

**CITY OF ALBANY  
COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW BOARD**

*December 09, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.*  
**Held Via Zoom**

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call** (N. Vives, V. Harden)

Board Members Present: Nairobi Vives, Paul Collins-Hackett, Dr. Rev. Victor Collier, Dr. Veneilya Harden, Zach Garafalo, John Levendosky, Kevin Cannizzaro

Also Present: Commander Joshua Laiacona, Matt Toporowski

Excused: Matthew Ingram, Victor Person

Board Chair Vives called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**II. Approval of the Agenda** (N. Vives)

Upon motion and second, the agenda was approved.

**III. Introduction of New Board Member, John Levendosky** (M. Harkness)

Ms. Harkness introduced Mr. Levendosky as the new Mayoral appointment to the Board. He replaces Mr. Becker whose term has ended.

**IV. New Business** (N. Vives)

Chair Vives reported that two new complaints have been received since November 9, 2021.

**Proposed Amendment Bylaws and Rules:**

Chair Vives reminded Board members that the proposed amendment was introduced and discussed at the November meeting and, as per the Bylaws, is being put before the Board for vote at this meeting.

Upon motion and second an amendment to the Bylaws and Rules, which creates a new Section V under Article III titled, "Procedure for Initial Case Review by Newly Appointed Members" passed and reads as follows:

**Upon the first assignment of a case to a newly appointed member, the Chairperson shall also designate another member of the Community Police Review Board who has completed a minimum of three (3) case reviews, to accompany the newly appointed**

**member on their first case review and assist them in analyzing the complaint and take any and all necessary steps in orienting the new member to the review process.**

V. **Case Updates** (N. Vives)

Board Chair Vives reported on a complaint received on November 23, 2021, which involved an Albany County Sheriff.

**As it was determined that the case was outside the jurisdiction of the CPRB, motion was made to not accept the case. Upon second and vote, the motion passed with one abstention.**

The complaint was sent on to Commander Laiacona who reported that he forwarded it to his counterpart with the Sheriff's department.

In response to a question from Chair Vives about how complaints which involve incidents that take place in Albany and which involve another law enforcement agency (i.e. Sherriff or State Police) are handled, Commander Laiacona stated that they should be referred to him and he will send them on to his counterpart in the appropriate agency.

VI. **Case Review**

CC2018-013 (P. Collins-Hackett)

The case review was tabled until the next meeting, which is scheduled for January 13, 2022.

VII. **Committee Report**

i. By-Laws and Rules (N. Vives)

There were no items on which to report at this time.

ii. Outreach (P. Collins-Hackett)

Mr. Collins-Hackett reported that the podcast roundtable conversation have taken place. The videographer is working on editing and when that is finished it will be add to the website. A calendar of neighborhood association meetings is being put together. The hope is that this effort will get the word out about what is being done and how people can get involved.

iii. Mediation (Rev. Collier)

There are no updates on which to report at this time.

iv. Police Department Liaison Committee (Dr. Harden)

Committee Chair Harden reported that the Committee has regularly scheduled monthly meetings with OPS and the GLC and that has been going well.

iv. **Public Official Liaison Committee** (N. Vives)

Board Chair Vives reported that the Committee is working with Corporate Counsel on the RFP process and she will provide updates as the process moves forward.

v. **Monitor Task Force** (N. Vives)

Board Chair Vives reported that with Committee Chair Larry Becker's term ending, Dr. Harden has volunteered to serve as interim Chair of the Task Force until a new one is seated.

VIII. **Report from Government Law Center** (M. Harkness)

Ms. Harkness reported that she and the GLC staff have been meeting and will have a transition support plan in place prior to her departure.

IX. **Report from OPS** (Commander Laiacona)

Commander Laiacona reported that OPS has been authorized to electronically release completed and approved cases to the Board. He noted that they working on formulating the process and how to approach ongoing investigations. He also reported that OPS will be in discussions with the administration and Corporate Counsel on how to move forward.

X. **Report from the Chair** (N. Vives)

Board Chair Vives reported that many organizations and boards have been reaching out to inquire about the CPRB's process in relation to Local Law J. Starting in January, the Board will begin working on the new structure of the Board. Chair Vives noted that she wants to focus on outreach since the community had such a big part in making Local Law J happen. She also noted that she would be working on getting the Outreach Committee some help.

Chair Vives also reported that, while the effort to hire investigators continues, Mr. Becker has agreed to come on in an advisory role. He will assist in training new Board members and, in some capacity, help with investigating some of the cases that Board members take on as members start to exercise their investigatory powers under Local Law J.

Mr. Collins-Hackett, Dr. Harden, Kevin Cannizzaro, and Ms. Harkness will be travelling to the NACOLE conference this month.

XI. **Public Comment**

No comment.

XII. **Meeting Adjournment** (N. Vives)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Venelya Harden  
Secretary