



POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes from the Meeting of June 1, 2023

Board Members present: Chair Alexandra Fallon, Maria Arlotto, Brendan Koscher, Gina LaRoche, Beverly Sealey (arrived at 6:54 PM due to extremely heavy traffic)

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

Chair Fallon called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Public Comment

There were no comments from members of the public.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to approve the minutes of April 26, 2023, on a motion from Board Member LaRoche, seconded by Board Member Arlotto.

Executive Director's Report

- Exec. Dir. Corr noted that Commissioner Elow had joined the meeting to provide an update on the CPD draft body-worn camera (BWC) policy.
 - Comm. Elow explained that CPD was not yet able to discuss the BWC policy, as discussing it could make it a public document, and because the policy is still undergoing bargaining such discussion could have a detrimental effect on the bargaining. They are actively working with the Law Department and will have it as soon as possible.
 - Board Chair Fallon noted that Board members were invited to individually submit questions about the draft policy to Exec. Dir. Corr and that he had forwarded those to CPD so that they could be addressed when the discussion takes place.
- Exec. Dir. Corr reported that the City Council's Public Safety Committee, chaired by Councillor Zondervan, will be holding a hearing to discuss the Board, including the report, had been officially scheduled for 5:30 PM on Wed., June 7 and reminded the Board that Exec. Dir. Corr and Chair Fallon are planning to appear at the hearing on behalf of the Board.
 - Board Member LaRoche noted that she had spoken with Councillor Zondervan at an event at City Hall and invited him to attend a meeting of the Board to find out more about its work.
- Exec. Dir. Corr noted upcoming items:
 - He will invite Emergency Communications Dept. Director Christina Giacobbe to attend one of the Board's upcoming meetings in autumn to be able to include in her presentation the protocols for dispatching the new Community Safety Department to certain calls.
 - He noted that the Board does not normally hold public meetings in July and August due to the challenge of having a quorum, but that there have been and can be additional meetings if needed.
 - Exec. Dir. Corr explained that it was time for all Board members to complete their Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) certification, which is done in person at CPD.

CPD Professional Standards, Training and Certification Unit Report

- Dir. Mulcahy reported that they are in the home stretch for the current class of cadets at the joint CPD/Northeastern University Police Academy.
 - The student officers are going through the Applied Patrol Procedures section of the curriculum. Recently the student officers were being trained on Integrating Communication, Assessment and Tactics (ICAT) and Channel 25 News came in to do a segment, which will be broadcast next week.
 - One of the training components was an exercise simulating the officers: responding to a domestic incident; then writing their reports; then participating in a mock trial in which they must testify and be cross examined, and that takes place at the Middlesex District Attorney's Office.
 - The student officers had their final exam last week, and all the student officers will successfully complete the academy. They will soon graduate, and Cambridge will have 11 new police officers. They will begin at CPD by doing in-service training to learn about CPD policies and procedures, and then they will be assigned to field training officers (FTOs).
- Dir. Mulcahy noted that PSU is still working on the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission (POST) recertification process for CPD officers with last names starting with the letters I through P.
- Board Member Koscher asked whether there is training for student officers on bias as it applies to writing reports, as a mock trial could potentially incentivize officers' writing reports in a way that would make the process more likely to result in a conviction.
 - Dir, Mulcahy replied that he does not personally lead the report-writing course, but the ideals of transparency, procedural justice and legitimacy run through everything, and that will work to find that information.

Report from Board Chair Fallon

- Chair Fallon reminded the Board that there will be a training at the police station for Board members and staff on ICAT on June 5.
 - Exec. Dir. Corr explained that if the Board members could arrive approximately 30 minutes early, they could complete the periodic certification for access to criminal justice information system (CJIS) data needed for their work on the Board.
- She noted that the Board had an excellent discussion on how to meet its goals for conducting community outreach activities.
 - Ex. Dir. Corr stated that he would reach out to the organizers of the Cambridge Jazz Festival about having a table on Sunday, July 30, which Chair Fallon plans to staff.
 - Chair Fallon shared an image of a draft banner for use at outreach events, and after some discussion of the specific language, Exec. Dir. Corr indicated that we would work to have a banner produced.
- Chair Fallon reminded the Board that another of its goals for the year is to launch an online complaint form. Board members discussed the matter briefly, and on a motion from Chair Fallon, seconded by Board Member Arlotto, the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to adopt the following: "The Board believes it is important to have an online complaint form to make it easier for individuals to file a complaint with the Board and requests that it be implemented as soon as possible."

Consideration of CPD Draft Body-Worn Camera Policy

- Chair Fallon noted that based on the update from Commissioner Elow earlier in the meeting, this item would not be discussed at the current time.

Consideration of Complaints before the Board

Board Member LaRoche moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to Section 21(a)(1) of the Mass. Open Meeting Law to discuss complaints CC-2023-001, pending before the Board. The motion was seconded by Board Member Koscher 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 meeting at 8:55 p.m., on a motion from Board Member LaRoche, seconded by Chair Fallon.

Documents Used During the Meeting

- Police Review & Advisory Board Meeting Minutes of April 26, 2023