



City of New Haven Civilian Review Board

Public Notice and Agenda for

Monthly Board Meeting

June 26, 2023

6:00 PM

In-Person Attendance:

Not Available.

Virtual Attendance:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86705554239?pwd=SS91bFM4Uk1YM05WREF5bIBzMTBDUT09>

Agenda:

1. Call to order at 6:12pm.

In attendance: Carter, Fawcett, Jenkins, Johnson, Kimbro, Pescatore, Richardson, Rivera-Berrios

Absent: Counsel

Guests: Atty Catherine LaMarr, Jerald Barber, Beth Merkin

Members of the public: Mary O'Leary (Press).

2. Approval of Minutes from Prior meeting: May 22, 2023
Rivera-Berrios motioned to approve, Johnson seconded.
8-0-0 approved unanimously.

3. Report from the RFQ for Legal Counsel Subcommittee
 - a. Update on Attorney.

Rivera-Berrios: A potential conflict of interest was raised in the interview with one of the candidates for the legal counsel RFP. Corporation Counsel does not advise that the CRB engage a lawyer who is engaged in ongoing litigation against the city.

Atty LaMarr: we will get a second opinion to determine if there is a conflict of interest.



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Rivera-Berrios: let's get a temperature of the room for how to proceed - we can put the RFP back out, we can accept the other candidate's proposal or if we want to wait for the second opinion.

Pescatore: I would move forward with the hiring of the other candidate

Fawcett: I would agree with that.

Member Johnson logged off at this time and the quorum was lost.

Member Fawcett and other members decided to cease discussion on the RFP and move on.

- b. Vote to award RFQ could not take place due to Member Johnson leaving the meeting and quorum being lost.

Chair Rivera-Berrios and Administrator Heimer attempted to contact member Johnson to help her log back in.

4. IA Report (6:05)

(Submitted and sent by email from Lt. Smith for our review before meeting. Summaries will be displayed on the screen so please be sure to review them before the meeting.)

- a. Use of Force Statistics
No comments.
- b. IA Statistics for Complaints
Member Kimbro asked about progressive discipline.
The NHPD does use progressive disciplinary measures for repeat offenders with the penalties escalating in severity.
- c. Closed IA Cases

A. 23C-026

Received: April 20, 2023

Summary: Complainant Genesi Rodriguez submitted a complaint that an officer took her cell phone and she wanted it returned. The phone was taken as part of an active investigation and is being kept as evidence for an active criminal investigation



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Determination: Unfounded

Discussion: Pescatore asked if there was an expectation of when her property would be returned.

Asst Chief Etienne: The detective should tell her that the timeline for returning property related to an investigation is out of his control when the citizen requests a timeline for return. Most phones can be given back within a reasonable time.

B. 22C-053

Received: August 15, 2022

Summary: Angel Melendez filed a complaint against a Detective Galvin who he says “set him up” to be arrested. The body camera footage captured the entire incident and this claim was not verified.

Determination: Unfounded

Discussion: None.

C. 22C-073

Received: November 16, 2022

Summary: Mr. Redding filed a complaint after a vehicular accident at State Street and May Street. The complainant stated there was bias in the investigation of the motor vehicle accident. The Milestone footage from cameras nearby captured the collision and showed Mr. Redding was at fault and no undue bias was seen on the BWC footage from the officers who attended the scene.

Determination: Unfounded

Discussion: Pescatore: What is Milestone Footage?

Lt Smith: Footage from cameras around the city that can assist officers with investigations like this.

Pescatore: There are many cameras around the city like this?

Lt Smith: yes, its the name of the system.

Lt Smith responded to a question from a previous meeting regarding the amount of time that an investigator might require to complete an investigation. There are 4 investigators, the caseloads are 26, 48, 24, and 43 for each.

Asst Chief Etienne: Ideally we should have 6 to 8 investigators but the current system has these 4 investigators handling the full caseload.



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Member Carter: What is the IA department doing, with respect to retirements, promotions, and upcoming staffing, to ensure that the department has the staff it needs moving forward so that the volume of complaints has the appropriate number of staff to handle it.

Asst Chief Etienne: We are always recruiting. We need more people at the entry level. Civilians like the CRB members can help by sharing that we are hiring entry level candidates.

5. Public comment (via chat or zoom) (6:35)
None.
6. Chair's Report (6:45)
 - a. 2023-2024 Executive Board Proposed Budget Presentation and discussion was tabled due to lack of quorum.
7. Administrator's Report (6:55)
 - a. Minutes backlog could not be voted on due to lack of quorum.
 - b. Reappointments Update - Aldermanic affairs met at the same time as the CRB. Members Fawcett and Rivera-Berrios had perfect, or close to perfect attendance and can be reappointed without appearing before the Board.
Member Jenkins: Minutes for the monthly meetings are priority, but everything else was the responsibility of the chairs of the sub committees and Alyson can look at them but they aren't in the current contract. If there are no recordings, we will just chalk it up to the pandemic.
Member Pescatore: If there are recordings of the meetings then Alyson should definitely go back and fix them. This will improve the respect of the Board for the public as being fully transparent.
Acting Chair Rivera-Berrios will check with Catherine LaMarr to make sure the scope of services can include the special meetings.
 - c. Website and Shared Drive Update and discussion



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- i. Administrator Heimer will work with the webmaster and Al Lucas to ensure new members have access to their emails.
 - ii. Member Fawcett expressed the desire to have the Google docs organization be a bigger priority moving forward.
8. Old Business (7:10)
- a. Member Carter: when would be the appropriate time to discuss the attorney candidate who had a conflict of interest?

Acting Chair Rivera-Berrios: the candidate has another client who is actively suing the police department. Corp Counsel advised the CRB not to proceed with hiring any attorney who had a conflict of interest in representing the board.

9. Adjournment 7:34 pm.

Per Order: Hon. Anne Marie Rivera-Berrios, Chair; Attest: Hon. Michael Smart,
City/Town Clerk.

Agenda Prepared by Administrator Alyson C. Heimer.