

**CITY OF ALBANY
COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW BOARD**

February 10, 2022, at. 6:00PM via Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

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

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

Others in attendance: Commander Laiacona, Patrick Woods

Excused: Rev. Dr. Victor Collier

Board Chair Vives called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

II. Approval of the Agenda (N. Vives)

Motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

III. Case Reviews

CC2019-008 (P. Collins-Hackett)

Moved to March agenda in order to obtain OPS input.

CC2019-021 (Rev. Collier)

Moved to March agenda.

IV. NACOLE Presentation (Dr. Harden & P. Collins-Hackett)

Dr. Harden and Mr. Collins-Hackett provided an overview of the events and topics covered at the annual NACOLE (National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement) Conference which was held in December in Tucson, AZ. Dr. Harden noted that the conference was centered around the death of George Floyd and conversations included topics such as considering how accountability and transparency has, if at all, been achieved; what practitioners and experts in the field can do to share information and strengthen civilian oversight; trauma informed approaches; partnering with mental health and social workers and what those partnerships should look like; how police unions hinder the work of oversight boards,

and what to consider when conducting investigations in a politically and racially charged environment.

Mr. Collins-Hackett noted that the Albany CPRB is further along in the process than most who were at the conference and suggested that perhaps they could present at a future conference. Mr. Ingram stated that he submitted a proposal to present about the process of reform that the Albany Board went through but it was not accepted. He also stated that the Dean of Rockefeller College at UAlbany is spearheading an effort to organize a policing crisis conference in May. Mr. Ingram stated that he has suggested a panel that would bring together academicians who study oversight and practitioners. He will share information with the Board as it becomes available. Mr. Collins-Hackett volunteered to work with Mr. Ingram on those projects.

Dr. Harden reported that the 2022 NACOLE Conference is scheduled for September 11-15 in Fort Worth, TX, at the Worthington Renaissance Hotel.
https://www.nacole.org/annual_conference

V. Committee Reports

- i. ***By-Laws and Rules*** (M. Ingram)
Committee Chair Ingram stated that he had no update but noted that future meetings would be held on Thursday two weeks prior to each Board meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for February 17 at 5:30 PM.
- ii. ***Outreach*** (P. Collins-Hackett)
Committee Chair Collins-Hackett reported that the committee is still working on getting more podcast sessions scheduled. Much of the outreach is going to center around the Board's recent decision to start an investigation of the recent officer involved shooting -- what that means, what that looks like, what expectations should be. The Committee is also discussing ways in which they could let people know that the Board is accessible.
- iii. ***Mediation***
There are no updates.
- iv. ***Police Department Liaison Committee*** (Dr. Harden)
Committee Chair Harden noted that the Committee continues to meet. At the last meeting the Committee inquired about and asked for updates on: the ability to review cases without having to go to OPS; will there be any barriers to obtaining information; the Police Citizens Academy complaint that was recently filed and if that complaint would be addressed publicly.
- iv. ***Public Official Liaison Committee*** (N. Vives)
Board Chair Vives reported that at the last meeting she asked for a meeting with the Chief, representatives from the Mayor's Office, the Common Council, Corporate

Council and OPS to discuss the process and structure around sharing of information given the changes to Local Law J. She noted that the purpose of the meeting is to be sure everyone has a clear understanding as to what the law says and what information CPRB Board members are entitled to have access. The Board will be notified when the meeting is scheduled.

- v. **Monitor Task Force** (Dr. Harden)
Committee Chair Harden reported that they are still recruiting. She noted there is a need to create a formal orientation and training process for new monitors. She invited anyone interested in joining the Task Force to let her know.

- VI. **Report from Government Law Center** (P. Woods)
Mr. Woods, Deputy Director of the GLC, reported that the search for someone to fill the CPRB position continues. He asked that Board members encourage potential candidates they might be aware of to apply. Several law student interns have been hired to assist with CPRB projects and administrative tasks.

- VII. **Report from OPS** (Commander Laiacona)
Commander Laiacona reported on a meeting that took place with the vendor that handles electronic storage of evidence as well as the body cameras and tasers the officers use. At that meeting discussion took place as to how to provide Board members access to evidence electronically. He stated that CPRB Board members will be receiving emails that will provide links to online access to evidence. He noted that Initially it will be for cases that are complete and they are still working on how access to ongoing cases will be accomplished but noted that they are close to a solution and they hope to roll it out in a few weeks. Prior to the roll-out, plans are to provide CPRB members with a training session on how to access the information. As to moving forward with CPRB Board members obtaining information for their investigations given the new legislation, Commander Laiacona stated that he is still in talks with the Corporate Council.

The complaint relating to the situation at the Citizens Police Academy is complete and at the Chief's office.

Commander Laiacona discussed involving the CPRB Board in recruit training by including them in actual classroom time. He noted that since the Academy is accredited and the recruits receive college credit, they will have to submit a proposal along with a curriculum and a PowerPoint for consideration. Board Chair Vives suggested that Mr. Ingram would be a good person to help with this. Mr. Ingram agreed he could help with the project.

- VIII. **Report from the Chair** (N. Vives)

Board Chair Vives reported on the special meeting that was held to address the officer involved shooting that occurred on January 24th and noted that they voted

to investigate, which would be the first investigation of an ongoing police matter under the new legislation.

- IX. **New Business** (N. Vives)
One new complaint has been received since the January board meeting. Chair Vives noted that a process for case assignments going forward is being developed.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of November 9, 2021 and December 9, 2021 meetings was made and seconded. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Nomination of Board Officers

Board Chair Vives noted that the Board inadvertently did not address the issue of nominating Board Officers at the January meeting.

Motion was made for the current officers to continue as Chair (Ms. Vives); Vice Chair (Dr. Harden); Secretary (Mr. Collins-Hackett). The motion was seconded. In response to an appeal for additional nominations, none were made.

As per the Bylaws, voting will take place at the March meeting.

- X. **Public Comment**
No comment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Collins-Hackett
Secretary