



# POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

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*A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts*

## **Minutes from the Meeting of January 25, 2023**

**Board Members present:** Gina LaRoche, Lucy Murray-Brown, Beverly Sealey

**City Staff present:** Executive Director Brian Corr; CPD Director of Professional Standards, Training and Certification James Mulcahy; CPD Sergeant Michael LeVecque

**Acting Chair LaRoche called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.**

Acting Chair LaRoche briefly stated a summary of the Board's role and purpose:

- The Police Review & Advisory Board provides a prompt, impartial and fair investigation of complaints brought by individuals against members of the Cambridge Police Department. The Police Review & Advisory Board was established by Cambridge City Ordinance in 1984 to:
  - Provide for citizen participation in reviewing Police Department policies, practices, and procedures;
  - Provide a prompt, impartial and fair investigation of complaints brought by individuals against members of the Cambridge Police Department; and
  - Develop programs and strategies to promote positive police/community relations and to provide opportunities for expanded discussions, improved understanding, and innovative ways of resolving differences.

### **Public Comment**

Sue Reinert, a reporter for Cambridge Day, stated that she was recording the meeting.

### **Review and Approval of Minutes**

The Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to approve the minutes of December 7, 2022, on a motion from Board Member Murray-Brown, seconded by Board Member Sealey.

### **Executive Director's Report**

- Exec. Dir. Corr provided an update on the process for filling vacancies of the Board:
  - Update on Board vacancy: The City Manager's Office received almost 30 applications for the two vacancies on the Police Review & Advisory Board (the "Board"), posted on November 9 and closing on December 12. Interviews took place during mid-December.
  - Under the city charter, the City Council votes on whether to approve the City Manager's proposed appointments to City boards and commissions. Between the number of boards and commissions with pending appointments that need to go to the City Council and the fact that there are only three City Council meetings scheduled between December 19, 2022 and February 6, 2023 and tragically, the recent officer-involved fatal shooting of Sayed Faisal, the City Manager has not yet made recommendations to the Council for their approval. Exec. Dir. Corr stated that he is hopeful that appointments will be made by the next meeting of the Board.
  - Exec. Dir. Corr explained that Chair Fallon would be unable to attend the next scheduled meeting on Wednesday, February 22 and asked if Board members would be able to attend if the date were shifted to Wednesday, March 1, and all board members present stated that

they would be able to attend, with the proviso that it begins at 6:15 p.m. The subsequent meeting will remain scheduled for Wednesday, March 29.

### **CPD Professional Standards, Training and Certification Unit Report**

- Dir. Mulcahy noted that the fifth class of the joint Cambridge/Northeastern University Police Academy class started this month with a robust group of student officers from CPD and other agencies, including 10 CPD student officers. This academy class is in its third week. Dir. Mulcahy will be teaching classes on Constitutional law, criminal law, and criminal investigations.
- Dir. Mulcahy provided an update on in-service training for all currently serving CPD officers:
  - He reported that the class-based in-service training for 2023 has begun for all currently serving CPD officers, and each January the Unit begins training using the Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) curriculum of four courses. In the fall they conduct training on use of force and firearms certification.
  - In addition, each year there is a theme across the MPTC training curriculum, and this year the theme is trauma-informed policing, which CPD has been training on for many years. and they will cycle through until all officers have met their annual in-service training requirement.
  - In response to a question from Board Member Sealey about the possibility of board members attending in-service training sessions, Dir. Mulcahy explained that they are conducting the in-service training through MPTC's online training portal, and that there are parts of that curriculum which they could work to make available to board members and that CPD would need to set up MPTC accounts for them. The trainings will be available on-demand over the upcoming weeks and months until all CPD officers have completed this training cycle. He also noted that the CPD has a scenario-based training simulator which would be valuable for board members to experience.
- In response to a question from Board Member LaRoche the process of accreditation, Dir. Mulcahy reported that the Unit has finished rewriting all CPD policies and procedures, but there has been a delay with the command staff review, and that has delayed providing them to the officers. Dir. Mulcahy hopes to have everything done and so that CPD will be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) by early 2024

### **Briefing on the Fatal Officer-involved Shooting of Sayed Faisal from Director Mulcahy**

- Director Mulcahy briefed the Board on the fatal office-involved shooting of Sayed Faisal on January 4, 2023, reminding those present that as the City Manager, Police Commissioner, and District Attorney have stated, because this is an ongoing investigation, he is limited in what they can share. The District Attorney has jurisdiction over the investigation and has indicated there will be an inquest.
- Director Mulcahy summarized the events of January 4:
  - On January 4 at approximately 1:15 p.m., Cambridge Emergency Communications received a 911 call from a Cambridgeport resident, who had witnessed a man jump out of the window of a neighboring apartment and reported that the man was in possession of a machete. The caller said that he appeared to be cutting himself with both the weapon, later identified as a kukri knife and broken window glass.
  - Multiple paramedics and Cambridge Police officers were initially dispatched to the scene and located the individual bleeding in an alley behind a building on Sidney St. He was identified as 20-year-old Cambridge resident Sayed Faisal.
  - The preliminary investigation suggests that Mr. Faisal reportedly ran with the knife after observing police, traveling through several blocks in the Cambridgeport neighborhood before officers attempted to verbally engage with him on Chestnut St., requesting that he put the knife down. Mr. Faisal reportedly moved towards the officers while still in possession of the weapon.
  - An officer discharged a less-than-lethal sponge round in an attempt to de-escalate the

situation. That round was unsuccessful in stopping Mr. Faisal. He continued to advance towards officers in possession of the weapon. One officer discharged his department-issued firearm and struck Mr. Faisal, who was immediately rendered medical aid on the scene by officers until EMS arrived. Mr. Faisal was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital where he later died.

- At the conclusion of previous inquests, the Middlesex District Attorney's Office has made all information publicly available and has stated that will be the case with this investigation.
- Following the briefing, Board members asked questions:
  - In response to a question from Board Member Murray-Brown about how long he anticipates the inquest process will take, Dir. Mulcahy explained that he didn't have an answer, but the District Attorney has posted information from past inquests, and looking at those they range from a year to a year and a half. Each case is different and the amount of investigation and information gathering varies.
  - Answering a question from Board Member LaRoche about what actions could be taken internally before the end of the inquest process, Director Mulcahy indicated that given the legal process, there will be some waiting involved.
  - Board Member Sealey stated that she did not attend the January 12 community meeting about the fatal shooting at the Martin Luther King School and asked what the meeting was like and if any board members attended. Board Member LaRoche stated that she did attend, and that the meeting was well attended and she was present for the information presented by the District Attorney, City Manager, and Police Commissioner and the first hour of questions, she did not stay for the entire meeting due to its length.

### **Other Business**

Acting Chair LaRoche asked if there were any complaints that were under investigation or pending before the Board, and both Ex. Dir. Corr and Director Mulcahy indicated that there were no pending complaints received by the Board or by PSU.

### **Adjournment**

The Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m., on a motion from Board Member Murray-Brown, seconded by Board Member Sealey with board members LaRoche, Murray-Brown, and Sealey voting in favor.

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

- Police Review & Advisory Board Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2022