



POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes from the Meeting of January 27, 2021

Board Members present: Ann Coyne, Chair Ted Robitaille, 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, CPD Sergeant Michael LeVecque

Chair Robitaille called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 December 2, 2020 meeting on a motion from Board Member Robitaille seconded by Board Member Coyne.

Executive Director's Report

ED Corr provided an update of staff activities and collaborations:

- ED Corr announced that Board Member MacArthur has resigned for personal reasons. ED Corr will work with the office of the City Manager's Office to post the notice of the vacancy and begin receiving applications, to be followed by interviews.
- ED Corr is working with Deputy Superintendent Riley on a training about Vision Zero. The presentation will be online. Members of the Board provided their availability and settled on a Monday or Wednesday date. ED Corr stated that he would check in with Board Member Murray-Brown before scheduling the training.
- On outreach, Chair Robitaille explained that he and ED Corr had a follow up conversation that resulted in good ideas on how to move forward.
- ED Corr explained that the City Manager has appointed a Taskforce to Examine the Future of Public Safety in Cambridge that is being co-chaired by Councilors Simmons and McGovern and includes the participation of Police Commissioner Bard and the City Manager. The taskforce has been established to identify includes a diverse set of voices with experience in mental health on ways to provide public safety outside of the police. Board members shared concerns about the fact the Board and/or its members were not asked to take on this examination nor were included in the group. ED Corr noted that over the years, the City has been asked to increase the number of people participating in boards, commissions, committees, and task forces and to not rely on "the same people" to serve on multiple groups to the extent possible.
- ED Corr presented at a community meeting organized by Lori Lander of Many Helping Hands called "Policing in Cambridge – Transparency and 8 Can't Wait," Along with Commissioner Bard and Tony Clark of My Brother's Keeper Cambridge who also participated.
- Through NACOLE, since the last meeting, ED Corr has continued assisting the City of Madison, WI in development and adoption of civilian oversight and also did a "Civilian Oversight 101" presentation to the Annapolis Civilian Review Board Advisory Panel, which is tasked with developing civilian oversight in the City of Annapolis, MD.

- ED Corr, along with NACOLE's current president and director of operations also met with the Biden Harris Transition Team to discuss civilian oversight of law enforcement.

Professional Standards Unit Report

Director Mulcahy shared updates from the Cambridge Police Department (CPD):

- Director Mulcahy announced that the third class of the joint CPD/Northeastern University police academy has started. It is the most diverse group of student officers to date, with more female officers than previous classes. Director Mulcahy also announced that CPD is in week 2 of the second cadet academy.
- Director Mulcahy explained that Governor Baker signed the Massachusetts Police Reform Bill into law. The only real change for Cambridge is the police officer standards and training (POST) certification program, since CPD had already implemented most of the reforms in the new law. The POST requirements will be the responsibility of PSU.
- Director Mulcahy introduced Sergeant Michael LeVecque to the board. Sgt. LeVecque was promoted at the same time when Lieutenant McDavitt was promoted from sergeant. Sgt. LeVecque has a diverse background in criminal justice, from working as a 911 dispatcher to working in the Middlesex County jail. Sergeant LeVecque has worked as a Field Training Officer and has been the lead investigator at PSU since July 2020.

Adjournment

Board Member Coyne moved to adjourn the meeting, and Board Member Sealey seconded the motion. The Board adjourned the meeting at 6:34 pm.

Documents Used During the Meeting

- Police Review & Advisory Board Minutes of December 2, 2020