

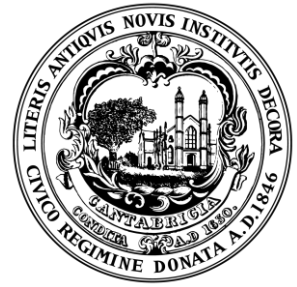
Minutes from the Meeting of June 24, 2026

Board Members Present: Alexandra Fallon, Maria Arlotto, Belicia Wilkinson, Caleb Demers.

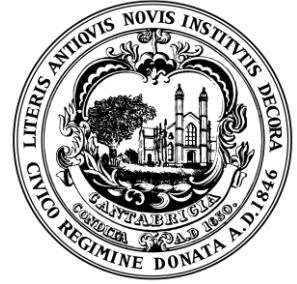
City Staff present: Executive Secretary Carolina Almonte, Program Manager Ester Farah.

Cambridge Police Department (CPD) Staff Present: David Barkhouse, Jim Mulcahy, Dr. James Barrett, Robert Ciriello, Amanda Nett.

- **Call to Order**
 - ED Almonte called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.
- **Public Comment**
 - No public comment.
- **Review and Approval of Minutes from May 12, 2026**
 - Board reviewed minutes from May 12, 2026. Motioned to approve from Board Member Wilkinson, Board Member Demers seconded. All voted in favor.
- **Presentation by Dr. James Barrett on the Family and Social Justice Section, including its overall work and approach to mental health-related cases, including co-response.**
 - Dr. Barrett explained that Cambridge uses a dual-response model for behavioral health needs through the Police Department and Community Safety Department, with each team handling different types of situations. The model is designed to reduce unnecessary law enforcement involvement; avoidable emergency room use and connect residents to supportive services. In 2025, the Clinical Support Unit co-responded to 234 calls and managed 1,340 cases, while the CARE Team responded to 1,015 calls and supported 257 community members with follow-up care. The Police Department's Family and Social Justice Section includes specialized units focused on family justice, youth and family services, clinical support, and social justice outreach. The two teams coordinate closely through weekly meetings, cross-referrals, and shared case ownership to ensure residents receive the most appropriate support.
 - Board Member Demers asked how the department handles repeat callers, especially when not responding could reinforce feelings from parties that "everyone is out to get you" or that no one cares.
 - Dr. Barrett emphasized that the team is trained to work with people living with behavioral health disorders and are specifically chosen for this kind of response. The approach is to show patience, stay responsive, and handle repeated calls in a



- way that supports the person rather than escalating the situation. Dr. Barrett emphasized that the goal is to meet people where they are and use a team prepared to manage these calls with care and consistency.
- Director Mulcahy emphasized that some people consistently call when they are in crisis or living with a disorder, and that the team responds every time. He noted that no report is ignored.
 - Board Member Fallon stated that CPD's work has been a decades-long process that continues to evolve. She asked what Dr. Barrett sees as the future direction of this work.
 - Dr. Barrett stated he would like to have two co-response units that can cover at least 16 hours Monday through Friday. For Community Safety, the hope is to increase capacity during nights, weekends, and weekdays by increasing staffing.
 - Board Member Fallon asked whether CPD could incorporate video footage from trainings to show how officers are expected to proceed.
 - Director Mulcahy said it could be helpful to incorporate video into trainings to show the difference between a bad way to proceed and a good way to proceed.
 - Board Member Fallon expressed her gratitude for the presentation as well as the coordination between the department.
- **Report from Executive Secretary Almonte**
 - Welcome Ester Farah, New Program Manager!
 - Board members and CPD staff introduced themselves.
 - ED Almonte stated she will send the second quarter Quarterly Report to board members in the coming weeks.
 - ED Almonte asked whether Board Members wanted to be a part of the vacancy search for a new Board Member, and Board Member Arlotto said she would like to help.
 - ED Almonte said the City of Somerville reached out requesting a letter of support for body-worn camera implementation. She drafted a letter for review before sending it to Jon Hillman, the Public Safety for All Project Manager at the City of Somerville.
 - **Report from CPD Professional Standards, Training, and Certification Unit Director Mulcahy**
 - Director Mulcahy reported a successful academy graduation and noted that the unit is currently looking to fill 12 to 14 vacancies.
 - Board Member Fallon said she did a ride-along and found it very helpful to see the work firsthand.



- **Chair Election**

- ED Almonte asked if anyone would like to self-nominate or nominate a Board Member to serve as our New Chair, beginning in September.
- Board Member Wilkinson motioned to nominate Board Member Demers. Board Member Fallon seconded. All voted in favor.
- Board Member Demers asked about outreach outside of Board meetings. ED Almonte stated tabling and similar outreach are fine. However, new initiatives would need Board review and approval and would have to wait until meetings resume in September.

- **Adjournment**

- Board Member Arlotto moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:02pm. Board Member Fallon seconded. All voted in favor.

Documents Used During the Meeting

- Police Review & Advisory Board Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2026
- PowerPoint Presentation by Dr. James Barrett