



# POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD

*A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts*

## Minutes from the Meeting of July 29, 2020

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

**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 6:00 p.m.**

### Public Comment

One anonymous person stated that individuals have a constitutional right to address the Board without providing a name or address. Another anonymous person stated that the scheduled Executive Session should not be held because the agenda cited the incorrect subsection of the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law.

### Review and Approval of Minutes

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the July 1, 2020 meeting on a motion from Board Member Sealey seconded by Board Member Coyne.

### Executive Director's Report

- Exec. Dir. Corr reminded the Board that the annual NACOLE training conference is being held virtually as a series of webinars due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Exec. Dir. Corr has received numerous contacts from communities across the country on how to start a civilian oversight boards and agencies in light of the growing conversation about police accountability and reform:
  - He met with representatives to discuss how to move civilian oversight forward in Puebla, Mexico, following the international conference they hosted in 2018;
  - He also met with community members in Holliston, Mass, who have been working to create some form of civilian oversight, which started as an ACLU initiative two years ago;
  - He met with the Columbus, Ohio City Council president, City Attorney, and Office of the Mayor to discuss civilian oversight. Exec. Dir. Corr subsequently presented to the Columbus, Ohio City Council at a public hearing with the Columbus Community Safety Advisory Commission, and just this week the Council voted to send this a proposal to formally create a civilian oversight agency to Columbus voters in a referendum this fall; and
  - He served as a national expert on police accountability at the Social Justice in Action Community Forum, which focused on civilian oversight and what it would mean to defund the police department in Rochester, NY.

- Exec. Dir. Corr participated as a panelist in the second Session on Race and Policing for the Harvard's Debate Council Summer Workshops, along with Prof. Sonja Starr of the Univ. of Michigan Law School, and Supt. Christine Elow of CPD. There were almost 200 high school and middle school students from around the globe who attended the session.
- Exec. Dir. Corr was one of three panelists for Harvard Law School Webinar on Police Accountability and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights judgment regarding the 2006 Atenco Massacre in Texcoco, Mexico mandating the creation of civilian oversight for police forces across Mexico.

### **Professional Standards Unit Report**

Director Mulcahy shared updates from the Cambridge Police Department:

- Director Mulcahy announced that there are new personnel working at PSU, Sgt. Michael LeVecque and Sgt. Jonathan Russell. Lt. Phil McDavitt was also promoted to from the rank of sergeant since the last meeting of the Board.
- Director Mulcahy also reviewed the data on bicycle traffic stops that the Board has previously requested. A copy of the data was provided to the Board before the meeting and Director Mulcahy offered to coordinate training with Deputy Superintendent Riley of the Traffic Unit for more information on the City's commitment to Vision Zero and how it related to enforcement through motor vehicle and bicycle stops. Director Mulcahy explained that the data provided information by year on the number of stops, self-identified race of the persons stopped, Mass. General Law regarding bike offense and statutory citation code, and then number of warnings and citations issued.
- In response to a question about the gun buy-back programs conducted by the City each of the last few years and how that would be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Director Mulcahy explained that CPD will assist with safekeeping or the proper destruction of unwanted firearms at any time, and that community members do not have to wait until the annual Safer Homes gun buy-back initiative..

### **New Business**

- No new business

### **Adjournment**

Board Member MacArthur 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 9:07 p.m.

### **Documents Used During the Meeting**

- Police Review & Advisory Board Minutes of July 1, 2020