

**CITY OF ALBANY
COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW BOARD**

*January 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
Via Zoom*

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order and Roll Call (N. Vives and Dr. Harden)

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

Also Present: Matt Toporowski, Ava Ayers, Al Lawrence, Melody Harkness, Patrick Woods.

Excused: Kevin Cannizzaro

Board Chair Vives called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

II. Approval of the Agenda (N. Vives)

Upon motion and second, the agenda was approved.

III. New Business (N. Vives)

Chair Vives reported that two new complaints and two new grievances have been received since the December 9, 2021 meeting. Chair Vives noted that she will be contacting those Board members to whom they have been assigned.

Accessibility (Z. Garafalo)

Mr. Garafalo reported that the Sign Language Connection of the Center for Disability Rights will be sponsoring sign language interpreters to allow CPRB meetings to be more accessible moving forward in accordance with Local Law J.

IV. Local Law J Update (N. Vives)

Chair Vives reported that the RFP is in the process of being finalized and approved. A schedule of meetings will be forthcoming. Mr. Toporowski provided an update noting that the RFP has been finalized and issued with the help of the GLC and the CPRB Executive Board. The deadline for proposals is February 18, 2022.

V. **Case Review/Update**

CC2018-013

(P. Collins-Hackett)

Board Chair Vives noted that there were no representatives from OPS present at the meeting. Mr. Lawrence was the monitor assigned to this case.

The Complaint: The complainant alleged that police used excessive force and derogatory language in responding to a call for assistance that he had initiated.

Mr. Collins-Hackett reported that after reviewing camera footage, booking video, arrest reports, the complaint, and supporting documents he had concerns about the findings as outlined in the APD Report and would like further explanation as follows:

- 1) **Use of Excessive Force – Exonerated:** The complainant alleged that while in handcuffs an APD Officer “slammed” him against a plate-glass window hard enough to break it. APD concluded that, the complainant was “pushed” into the window and that it did break, but, excessive force was not used and, according to a witness, the window was already broken. Mr. Collins-Hackett stated that, whether the window was or was not broken, he feels that the manner in which the complainant was treated by the officer was inappropriate and should have been/be addressed.
- 2) **Conduct Standards – Unfounded:** The complainant alleged that during booking \$3 was stolen from him. Mr. Collins-Hackett is interested in knowing the process as it pertains to the handling of money during bookings.

Following discussion, Chair Vives tabled voting on the case. Some of the issues brought up during the discussion were also noted to be addressed with OPS at the next Police Liaison Committee Meeting.

VI. **NACOLE Presentation**

(V. Harden & P. Collins-Hackett)

Chair Vives moved the NACOLE presentation to February’s meeting.

VII. **Committee Reports**

i. **By-Laws and Rules**

(M. Ingram)

Mr. Ingram reported that there were no updates at this time.

ii. **Outreach**

(Dr. Harden)

Dr. Harden reported that here were no updates at this time.

iii. **Mediation**

(V. Collier)

Rev. Collins reported that there were no updates at this time.

iv. **Police Liaison Committee**

(Dr. Harden)

Dr. Harden reported that due to unforeseen circumstances, the monthly meeting with OPS was not held. She also reported that the Committee is looking to see if OPS can accommodate case reviews in a different manner so they are not paused due to COVID in order to allow for CPRB members to catch up and review cases in a timelier manner. Dr. Harden noted that Mr. Garafalo has joined the committee.

iv. **Public Official Liaison Committee**

(N. Vives)

No updates at this time.

v. **Monitor Task Force**

(Dr. Harden)

Dr. Harden reported that a meeting with a new applicant for the Monitor Task Force is scheduled for next week. She noted that they are hopeful to get some new monitors on board.

VIII. **Report from Government Law Center**
Ayers)

(Ms. Harkness & Professor

Ms. Harkness reported that work is being done on the monitor and another position job posting descriptions. There is a new member orientation on the 26th at 4:30 p.m. to get Mr. Levendosky onboarded. The orientation is open to other members who may be interested. She also reported that Q3 and Q4 reports as well as the annual report are in the process of being written.

The roundtable video is done and partially edited but needs further editing before it can be posted to the website.

IX. **Report from OPS**

(N. Vives)

Representatives from OPS were unable to be in attendance.

X. **Report from the Chair**

(N. Vives)

Chair Vives noted that this meeting will be the last for Ms. Harkness. Chair Vives and members of the CPRB thanked her for her dedication, hard work, and exceeding all expectations.

XI. **Public Comment**

No comment.

XII. **Meeting Adjournment**

(N. Vives)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Paul Collins-Hackett
Secretary