**City of Syracuse**

**Citizen Review Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, May 2, 2024**

**5:30 PM to 7:30 PM**

**Common Council Chambers**

**Public Comment - 20 minutes at 6:30 PM**

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| **Name** | **P** | **A** | **Name** | **P** | **A** | **Name** | **P** | **A** |
| Pratt, Harry | X |  | Holmes, Hatisha | X |  | Nilsson, Lori | X |  |
| Bey-Wright, Jah-Quan |  | X | Johnson, Donald |  | X | Carter, Mae |  | X |
| Love-joy-Grinnell, Bryn | X |  | Favata, Joseph | X |  | Betts, Linda J. |  | X |
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On Thursday,May 2, 2024, the City of Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) held an open, stated meeting at 304 City Hall in the Common Council Chambers.

Lori Nilsson, Board Chair, called the meeting to order and announced that the meeting was being held pursuant to notice and that a quorum was not present.

1. Board Action Items
   1. Approval of the April 4, 2024, minutes deferred until June 6th, 2024, meeting.
2. Chairman’s Items
   1. Lori Nilsson thanked the public for attending the CRB public hearing yesterday, May 1st, 2024, and the CRB meeting May 2, 2024. She stated that the CRB lost four board members in the last few weeks due to replacements and made mention that the new appointees were not present. She stated that one person was appointed and resigned before they started serving and those are the reasons for there not being a quorum.
   2. Lori stated that due to some of the replacements she had to get another crew to do the administrators evaluation, but she has three board members who agreed to do the evaluation and she has spoken to the mayor’s office, and she intends to reach out to the councilor.
3. Administrator’s Report
   1. Activity Report – Ranette Releford stated we received four new cases in the month of April, one online, two from the office of professional standards, and one in person. To date we have a total of twenty-one cases for 2024. Ranette mentioned that in executive session six cases were supposed to be reviewed but there is not a quorum so they will not move to executive session.
   2. Ranette mentioned the budget hearing that took place and that the budget is to be approved by the council this upcoming Monday, May 6, 2024.
   3. Ranette mentioned we had a new board member appointed by the mayor’s office and his name is Donald Johnson, she stated that she spoke with him, and he is retired. Ranette stated that we have another board member Linda Betts, from the 5th district and she is retired as well, and she also spoke with her. Ranette advised both board members still must be sworn in. Ranette mentioned that Mae Carter is supposed to remain on the board until the end of this year or until a replacement is found. Ranette mentioned that we still have openings in the first and fourth district.
   4. Ranette mentioned that we received several letters related to hearings that were going to be discussed further in executive session including dates proposed by SPD’s counsel as potential dates to hold hearings after having to adjourn the last four hearings that were scheduled due to inquiries by SPD’s attorney that needed to be sorted out by the board.
4. Committees
5. Outreach Committee – Lori mentioned that we are having a block party June 29, 2024, from 11am-4pm at Meachem field in the valley. She mentioned there will be a DJ, activities, games, and food. She stated that there will be resource tables from a variety of organizations in the city. She mentioned a past event that the CRB has had and stated that she believed everyone had a good time then. Ranette mentioned that we have additional community events that are scheduled this month such as a community wide literacy kickoff through Syracuse reads on May 4, 2024, Mental Health Awareness through Oncare at Lower Onondaga Park May 11, 2024, Senior fair community outreach through Black Health at 1700 West Onondaga Street, May 23, 2024. Ranette advised that board members will be emailed related to these events. Ranette mentioned that if any community members wanted to be part of the resource tent at the CRB block party to contact our office at 315-448-8750. Lori thanked Anthony Heard, the community engagement specialist for putting together the CRB block party.
6. Board Development/Training- Lori stated that the board continues to do NACOLE training and that there is a new one coming up if anyone on the board is interested in attending the training. She mentioned that the training is about police surveillance and is only one hour long online. She also stated that if a board member cannot watch the training live if they register for the training, they will be able to view it at any time after the live training as it is recorded.
7. Government Relations – Lori stated that the CRB has attended many study sessions and board meetings and Ranette and her have had individual meetings with the mayor’s office and have spoken with the councilors. Lori again thanked everyone for attending the CRB public hearing that occurred May 1, 2024. Lori mentioned that we need the community supporting the board and that the Citizen Review Board is the Citizen Review Board and not the common council review board. Lori stated that the proposed legislation changes do not make the CRB a citizen-controlled board.

d. Police Relations- Lori stated that we were supposed to have our monthly meeting with the Police Liaison committee but that it was canceled due to the tragic loss of 2 law enforcement officers. She stated that the meeting will be rescheduled.

1. Public Comment (6:30 pm) – Jackie Lasaund got up to speak and she said she and a few others in the audience are from the southside. She stated she is interested in finding out about the process and asked for more information related to the vacancy in the fourth district. She asked for the CRB process to be explained. Lori began to explain the CRB process to the public and how a case moves through our department from start to finish. Ranette explained that officers are civil service workers and there is an 18-month period that is provided from the date of incident for which an officer can be disciplined. However, a case can be sent to the district attorney for a further look. Jackie asked about how much of the process is communicated to the complainant and that she feels with the 18-month deadline being so long people may lose faith or the incident may not be as fresh in their memory. Another member of the public asked why people who are arrested criminally have a right to a speedy trial, but the CRB does not act in the same manner. Joesph Favata a board member who was an attorney provided a breakdown on the difference between the right to a speedy trial and the CRB process. The community member asked how the CRB and the police department can come to a resolution to move cases along faster. Ranette advised the police department is aware of the 18-month deadline, but their investigation can take 8-months or 6-months but when we finally receive the information needed from SPD to begin our investigation the CRB is expected to investigate the case in less time than it took SPD. There were a few more public comments made by the community members, however, it is inaudible as they did not speak at the podium with the microphone.

Without a quorum to make and adopt a motion, the board ended its meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiahjanay Griswold, Legal Secretary I

Citizen Review Board

Public Comment/Notes:

Case Number: Yes No Hearing No Hearing

Case Number: Yes No Hearing No Hearing

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