



# POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

*A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts*

## Minutes from the Meeting of May 29, 2019

**Board Members present:** Ted Robitaille (acting chair), Bet MacArthur, Beverly Sealey, Lucy Murray-Brown

**City Staff present:** Executive Secretary Brian Corr, CPD Lieutenant Sil Ferreira, Project Coordinator Crystal Rosa

**Board Member Robitaille called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.**

### Public Comment

No members of the public had signed up to speak when the meeting was called to order. Gary Mello, of 324 Franklin Street, arrived at the meeting and stated that he did not have any comments.

### Review and Approval of Minutes

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 24, 2019 meeting, on a motion by Board Member Murray-Brown, seconded by Board Member MacArthur.

### Executive Secretary's Report

- Exec. Sec. Corr provided training on a trauma-informed approach to oversight at the NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) for its "Crucial Conversation" speaker series for all of its staff. CCRB has started investigating sexual misconduct complaints and all investigators had already receive mandatory trauma training, specifically the neuroscience of trauma with trainers from the NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault.
- Exec. Sec. Corr conducted a training for newly created the Police Advisory and Review Board (PARB) for the City of Pittsfield, MA. The training was entitled an "Overview & Presentation on Police Oversight" and is one of four formal training sessions for the PARB. Pittsfield Mayor Linda Tyler proposed the Board's creation in 2018 after working with both community members promoting civilian oversight and with the police chief, and the City Council adopted the enabling ordinance. Police Chief Michael Wynn and Pittsfield Human Rights Commission member Drew Herzig consulted with Corr about various models of civilian oversight and looked closely at the Cambridge model as they worked to create a civilian review board appropriate for Pittsfield. PARB reviews final investigative reports regarding complaints and make recommendations to the police chief and the mayor on policy issues. It will also provide a public forum where citizens can discuss and address policing matters. The City of Pittsfield has 80 officers in comparison to Cambridge's 270 officers. Exec. Sec. Corr may meet again with PARB regarding a training on Procedural Justice and Legitimacy.
- Exec. Sec. Corr provided information about the 5th annual Cambridge Safer Homes, Safer Community Gun Buy Back scheduled on Saturday, June 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. It is a community-led effort led by Cambridge churches, synagogues, and mosques; and by other grassroots community organizations, as well as government agencies including the Cambridge Peace Commission, the Cambridge Police Department, the Cambridge Public Health Department, the Middlesex County Sheriff and State Police. Cambridge residents can get unwanted and unsecured guns out of their homes in exchange for gift cards to local grocery stores. There are two drop-off locations, Reservoir Church and Pentecostal Tabernacle.

### **Professional Standards Unit Report**

Lieutenant Ferreira shared several updates from the Cambridge Police Department:

- CPD officers participate in a 3 on 3 basketball youth league with Margret Fuller House.
- CPD was awarded special recognition from the Massachusetts Association of Women in Law Enforcement.
- CPD officers Will be marching in the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 27.

### **New Business**

Board Member Murray-Brown reported on her outreach efforts in the community regarding the Board, its work, and its role. She has recently made presentations to the Salvation Army and Rindge Towers, and is working to set up presentations to: On the Rise, the Community Learning Center, BARCC, Transition House, and the Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission. She also met with the Cambridge Community Engagement Team's outreach workers who work in the immigrant communities, where she ; they want the police to come in and build relationships with their communities. Most of the questions people ask are about the work and history of the Board. Board Member MacArthur expressed interest in joining Board Member Murray-Brown when she presents.

- Board Member Robitaille will be outreaching at the Hoops & Health event scheduled on June 15 at Hoyt Field from 12-4pm. Board Member MacArthur stated that she may be able to help.
- Board Member Robitaille noted that the review by former Chief Justice Roderick Ireland regarding the use of force by the CPD during the arrest of a Harvard student on April 13, 2018 has been completed. Board Member Robitaille asked Exec. Sec. Corr to invite Commissioner Bard to the next meeting to discuss the findings in the review.

### **Adjournment**

Board Member Sealey moved that the Board adjourn. The motion was seconded by Board Member MacArthur and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

### **Documents Used During the Meeting**

- Police Review & Advisory Board Minutes of April 24, 2019