

**City of Albany
Citizens' Police Review Board**

Thursday, June 11, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

Teen Center Community Room, GWU the Center, 274 Washington Avenue, Albany, N.Y.

M E E T I N G M I N U T E S

Present: Larry Becker, Mickey Bradley, Charles Goodbee, Sr., Maritza Martinez, Ivy Morris,
Eugene Sarfoh

Excused Absences: David Rozen, Reverend Edward Smart

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Secretary Mickey Bradley called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

II. Approval of the Agenda

Board member Gene Sarfoh motioned to approve the Agenda. Board member Charles Goodbee seconded that motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Old Business

Final determination letters received from Interim Police Chief Brendan Cox were read aloud.

- A. **CPRB No. 35-05 / OPS No. CC2005-056**
- B. **CPRB No. 21-13 / OPS No. CC2013-061**
- C. **CPRB No. 06-14 / OPS No. CC2014-025**

IV. New Business

A. *New Complaints*

1. Complaints Received Since the May 14, 2015 Meeting

Secretary Mickey Bradley reported that the Board received the following 2 new complaints since its May 14, 2015, meeting that were not appointed monitors. This routine measure is an additional opportunity for Board members to decide if a monitor should be assigned.

- a) **CPRB No. 12-15 / OPS No. CC2015-031** - The Board did not vote to appoint a monitor.
- b) **CPRB No. 13-15 / OPS No. CC2015-029**

2. New Complaint(s) for Board Review (*See *Table I.*)

B. *Appointment of New Members to the Committee on Complaint Review for September 2015*

Board members Larry Becker, Mickey Bradley, Charles Goodbee, Maritza Martinez, and Ivy Morris all indicated availability to hear complaints for the next meeting.

C. *Committee Task Force Reports*

By-Laws and Rules

No report at this time.

Community Education and Outreach

Committee Chair Ivy Morris reported that Committee members plan to attend local community and municipal meetings, e.g., Albany Community Policing Advisory Council, AVillage, Inc., and City of Albany Common Council, as it develops a strategic plan for outreach and education.

Mediation

Committee Chair Maritza Martinez reported that a September 17, 2015, date is confirmed for a mediator training. Members of the Committee, APD, and Police Union are currently working to draft a training agenda.

Police Department Liaison

Committee Chair Mickey Bradley reported that there were no updates at this time. Committee Chair Mickey Bradley stated plans to attend a Know Your Rights community forum.

Public Official Liaison

No report at this time.

Task Force on Monitors

Task Force on Monitors Chair Eugene Sarfoh reported that a Task Force meeting was held this evening. Based on information contained in complaints received by the Board over the last year, there was discussion related to monitors' and OPS's use of resources and time for complaints that lacked sufficient factual information. The Task Force will examine the data and, if necessary, develop a plan to further address the matter.

D. Report from the Government Law Center (GLC)

Coordinator for the CPRB, Maureen Obie, reported that as of today there are 42 active complaints pending review. Of those 42 complaints, 5 were reviewed and closed at this meeting, leaving the Board with 37 active complaints remaining. The Board has at least 5 cases that are ready to be reviewed at its next meeting. A total of 575 complaints have been closed. The total number of complaints that remain suspended from review is 11. The number of complaints filed to date is 659. Since the Board's last meeting on May 21, 2015, the GLC received 6 Grievance Forms, bringing the total number of Grievance Forms received to 501. In response to outreach to all individuals who submitted grievance forms, the Board has received 138 related Citizen Complaint forms, which is 27% effectiveness.

Second-year Albany Law student Steven Cummings has been hired by the GLC for the position of Summer CPRB Research Assistant. In addition to routine administrative tasks, Mr. Cummings is also available for research assignments at the request of Board members.

The spring 2015 Albany Citizen Police Academy will conclude on June 17. Board members Larry Becker, Charles Goodbee, and Ivy Morris, as well as CPRB Mediator Ron Vero and Ms. Obie, completed this year's Academy.

A total of 5 confirmed registrations for the 2015 Annual National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) Conference in Riverside, CA, on October 4-8, have been received and processed by the GLC.

The next CPRB monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.

E. Report from the Office of Professional Standards (OPS)

OPS Commander Michael Hicks inquired regarding Board members' success with accessing the Department's online Standard Operating Procedures. Cdr. Hicks suggested that Board members contact him if they experience any difficulty with logging on to the portal.

F. Report from the Chair

No report at this time.

V. Public Comment

Dr. Brad Watts and Dr. Camille Barnes of the University at Albany Center for Human Research delivered a status update. Dr. Watts reported that the CPRB research study interviews were complete. The Center for Human Research will next begin sending satisfaction surveys to determine a baseline for citizens using the complaint process. By September, the Board should receive a copy of those survey results. Dr. Watts offered to attend the next Board meeting or meet separately with Board members and answer any questions.

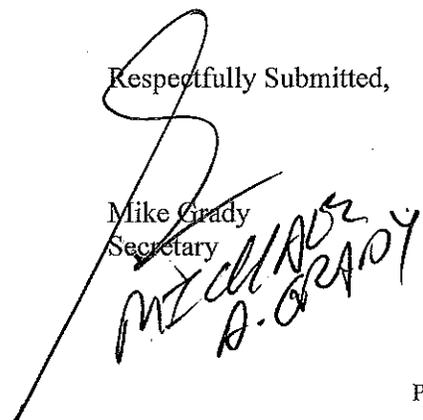
Several community members in attendance inquired regarding several issues, including: possible methods for improving police and community relations, particularly during interactions that escalate too quickly; hiring qualifications for CPRB monitors and their role in the complaint review process; the inherent power dynamic between police officers and community members; complaint numbers and the neighborhoods they originate from; and the number of complaint allegations that are sustained by the Board.

VI. Adjournment

Secretary Mickey Bradley moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Board member Gene Sarfoh seconded that motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Grady
Secretary



MICHAEL A. GRADY

***Table 1 Complaints for Board Review**

CPRB / OPS NO.	SUMMARY	ALLEGATIONS	OPS FINDING	CPRB FINDING / ACTION
#40-13 / CC2013-098	Co. alleges use of force and the threat of being sprayed with OC Spray, as well as the threat of a baton. Co. further alleges the officers used profanity, would not allow her to speak to her son, and denied her medical attention.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use of Force 2. Arrest Authority & Procedures 3. Conduct Standards 4. Call Handling 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exonerated 2. Unfounded 3. Not Sustained 4. Exonerated 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not Sustained 2. Unfounded 3. Not Sustained 4. Ineffective Policy or Training
#41-13 / CC2013-099	Co. alleges that she was sprayed with mace, grabbed with such force than an officer broke her wrist, and tried to throw her down the stairs. Co. further alleges the officer forced entry into her home, used profanity, and denied her medical attention.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use of Force 2. Arrest Authority & Procedure 3. Conduct Standards 4. Call Handling 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exonerated 2. Unfounded 3. Not Sustained 4. Exonerated 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not Sustained 2. Not Sustained 3. Not Sustained 4. Not Sustained
#18-14 / CC2014-054	Co. alleges that he was slammed onto the ground by an officer, a bottle of Rum was poured out by the officer, and a photo of the officer taken on his cell phone was removed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidence & Property Handling 2. Evidence & Property Handling 3. Use of Force 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustained 2. Not Sustained 3. Not Sustained 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustained 2. Not Sustained 3. Not Sustained

CPRB / OPS NO.	SUMMARY	ALLEGATIONS	OPS FINDING	CPRB FINDING / ACTION
#34-14 / CC2014-069	Co. alleges an officer grabbed his arm and twisted it while grabbing his wallet from his hand. Co. further alleges a second officer pushed and shoved him, and was verbally aggressive toward him.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call Handling 2. Use of Force 3. Use of Force 4. Conduct Standards 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exonerated 2. Not Sustained 3. Ineffective Policy or Training 4. Not Sustained 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exonerated 2. Not Sustained 3. Ineffective Policy or Training 4. Not Sustained
#35-14 / CC2014-079	Co. alleges that he was handcuffed, searched, and called an "idiot" by the responding officer to a call involving a toy gun.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arrest Authority & Procedures 2. Conduct Standards 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exonerated 2. Sustained 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exonerated 2. Sustained