



POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes from the Meeting of September 29, 2021

Board Members present: Alexandra Fallon, Gina LaRoche, Franziskus Lepionka, Beverly Sealey, Lucy Murray-Brown

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

Executive Director (ED) Brian Corr called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and facilitated the meeting until the election of the new Chair.

Public Comment

There were no comments from members of the public.

Introductions

ED Corr invited all participants to introduce themselves, which all did briefly.

Review and Approval of Minutes

Director Mulcahy suggested an edit to the meeting minutes of June 22, 2021 regarding the CPD looking into the acquisition of body-worn cameras for its officers. Board Member LaRoche suggested a clarification about her question regarding the number of complaints filed with the Board. On a motion from Board Member Murray-Brown, seconded by Board Member LaRoche, the Board approved the minutes of June 22, 2021 as amended, with Board Members Fallon, LaRoche, Lepionka, and Murray-Brown voting in favor and Board Member Sealey abstaining.

Election of a Chair

ED Corr explained the process regarding the annual election of a chair of the Board and opened the floor for nominations. Board Member Fallon indicated her willingness to be considered. Board Member Fallon nominated herself for election as chair, seconded by Board Member Murray-Brown. Nominations were closed by unanimous vote on a motion from Board Member LaRoche, seconded by Board Member Lepionka. The Board voted unanimously by roll call to elect Board Member Fallon as Chair for the upcoming year.

Executive Director's Report

ED Corr provided an update on current efforts and activities:

- ED Corr reminded the members of the Board about completing the State Ethics training.
- ED Corr explained that since the last meeting he has provided training and advice in support of efforts to establish civilian oversight in Bennington and Burlington, VT; Charlottesville and Arlington, VA; New Rochelle, NY; and Arlington, Mass.
- ED Corr reminded the Board that it will meet on Wed., December 1 due to the Thanksgiving holiday in November and the winter holidays at the end of December, as it does every year.

Professional Standards Unit Report

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

- Director Mulcahy announced that former Police Commissioner Branville Bard left the department in September after accepting a new opportunity to create and lead a new police department for Johns Hopkins University in Maryland. The City Manager has appointed former Superintendent Christine Elow as Acting Commissioner. Deputy Superintendent Rob Lowe was appointed to Acting Superintendent.
- Director Mulcahy reported that Sergeant Beth Haloran has been assigned to PSU to help work on the accreditation process for the CPD.
- Director Mulcahy described recent and upcoming trainings for CPD. CPD has conducted a two-day firearms training at Fort Devens and is currently training its officers on the new statutory language of the Massachusetts Police Reform Law. CPD has developed a 3-hour training module on de-escalation and the use of force in preparation for the changes when the law goes into effect on December 1, 2021,
- Director Mulcahy will work with ED Corr to arrange for a Use of Force training for the Board.

Consideration of Complaints before the Board

Chair Fallon moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to Section 21(a)(1) of the Mass. Open Meeting Law to discuss complaints PR 2020-009, 2021-001, and 2021-002 pending before the Board. The motion was seconded by Board Member La Roche and approved by a unanimous roll call vote. The Board entered executive session at 6:40 p.m.

Adjournment

At the end of the executive session, the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn the executive session and the meeting at 9:00 p.m., on a motion from Board Member Sealey, seconded by Board Member Lepionka.

Documents Used During the Meeting

- Police Review & Advisory Board Minutes of June 22, 2021