



POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes from the Meeting of January 30, 2019

Board Members present: Lucy Murray-Brown, Ted Robitaille, Beverly Sealey

City Staff: Executive Secretary Brian Corr, CPD Lieutenant Sil Ferreira, and Project Coordinator Crystal Rosa

Acting Chair Ted Robitaille called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

Public Comment

Cambridge resident Marc Levy was present at the meeting and indicated that he was recording. Mr. Levy explained to the Board that he filed a complaint (PR-2018-010) on November 18, 2018, and received a confirmation of its receipt on December 14, 2018. Mr. Levy asked why he had not yet heard from the Board and stated that he hoped to hear from the Board before November 18, 2019. Mr. Levy suggested that the Board consider having more transparency.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the December 5, 2018 meeting, on a motion by Board Member Sealey, seconded by Board Member Murray-Brown.

Executive Secretary's Report

- Exec. Sec. Corr has met via Skype with a group of community activists and government officials in Miami-Dade County, Florida who are working to revive civilian oversight in that state's largest county, which had oversight in the past, but it was abolished.
- Exec. Sec. Corr was contacted by Jose Batista, the new executive director of the Providence External Review Authority in Rhode Island, which was revived last year to provide external oversight of the Providence Police Dept. Exec. Sec. Corr noted that the agency is established and funded by the City Council, and its members are appointed by the mayor.
- The City of Cambridge will have another installment of the Cambridge Digs Deep community conversations on Thursday, February 7 at 6 p.m. City Diversity & Inclusion Director Betsy Allen, Cambridge Police Department (CPD) Superintendent Christine Elow, and Cambridge Public School Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Salim will be presenting to the public regarding the city's policies and practices for inclusion and diversity.
- Exec. Sec. Corr has been in conversations with both the Pittsfield, Mass. Human Rights Commission and the city's chief of police providing advice and guidance regarding that city's efforts to create a new Police Advisory Board to provide civilian oversight of the police department. He was also interviewed by WAMC Radio in Berkshire County regarding Pittsfield's efforts. Board Member Robitaille noted that the Board would be interested in knowing when he has meetings with other entities in case Board members could also provide their insight.

Professional Standards Unit Report

Lt. Sil Ferreira shared several updates from the Cambridge Police Department:

- Cambridge Police Deputy Superintendent Jack Albert and Deputy Superintendent Stephen Ahern were accepted into the Harvard National Preparedness Leadership Initiative.
- Cambridge Police Crime Report showed a 3% increase in serious crime in 2018 but overall the 5-year average showed a 9% decrease.
- CPD participated in a discussion about gun violence with the CRLS Black Student Union.
- The Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House will host the next Coffee with a Cop on Saturday, February 2 from 9 to 11 a.m. at 71 Cherry Street.
- The next Mass. Civil Service Police Officer Exam is scheduled for March 23. The application deadline is February 19, and residents who are interested can text CPD for more information at 41411.

- The Warm Hearts for Warm Feet Wool Sock Drive is continuing for the second year in a row until Feb. 14. Residents can drop off new pairs of men's and women's wool socks to Cambridge City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave., or Cambridge Police Headquarters, 125 Sixth St.

New Business

Board Member Murray-Brown provided a summary about the board's outreach efforts. Board Member Robitaille attended the Hoops and Health event, a citywide event that brings together hundreds of residents over Father's Day weekend to focus on healthy living for men. Board Member Murray-Brown has reached out to the following organizations to present information about the Board:

- Transition House
- Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
- Cambridge Community Learning Center
- Cambridge Vision Zero Committee
- Cambridge Housing Authority
- On the Rise
- Youth on Fire
- Cambridge Black Pastors Alliance
- Bridge Over Troubled Waters
- YWCA Cambridge
- Cambridge Somerville Elder Services

Lt. Ferreira explained that Board Members can arrange their ride-alongs with Lt. Flynn or Dep. Supt. Jack Albert. Each Board Member will need to sign a waiver before the ride along.

Consideration of Complaints before the Board

Board Member Murray-Brown moved that the Board go into executive session to review complaints pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 30A, §21(a)(1). The motion was seconded by Board Member Sealey and approved by unanimous vote. The Board entered executive session at 6:40 p.m.

Reconvene in Regular Session

The Board reconvened in regular session at 8:30 p.m.

Board Member Robitaille asked Exec. Sec. Corr to look into what data are available from CPD regarding race and gender in its interactions to help inform the Board as it considers CPD's interactions with the public and how those might compare to complaints received. Board Member Robitaille also expressed interest in information and data about CPD's efforts in traffic enforcement related to bicycles and biking infrastructure in the city.

Adjournment

Board Member Murray-Brown moved that the Board adjourn. The motion was seconded by Board Member Sealey and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Documents Used During the Meeting

- Police Review & Advisory Board Minutes of December 5, 2018