



POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes from the Meeting of December 2, 2020

Board Members present: Ann Coyne, Lucy Murray-Brown, Chair Ted Robitaille

City Staff present: Executive Director 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 6:04 p.m.

Public Comment

There were no comments from members of the public.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the October 28, 2020 meeting on a motion from Board Member Coyne seconded by Board Member Murray-Brown.

Executive Director's Report

- ED Corr was contacted by Kyle Dodson, who is executive director of the Burlington, Vermont YMCA and has taken a leave of absence for a six-month role as "Director of Police Transformation" for the City of Burlington." Mr. Dodson is working on a range of issues and reforms, including creating civilian oversight for the police department.
- ED Corr explained that NACOLE has been working with the Justice Department on a report about civilian oversight, but that project has been put on hold.

Professional Standards Unit Report

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

- Director Mulcahy explained that the Police Commissioner and Cambridge Police leadership are waiting to see what the Massachusetts House and Senate will agree to in the final Police Reform legislation. Director Mulcahy noted that most of the reforms being discussed have already been implemented in Cambridge, which includes a duty to intervene, a ban on chokeholds, procedures toward de-escalation, and ICAT training is integrated into CPD's in-service training program, including the next round starting on January 18, 2021.

Discussion about Conducting Outreach during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Chair Robitaille and Board Member Murray-Brown have conducted outreach for the Board over the last couple of years. Members of the Board discussed what they can do as outreach during the current circumstances. During this discussion, ED Corr stated that he could reach out to directors of local organizations about the work of the Board and ask if they would like presentations from the Board on its work. The members of the Board brainstormed ideas, including developing an online fillable complaint form and the use of social media as possible avenues for more outreach.

Director Mulcahy shared that Cambridge Police Department has a public information officer who is responsible for most of the information on social media for CPD. Director Mulcahy stated that CPD sometimes receives complaints about police officers through social media and those are sent to the Professional Standards Unit for investigation. In addition, CPD uses its Twitter account to post all but the most sensitive police activity on social media, and also shares updates and information through social media.

Consideration of Complaints before the Board and Adjournment

Board Member Murray-Brown moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to Section 21(a)(1) of the Mass. Open Meeting Law to discuss pending complaints LI-2020-003 and LI-2020-004. The motion was seconded by Board Member Coyne and approved by a unanimous vote. The Board entered the executive session at 6:33 p.m. and adjourned the meeting from executive session at 7:00 p.m.

Documents Used During the Meeting

- Police Review & Advisory Board Minutes of October 28, 2020