



# POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

*A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts*

## Minutes from the Meeting of July 1, 2020

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

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

**Chair Robitaille called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.**

### **Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

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

moved to approve The Board approved the minutes of the January 29, 2020 meeting on a motion from Board Member Sealey seconded by Board Member MacArthur with Board Members Murray-Brown, Sealey, MacArthur, and Robitaille voting in favor and Board Member Coyne abstaining.

### **Introductions**

Jim Mulcahy, Director of Professional Standards and Training and Certification Unit (PSU) of the Cambridge Police Department (CPD) introduced himself to the Board. Director Mulcahy explained that he has worked as Legal Advisor for CPD for the last eight years and is excited to be taking on this new assignment.

### **Executive Secretary's Report**

- Exec. Sec. Corr announced that the annual NACOLE conference will be held virtually as a series of webinars due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There will be 32 webinars between July 20 and September 22, 2020. Attendees will have the opportunity to register for all 32 sessions as a package for \$275 a person, or to register for sessions individually and each viewer must register separately. All sessions will be recorded and those who register for the full package will have access to all 32 recordings, while those who register for individual sessions will have access to those specific sessions.
- Exec. Sec. Corr attended the 2nd annual Officer Safety & Wellness Symposium from February 27-29 in Miami, Florida and presented a workshop on Cambridge's work on trauma-informed policing, "Creating a Trauma-Informed Law Enforcement Agency and Culture: A Case Study" along with CPD Commissioner Bard, Superintendent Elow, and trauma-informed policing trainer Justin Boardman – at. This was the second such symposium organized by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) featuring more than 30 workshops and plenary sessions, and was attended by more than 800 advocates, academics, educators law enforcement professionals and educators focused on officer safety and wellness.
- In March, Exec. Sec. Corr attended "New Frontiers in Independent Oversight of Jails, Prisons, and Police," the NACOLE Academic Symposium at the University of Texas Law School. Sessions covered topics including the state of civilian oversight, using data to promote reform, the health and care of people in custody, and new voices in oversight. One session, entitled "Policing the Police," covered constitutional and administrative standards regulating police use of force, community advisory boards and the effectiveness of police.
- In May, Exec. Sec. Corr met with Robert Ferullo, Director of the Massachusetts Municipal Police

Training Commission to discuss civilian oversight and the possibility of creating a Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) system. To improve accountability, the State Auditor has called for the establishment of a POST system in Massachusetts, which is one of just four states in the nation without a POST-like system. This system would set minimum training standards, regulate training programs and curricula, and set standards for maintenance of police licensure or certification. Corr reported that after years of being proposed by State Rep. Russell Holmes, the legislation to create a POST system is now being supported by the Governor.

- Also in May, Exec. Sec. Corr participated as one of three panelists for an online event – “A Conversation About Police Reform & Racial Justice” – organized and moderated by Congresswoman Katherine Clark. Along with Rev. J. Anthony Lloyd of the Greater Framingham Community Church and Zane Crute, President of the Mystic Valley NAACP. Together the panelists reflected on the journey toward justice and where we need to go from here. It had more than 4,400 viewers through Facebook Live.
- In June, Exec. Sec. Corr participated in another event as a panelist for the Harvard Debate Council Summer Workshops’ Session on Race and Policing, with Prof. Sonja Starr of the Univ. of Michigan, and Supt. Christine Elow of CPD. There were almost 200 high school and middle school students who attended, and for two hours the panelists answered their questions, such as: “What would a world without police look like?”

### **Professional Standards Unit Report**

Director Mulcahy shared updates from the Cambridge Police Department:

- Director Mulcahy detailed the various ways that CPD has changed its protocols to navigate the public health crisis and protect its employees. Currently, officers that use a patrol vehicle are driving alone to maintain social distancing, but each call to service dispatches two officers to the location of the incident.
- Director Mulcahy explained that although the City has mandated wearing masks in public spaces, CPD has focused its community outreach on education over enforcement. To date, not one citation has been issued. CPD still has masks available for the public.
- Director Mulcahy also announced that as part of the response to the pandemic, CPD has implemented a tele-serve system to respond to calls of nonviolent incidents, where a detective will follow up with the resident by phone instead of in person, to reduce contact between people in support of social distancing.
- Director Mulcahy explained that nonsworn staff at CPD helped by conducting outreach to senior residents in Cambridge as part of the City’s effort to reach out to and check in on 10,000 people aged 65 and older, with the help of 20 city staff and which happened to be led by Exec. Sec. Corr.
- Director Mulcahy announced the second class of 12 has graduated from the joint Cambridge/Northeastern University police academy. Those new graduates will start their first shift on Sunday, July 5. Director Mulcahy explained that the Police Cadet program for Cambridge has been restarted by Commissioner Bard after being dormant for 20 years. Now, cadets can be trained in the “Cambridge way” and if they pass the civil service exam can be hired as Cambridge police officers from that pool without being subject to the civil service list ranking that would otherwise apply.

### **New Business**

- Bicycle data from CPD will be given to Exec. Sec. Corr for distribution to the Board. A discussion about the data will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.
- Director Mulcahy offered to coordinate a training or presentation at a meeting about the city’s efforts on Vision Zero with regards to enforcement of bicycle and motor vehicle stops.

### **Adjournment**

Board Member Coyne moved that the Board adjourn. The motion was seconded by Board Member Murray-Brown and approved unanimously by a roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

**Documents Used During the Meeting**

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