



POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes from the Meeting of September 30, 2020

Board Members present: Acting Chair Lucy Murray-Brown, Ann Coyne, Bet MacArthur, Beverly Sealey

City Staff present: Executive Director Brian Corr, Project Coordinator Crystal Rosa; CPD Director of Professional Standards and Training and Certification Unit James Mulcahy

Chair Robitaille called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Public Comment

There were no comments from members of the public.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the July 29, 2020 meeting on a motion from Board Member Coyne seconded by Board Member Sealey.

Executive Director's Report

- Exec. Dir. Corr led a session at the 2020 NACOLE Annual Conference called “The Path to Creating Civilian Oversight in Mexico” with panelists from Mexico and the U.S.
- Exec. Dir. Corr testified at a public meeting of the Madison, Wisconsin City Council, where they adopted an ordinance to create a new civilian oversight agency with staffing and an oversight board, which is the culmination of months of discussion with NACOLE and years of conversation about police reform in that city.
- Exec. Dir. Corr presented at a meeting Berkshire Interfaith Action (based in Pittsfield, Mass.) about the possibility of creating more civilian oversight in Berkshire County and addressing issues of discrimination against people of color and immigrants.
- Exec. Dir. Corr participated in a training for the Community Police Hearing Board of Springfield, Mass. with retired SJC Chief Justice Roderick Ireland as that city prepares to address the findings of a federal Dept. of Justice (DOJ) investigation regarding the Springfield Police Dept. narcotics unit. This is the only DOJ investigation of a police department that has taken place under the current federal administration.
- Exec. Dir. Corr presented to and met with a group of community members in Watertown, Mass. working toward forming a community advisory board to the Watertown Police Dept.
- Exec. Dir. Corr presented to the Civilian Review Board subgroup of the Arlington County, Virginia Police Practices Group, which is tasked with developing civilian oversight as well as a range of reforms for the Arlington County Police Dept.

Professional Standards Unit Report

Director Mulcahy shared updates from the Cambridge Police Department:

- Director Mulcahy reported that there have not been any significant incidents with officers and residents related to enforcement during the 6 months of COVID restrictions. Director Mulcahy explained that CPD officers have worked to protect and support the public who has gathered at social justice protests, which have been peaceful in Cambridge.
- Director Mulcahy noted that in Central Square and Harvard Square, CPD officers have focused their attention on quality of life issues. Director Mulcahy explained that CPD officers intervene when issues arise between residents or businesses and people who are experiencing homelessness and/or mental health issues.
- Director Mulcahy announced that Cambridge will be reinstating face-covering requirements outdoors now that summer is ending. CPD will continue working with the public regarding COVID safety education, rather than an enforcement approach.
- Director Mulcahy explained that CPD is already implementing most of the reforms that are proposed in the police reform bills in the state legislature, and is watching for any new requirements from the legislation to add them to the upcoming in-service training that will take place from January through April 2021.
- In response to a question from Board Member Coyne, Director Mulcahy described how PSU would be involved in matters regarding an officer's inappropriate use of social media. Director Mulcahy explained that PSU would initiate an investigation and as a City of Cambridge employee, they would be held to the city's social media policy.

Consideration of Complaints before the Board and Adjournment

Board Member Coyne moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to Section 21(a)(1) of the Mass. Open Meeting Law to discuss pending complaints PR-2020-002 and PR-2020-002. The motion was seconded by Board Member Murray-Brown and approved by a unanimous vote. The Board entered executive session at 6:36 p.m. and adjourned the meeting from executive session at 7:03 p.m.

Documents Used During the Meeting

- Police Review & Advisory Board Minutes of July 29, 2020