



## City of New Haven Civilian Review Board

### Public Notice and Agenda for

### September Monthly Meeting of the Board

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September 25, 2023

6:00 PM

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#### **In-Person Attendance:**

New Haven City Hall Room 3  
165 Church Street

#### **Virtual Attendance:**

[Zoom Link](#)

1. Meeting called to order at 6:05pm.

Present: In person: Carter, Comins, Fawcett, Jenkins, Rivera-Berrios, Online: Avshalom-Smith, McClure, Pescatore.

Absent: Kimbro (excused), Richardson

Members of the public: Mary O'Leary, Hannah Kotler (Yale Daily News), John Carlson, Lisa Milone, Christina Mullaly, Curt Stubs (labor relations).

Invitees: Al Lucas, Beth Merkin, Alyson Heimer

2. Motion to approve Minutes for Monthly meeting August 28, 2023 by Rivera-Berrios, Carter seconded. 8-0-0.

3. IA is not present tonight but the monthly report was provided. - No presentation  
(Submitted and sent by email for review before meeting.)

- a. General questions or comments about statistics, Statistics Graph

The Board is going to attempt to invite more members of the public. Rivera-Berrios explained the process of how a case comes into the Police Department and the investigation is supposed to take 90 days. Extensions can be requested of the police chief.

Member Carter: why do some cases remain uninvestigated?

Rivera-Berrios: The cases are investigated in the order they are received. Otherwise if the Chief prioritizes a case it may be investigated more quickly.

- b. Use of Force update

Member Carter: why are some of these uses of force decreasing this year compared to last year?

Member Rivera-Berrios: the training has changed.

Member fawcett: they also implemented COMPASS to handle some of the social worker type interactions which has led to lower incidents.



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- c. Case Updates and Questions
  - i. 23C-032 this case was unfounded.
  - ii. 23C-044 sustained case - an individual was struck by a vehicle and the officer investigating the complaint did not collect the video surveillance in a timely fashion.
  - iii. 21C-103 - a complaint regarding discrimination. Not sustained.
  - iv. 22C-047 - rudeness complaint following a motor vehicle crash. Unfounded.
  - v. Updates on any complaints currently in IA
    - 1. 37 open cases for 2023, 27 for 2022, and 2 for 2021 with 9 as unknown.

Member Kimbro joined the meeting at 6:30pm.

#### 4. Public comment -

Lisa Milone: Has a neighbor who wanted to see what the process was. People wanted to understand how to submit information and can information be submitted anonymously.

Admin Heimer: email questions for the board to [admin.nhcrb@newhavenct.gov](mailto:admin.nhcrb@newhavenct.gov);  
complaints can be submitted online through the NHPD or NHCRB websites

Lisa Milone: There was some issue at the CMT meeting regarding an Alder who may have received special treatment following a car crash. Has that been looked at?

Rivera-Berrios: If its an open case, the CRB does not have access to it - but the Chief has opened his own investigation into that specific issue. There is a shortage of staff in the police department.

John Carlson: (in chat) to clarify, the DeCola/McDermott case is open so it may go on for several years.

Rivera-Berrios: Yes but it's supposed to take 90 days and they have to request an extension from the chief.

Member Comins: if a member of the public wants to submit an anonymous comment or question to the board can they do that?

Rivera-Berrios: yes, if they wish to remain anonymous we will respect that.



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Member Jenkins: If the Shore is interested in this particular incident, how can we hold the chief accountable?

Rivera-Berrios: a letter to the chief was sent to request concurrent investigations on this matter. We currently only have access to closed cases.

5. Chair's Report - 6:52

All board members must sign Non-Disclosure Agreements

- a. Ordinance Revision Update

6. Administrator's Report - 7:00

- a. Annual Report is in progress. The financial reporting section is complete. There are multiple sections of the report mandated by statute. Corp Counsel has asked that nothing be done on the shared drive until a new system is in place, which is holding up any quantitative data work needed for certain sections.

- b. Special meeting and case review backlog

- i. September 7, 2022 - Case Review Meeting 22C-010

7. CRB Attorney's Report - 7:10

Ordinance Revisions have been worked on since August. We will be going in front of the Board of Alders in November. This gives all of the people who are interested time to respond.

Comins raised the issue of term lengths, some districts are two years or three. There was a discussion on this issue and the board will seek clarity from the city before reverting to 2 year terms for all new members.

Member Carter: all of this work is under the state bill of Police accountability and so some of these changes are to bridge the gap with the state rules in place now.

Member Kimbro inquired how a citizen could file a complaint with the CRB at the same time as with IA - or with the CRB instead of with IA.

Rivera-Berrios: we would have to discuss jurisdiction.

Merkin: We added a provision where the CRB can submit complaints to be investigated and have things go to IA as internal cases or on behalf of people too scared or intimidated to file a complaint.

Member Avshalom Smith logged off at 7:41pm.

Member Carter: Can we talk about this with the CMTs?

Chair Rivera-Berrios: We want to prioritize members who represent CMTs to present this document to their CMTs.

8. Unfinished business and General Policy Items - 7:49



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will discuss contract renewals.

9. Discussion of complaints and reports and vote on new cases to review -
  - a. Discussion on any current cases:  
Motion to refer case 21C-103 by member Carter (chair), McClure, Comins, Pescatore.
  - b. 22C-051 (Fawcett, Jenkins, Rivera, Comins)
  - c. 23C-013 (Pescatore, Rivera, Jenkins, Comins) - subcommittee met and recommendations were sent to the chief

Member Pescatore logged off at 7:55pm.

Administrator Heimer will find a standard day for each week a member can review cases that works for IA. Members are asked to tell Administrator Heimer what days works for them.

10. Recess to Executive Session, if appropriate
11. Return to open session after Executive Session
12. Motion to adjourn by Rivera-Berrios, Jenkins seconded. Unanimous adjournment at 8:06pm.

Per Order: Hon. Anne Marie Rivera-Berrios, Chair; Attest: Hon. Michael Smart,  
City/Town Clerk. Agenda Prepared by Administrator Alyson C. Heimer.