

MINUTES OF THE CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARD MEETING

June 27, 2022

• **Roll Call.**

The meeting was called to order by Secretary Crouse at 6:09 PM. Members in attendance were: Rivera-Berrios, Avshalom-Smith, Carter, Counsel, Crouse, Fawcett, Hamm, Jenkins, Johnson, Peralta, Pescatore, Richardson.

Members Absent: none.

• **Approval of Minutes.**

There was no Action on the minutes of the previous meeting.

• **Internal Affairs report.**

Lt. Colon gave an overview of the case involving Mr. Richard "Randy" Cox who was injured after being arrested and is partially paralyzed at this time and being investigated by the State Police. All officers involved in the incident are on paid administrative leave pending the completion of the investigation.

Member Richardson expressed his concerns about only one Board member speaking to Internal Affairs about this incident.

Secretary Crouse explained that the Police Department reached out to him as a courtesy to inquire whether the Board had any questions. Secretary Crouse explained that he then requested input from members via email when he sent out the agenda. And that he just asked for basic information body cam footage, and general orders concerning conveyance,

Acting Chair AnneMarie Rivera-Berrios said this will be worked out and asked that questions be directed to the incident.

Secretary Crouse asked about training officers have on spinal cord and medical injuries.

Lt. Colon explained there is training in the police academy on this.

Secretary Crouse suggested there be more on medical issues going forward,

Member Hamm asked why there was not seatbelt in the van and should Officer Diaz have waiting for an ambulance and why Officer Jocelyn Levandier was included in administrative leave.

Lt. Colon stated on the van changes have been made but could not speak to why no seatbelts but that. On the issue of calling for medical help the investigation will determine if policy was followed. And on why the officers were put on leave that is done while we the investigation is ongoing.

Member Carter expressed his concerns that this was preventable and encouraged making a culture change to be proactive. He suggested talking to people who experienced lock up and detention to work on a culture there. He suggested talking to former officers who did conveyances.

Lt. Colon thanked him for the suggestions and said please forward and they will be considered. Lt. Colon said the PD is looking to do anything it can to make department better for sake of community.

Member Pescatore expressed his concerns about no seatbelts and suggested a public apology for all past and present incidents with transporting prisoners that went poorly or didn't have seatbelts. He suggested the CRB should be able to review the new seatbelts that have been put in to the vans.

Lt Colon said everything is on the table and that they will forward pictures or videos of the new seatbelts installed.

Acting Chair Rivera-Berrios inquired about the maintenance schedule.

Lt. Colon said she would provide that.

Member Avshalom Smith expressed his concern for Mr. Cox and his family. He explained this happened in his ward and that he had spoken to Mr. Cox on the day of the incident before anything happened. He noted that police accountability bill requires all officers to intervene. He asked about what NHPD can do to address speeding by officers and slamming on the brakes because there is a long history of this with police and with certain officers treatment of people in certain officers and there might be culture of silent acceptibility of bad behavior. He requested list of complaints and reprimands that officers on leave have for last three years.

Member Richardson asked for whole history of officers and the list of all the times people that got hurt in transport.

Lt. Colon looking into this and now will have dash cameras and she will talk with corp counsel about their disciplinary records and the records requests

Member Hamm inquired to Deputy Corporation Counsel Lamarr if the CRB could reach out to the Cox Family to file a complaint because they have not filed one.

Deputy Corporation Counsel Lamarr said she is not recommending that give that there is an investigation going on the CRB should consider waiting until its done so as not to prejudice or impede the investigation. She added the CRB can send recommendations to the police department as that is in its purview.

Lt. Colon gave the gave the monthly report on the May and June cases. 21C-061, 22C-020, 22C-022, 21C-084. She explained that the administrative recommendations that were given to the officers involved to improve their interactions with residents with the issue in these cases including notification to families and language used with residents

•Questions about cases closed in November 2021: 21C-0372, 21C-062, 21C-059, 21C-078, 21C-039, 21C-049, 21C-073, 21C-008, 21C-035.

There were no questions on these cases.

• **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

• **Review Subcommittee Reports.**

The Review Subcommittee reported on their review of several cases-

a. 20C-082- The subcommittee recommended to support the finding that the complaints was unfounded.

b. 21C-082-Member Hamm noted that due to lack on evidence the committee concurred with this but suggested that Milestone system should continue to operate as long as people in the lobby and that desk personnel be more respectable.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eGOHnNDfn2-mBDvWzcYxAz0_QwYZoPsZ6uRDSSx6ciU/edit

Member Crouse inquired of the Deputy Corporation Counsel if there was anything specific that should be done if a member of the CRB is involved in a complaint.

Deputy Corporation Counsel Lamarr recommended that the member involved recuse themselves from the decision making process in those situations. She also noted that she asked Corporation Counsel King to provide the CRB with ethics training and she has agreed to do so when her schedule allows.

c. 21C-086- Lt.Werner explained that this case involved a confidential informant only policies could be discussed so could only concur because of limited information provided. Member Richardson expressed his concerns about protections for confidential informants because it's vague and hard to hold people accountable. Member Hamm suggested looking at the protocols and recommend changes. Member Richardson agreed to do so. Member AnneMarie Rivera-Berrios recommended a Review Subcommittee to look at this. Member Crouse suggested adding another category called Insufficient Evidence for review where there is not enough available evidence to work on,

d. 21C-053- The case involved officer Shayna Kendall and the committee concurred with Internal Affairs, and recommended appropriated discipline and a public apology. Recommend PD intervene early in officers career if there is any concern about credibility,

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1f1X4JGfWdes-Lthzo19Oie9raLO08mEYpOs1ExGUx9w/edit-he>

Acting Chair AnneMarie Rivera-Berrios suggested that the we make sure these get to the chief,

Member Hamm noted that all the recommendations that are being made be discussed with the new chief in a meeting as the previous one did not respond.

e. 22C-010- Review Subcommittee has not met yet.

• Hiring Administrative Support

Deputy Corporation Counsel Lamarr agreed to assist in winding the managing consultant contract through the system and advised that and RFP should be reissued for future support but in the interim a short term contract should be considered with current managing consultant Ms. Emma Jones.

The CRB approved a motion by Member Pescatore (seconded by Member Hamm) 9-3. to establish a Review Subcommittee on professional services and support.

Those voting in favor were members: Avshalom-Smith, Carter, Counsel, Crouse, Fawcett, Hamm, Johnson, Peralta, Pescatore, Richardson

Those voting against were Members: Jenkins Richardson, Rivera-Berrios

The committee members are: Crouse, Fawcett, Hamm, Peralta, Pescatore, Richardson.

• Inviting Police Chief to upcoming meetings

Acting Chair, Rivera-Berrios noted that the new Police Chief plans to come to as many Board meetings as possible.

• Inspector General CRB

Secretary Crouse explained that the scheduled informational meeting with Professor Beth Merkin occurs on July 6 at 5:30 PM to discuss the Hartford Inspector General Model.

Member Johnson asked about the budget.

Deputy Corporation Counsel explained that there is \$150,000 per year in the budget that have been allowed to accumulate so currently there is \$600,000 available to give you option for services and electronic support.

It was explained that the funds will not always accumulate they will be on a per fiscal year basis of \$150,000.

• Unfinished business and General Policy Items.

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•Inviting Police Chief to upcoming meetings

Acting Chair, Rivera-Berrios noted that the new Police Chief plans to come to as many Board meetings as possible.

Member Hamm volunteered to put together a roll up of all recommendations submitted so far to the Police Department in preparation to meet with the Chief.

• New business –

There was no new business.

• Discussion and consideration of complaints and reports. –

Secretary Crouse suggested looking further into case 21C-061, case 21C-084, and case 21C-022. The

• Act on complaints and reports.

The Board voted unanimously in support of the motion by Member Crouse seconded by Member Hamm to set up a review subcommittee on: Case # 21C-061. The Board . The following members joined the committee: Hamm, Peralta, Richardson, Rivera-Berrios. Member Peralta will chair.

The Board voted unanimously in support of the motion by Member Crouse seconded by Member Carter to set up a review subcommittee on: Case #21C-084. The following members joined the committee: Crouse, Johnson, Peralta, Pescatore, Richardson. Member Crouse will chair.

The Board voted unanimously in support of the motion by Member Crouse seconded Acting Chair, Rivera-Berrios to set up a review subcommittee on: Case. #21C-022. The following members joined the committee: Counsel, Fawcett, Jenkins, Rivera-Berrios. Member Fawcett will chair and Member Jenkins will vice chair.

The Board voted unanimously the recommendations of the Review Subcommittees on reports 20C-082, 21C-082, 21C-086, and 21C-053. Member Hamm will write up and forward to the police department.

- **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

- **Additional recommendation category added.**

On motion by Secretary Crouse seconded by Acting Chair Lamarr the Board unanimously voted to add additional recommendation category of Insufficient Evidence.

Adjournment

There was no further comment and on motion by Member Crouse seconded by Member Hamm the committee voted unanimously to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM

Respectfully submitted,