



**CITY OF ALBANY  
COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW BOARD  
PUBLIC MONTHLY MEETING  
MEETING MINUTES**

*January 12, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.  
Albany Law School, Room W212*

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**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** (N. Vives and V. Harden)

Chair Vives called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Nairobi Vives, Dr. Veneilya Harden, Paul Collins-Hackett, Matthew Ingram, John Levendosky, Victor Person, Rev. Victor Collier, and Antoinette Santos

**OTHERS PRESENT:** CPRB Program Manager Michele Andre, GLC Deputy Director Patrick Woods, GLC Publications Editor and Events Organizer Chel Miller, Assistant Corporation Counsel Raisi Mobebe, Office of Professional Standard (OPS) Commander Joshua Laiacona, and consultant Russell Bloom.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** (N. Vives)

Chair Vives moved to approve the agenda. Upon motion and seconded, the agenda was approved.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**IV. REPORT FROM MOEEL LAH FAKHOURY LLP** (R. Bloom)

Mr. Bloom shared that the consultant team completed a successful site visit, which provided an opportunity to meet with stakeholders. The consultant team looks forward to providing continued training to CPRB members and assisting the CPRB with establishing an investigative structure that will allow the Board to address the backlog of complaints, as well as new complaints as they come in.

**V. CASE REVIEW/UPDATE**

No report.

**VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**BYLAWS AND RULES**

(K. Cannizzaro)

There was no update from the committee.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

(P. Collins-Hackett)

Board member Paul Collins-Hackett shared that the committee is planning community event to provide education about the CPRB's history, present, future, and how community members can use the CPRB as a resource. He also shared that the committee is planning to build a community outreach team to support the CPRB's public presence, involve community members, and more. Mr. Collins-Hackett invites community members to contact him if they are interested in participating on the outreach team. Board member Victor Person shared that the committee also participated in a successful Kwanzaa event at the New York State Museum.

**MEDIATION**

(V. Collier)

Board member Dr. Veneilya Harden provided a report on behalf of Rev. Victor Collier, who appeared virtually on Zoom. Dr. Harden reported that the committee hopes to develop greater public awareness of the mediation program on the CPRB website and in partnership with the Albany Police Department.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT LIAISON**

(V. Harden)

Board member Dr. Veneilya Harden reported that remote electronic access is going smoothly, with no issues to report. The committee recently sent a letter to the Albany Police Department's Office of Professional Standards unit regarding the status of the investigation into South Station incidents. Dr. Harden also reported that the committee is awaiting a response from Corporation Counsel and/or OPS to provide clarity into how OPS categorizes allegations of misconduct.

**INVESTIGATION**

(J. Levendosky)

Board member John Levendosky reported that the committee will be contacting the contract investigators and committee members in the coming weeks. The committee's goal

is to create a transparent system to oversee independent investigations. Chair Vives expresses thanks to Mr. Levendosky for overseeing the Investigation Committee.

**PUBLIC OFFICIAL LIAISON**

(N. Vives)

Chair Vives reported that the committee will begin meeting per the CPRB bylaws.

**REPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT LAW CENTER**

(M. Andre, P. Woods)

CPRB Program Manager reported that we had received 8 complaints. One complaint was determined out of jurisdiction since the last meeting. As of today, we have 104 active cases; 2 cases awaiting the assignment of a detective and a case number, 44 cases under investigation by OPS, 31 cases under supervisor review by OPS, 18 cases awaiting status by OPS, and 9 cases pending Board review by CPR. 61 out of 104 complaints are from 2011 through 2021. There are 4 of which the Board has voted to investigate independently—and 7 cases are being resolved through mediation. Based on our annual reporting period, which is November 1 to October 31, we received 24 complaints in 2021 and 40 complaints in 2022. Based on the non-report period, we received 30 in 2021 and 43 in 2022.

Ms. Andre reported that the 2022 4th Quarter Report and 2022 Annual report draft are under review by GLC and will be offered up for approval at the following public monthly meeting. She will also be finalizing the 2023 Adopted budget for Board approval. Ms. Andre reported that she will offer the December 8 public monthly meeting minutes for approval.

Ms. Andre continues to meet with Thomson Reuters second a week to customize our case management system. She should be able to test the site in mid-February and go live mid-March. IT department is still working to resolve a matter with Dell for Board Members' laptops. All 2023 CPRB Public Monthly Meetings will be West Wing Classroom (W212).

Ms. Andre reported that the following internal CPRB Standing Committees had been scheduled:

- First Mondays at 2:00 PM CPRB Standing Committee on Community Outreach
- Mondays Biweekly at 2:30 PM CPRB Standing Committee on Investigation (Starting on January 23)
- First and Third Wednesdays at 11:30 AM CPRB Executive Committee and Moeel Lah Fakhoury LLP Check In
- First Thursdays (except for February 1 and March 1) at 5:30 PM Bylaws & Rules Committee
- Second Mondays at 1:00 PM CPRB Standing Committee on Police Department Liaison
- Third Friday at 1:00 PM CPRB Standing Committee on Mediation

Ms. Andre reported that the Board had scheduled a follow-up meeting to discuss the disciplinary matrix project plan.

Ms. Andre reported that the CPRB will cohost with AVillage Part I and II - Reimagining Public Safety Through Community Oversight series on Wednesday, February 15 and Thursday, March 2, at 5:30 PM and tabling at Saturday, February 18, 2023, at 9 AM - 4 PM New York State Association of Black & Puerto Rican Legislators 52nd Annual Legislative Conference Craft Expo & Business Fair

Ms. Andre confirmed that she submitted the November and December invoices consultant invoice to the City Audit's Office.

**REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS (J. Laiacona)**

Commander Laiacona reported that remote electronic access is going smoothly, with no issues to report.

Commander Laiacona confirmed receipt of the letter from the Police Department Liaison committee regarding the South Station incidents and expected to provide a response shortly after the requested deadline.

Commander Laiacona reported that the training academy is reviewing the curriculum for the Citizens' Police Academy and recommendations received from CPRB to identify whether content should be added to the existing class or if there should be a new class offered. Board Chair Vives inquired if it is possible to have elements for the CPRB presented virtually; Commander indicated that this is a possibility and that it may be well-suited to a separate class that can be recorded and shared.

Commander Laiacona also reported that the department is actively hiring and that they aim to start the next academy for new recruits in May 2023. Chair Vives recommended that Board member Matthew Ingram and Commander connect about providing training about the CPRB to new hires. Mr. Ingram suggested providing materials to new hires ahead of time.

Commander Laiacona shared that he will be out of town and unable to attend an upcoming disciplinary matrix project plan meeting, but the Deputy Chief will be in attendance.

Antionette Santos was appointed by the Common Council replaced Zach which term expired in October. Ms. Andre asked if the new Board member, Antoinette, can meet with the OPS headquarters for an introduction and overview.

**REPORT FROM THE CHAIR (N. Vives)**

Chair Vives encouraged participation in standing committees.

Chair Vives reported that this year, the Board will focus on developing a system of investigation oversight, using technology that will enable the Board to work efficiently, and developing a disciplinary matrix in collaboration with APD.

#### **REPORT FROM CORPORATION COUNSEL**

(R. Mobele)

There were no significant updates from Corporation Counsel. Mr. Mobele confirmed receipt of the CPRB's inquiry regarding honorariums Board members and said that Corporation Counsel will follow up.

#### **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

(N. Vives)

##### **Election of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary**

By unanimous consent, Nairobi Vives was re-elected as Chair.

By unanimous consent, Dr. Veneilya Harden was re-elected as Vice Chair.

By unanimous consent, Paul Collins-Hackett was re-elected as Secretary.

##### **2023 Budget**

Chair Vives shared that the 2023 adopted budget was in draft form and will be presented at the February Public Monthly Meeting. The budget priorities include technology, consultants, investigators, and community outreach.

##### **New CPRB Member**

Chair Vives introduced new Board member Antoinette Santos. Ms. Santos shared that she looks forward to serving on the CPRB.

##### **Approval of Minutes from December 8 Public Monthly Meeting**

Board members unanimously approved the December 8, 2023, meeting minutes.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Andre  
Program Manager