for navigating intersections.

- On May 4, CPD will participate in an orientation at St. Peter's School about preventing bullying.
- On May 5, CPD will also participate in a basketball tournament
- CPD participated in Take Back Day at the end of April, a national day where unneeded prescription drugs can be discarded safely. CPD received 80 lbs. of prescription drugs.
- CPD's Special Response Team will hold a scenario-based simulation training at the Galleria Mall for preparedness.
- Deputy Superintendent Dan Wagner was promoted from lieutenant and will be commanding the new Procedural Justice Unit.
- CPD Commissioner Bard and Deputy Superintendent presented The American Society of Evidence Based Policing conference promoted.
- The CPD Homeless Outreach Officers were recognized at the 35th annual Good Scout Luncheon.
- CPD's Training Unit will conduct multiple trainings on a Trauma-informed Approach to Policing this summer.

New Business

Board Member Robitaille will participate in outreach during Hoops and Health on June 19th. Board Member Murray-Brown will join Board Member Robitaille and bring brochures to the event.

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 7:02 p.m.

Documents Used During the Meeting

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