



City of New Haven Civilian Review Board

Minutes for

February Monthly Meeting of the Board

February 26, 2024

6:00 PM

In-Person Attendance:

165 Church Street (Meeting room 3)
New Haven, CT 06510

Virtual Attendance:

[Link](#)

1. Roll Call 6:00 PM
 - a. Present: Jenkins, Fawcett, Kimbro, Rivera-Berrios, Comins, Carter, McClure (Until 7:00PM), Pescatore (joined at 6:20PM)
 - b. Absent: None
 - c. Invited: Chief Karl Jacobson, Asst Chief Bhagtana; Lt. Agosta; Alyson Heimer (Administrator); Atty Beth Merkin; Det Daniel Conklin; Sgt. Ann Mays
 - d. Members of the Public:, Mary O'Leary (press)
2. Tabled the Approval of Minutes.
 - a. Monthly meeting November 28, 2023
 - b. Monthly meeting December 18, 2023
 - c. Monthly meeting January 22, 2024

3. Chief's Presentation 6:10-6:25

Chief Jacobson opened his remarks stating that it is his ongoing goal and pleasure to serve the New Haven Community and work with the CRB. The Chief then introduced the detectives and IA leadership.

Two detectives were on the call, Mays and Conklin. There is new staff heading IA: Asst Chief Bhagtana and Lt. Agosta have been in the position for one month. Six Sgt.s and two Det.s will be on staff.

Chief: there are specific recruitment goals to have the department be 30% female by 2030. The new cadet class has 6/18 females.

One of the goals is to staff up the department by five people to close out the backlog of cases. There are a number of cases outstanding from 2023 and 2022



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..... need to be investigated. We are trying to make sure we are on target with the case extensions as well.

Recommendations: The lobby space does need to be user friendly and the memorial for the fallen officers should be relocated. There will be a kiosk in the lobby for online reporting of crimes.

New office downtown for IA at City Hall is being considered.

A new sign has been added to the lobby to make it explicit that recording in the lobby is prohibited.

Milestone cameras can run continuously, but IT is worried about the amount of data needed to store what would most of the time be empty footage. Will also look into the length of storage (14 days currently).

Walk with Derek is a program that makes recommendations for working with people who have autism, and the NHPD will be implementing some recommended strategies to handle situations where people with autism are involved. Clifford Beers is also a strong community partner when handling civilians who require some social work.

New State Law requires that youth must have a parent (16 and under). 17 they have an option to have a parent. 18, no parent required. Children with intellectual disabilities are required to have a guardian present.

City Hall location is still operational. Agosta said the site is up and running. Members must tell IA in advance. A detective or member of IA must be present during that time.

710 Sherman Ave might be the new home of IA and CRB could have an office there as well.

All of the children's activities: baking classes, women's basketball, ice skating, flag football, etc programs spaces for 500 children are completely full.

4. General Public Comment: None.
5. IA Report (*Submitted and sent by email for review before meeting.*) 6:50pm
 - a. Case Updates and Questions
 - i. 22C-004



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This complaint was determined to be Unfounded. Excessive use of force was claimed but the use of force was deemed reasonable.

Member McClure logged off at 7:00pm

ii. 24C-002

This was a withdrawn complaint. The complainant wanted to make sure that the SGT at the front desk was educated as to how to handle complaints after her complaint was not received by B Canning.

iii. 23C-003

After a breach of peace complaint, the individual who was arrested filed an unlawful arrest complaint. The body cam footage and security cam footage showed that the arrest was justified and with proper cause.

iv. 23C-025

Complaint was that there was no arrest made. There was a summons sent to the individual and so this complaint is unfounded.

v. 23C-054

An individual punched a New Haven librarian. This individual complained that the arrest was unlawful. The officers reviewed footage, saw the evidence of a bloody nose, and the arrest was lawful. Therefore the determination is Exonerated.

vi. 24C-009

The complainant stated that the officer would not watch the video on his Tesla from a car accident. But the Officer did watch the video twice based on the body cam footage.

vii. Updates on any complaints currently in IA

Member Comins: under discipline there is a new section with asterisks in 2023. What does that mean? And what is "In Abeyance"

Asst Chief: in Abeyance means that if the Chief gives an officer 5 days suspension they might serve 3 days and then 2 are in abeyance which means they will be served if they are in trouble again.

Member Comins: the YTD complaints are up significantly. Can this data be condensed into some basic grids in Excel rather than Word.

Lt. Agosta is working to come up with new ways to display the data

Member Carter: 23C-003 how do the police determine who is a victim and who is not when multiple people claim to be a victim.

Lt. Agosta: The video surveillance showed that he was the dominant aggressor.

Member Jenkins: was there a reason both parties were not arrested?

Lt. Agosta: Because they were in an on-again-off-again relationship it constitutes a domestic violence case and the officer has the ability to only arrest the dominant aggressor.



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Member Jenkins: in 2024, the complaint breakdown doesn't have any numbers or is that because the disciplines haven't been determined?

Lt. Agosta: Those disciplines are Patrol investigations. It's not a civilian complaint or originating from the Chief. Sgts are capable of disciplining officers, and in this case it was a motor vehicle accident for which they were at fault. There was a verbal reprimand (officer's first accident) and the second was with a patrol car.

Public Comment:

Desirae Brown IA 23C-039 was closed and the complainant would like it to be reopened and reviewed by the CRB. She testified that the IA Officer sent the case to the records supervisor and there were no errors found despite the investigation being completed by the department itself. The investigation found no issues with FOIA. Files were requested in January in 2023 and documents were not received until May 2023. Body camera footage was requested and by the time they processed the complaint the footage was destroyed. Subsequently a complaint was filed with the State for FOIA Complaint. Complainant left her contact information for follow up.

6. Old Business 6:45

- a. Subcommittee on the Annual Report

Pescatore: More time needed by the subcommittee.

- b. Subcommittee on the Investigator

Rivera-Berrios: more time needed.

- c. Process of receiving complaints by the Board and assigning to members

Rivera Berrios proposed that each member be assigned cases on a rotating

- d. Discussion of complaints and reports and vote on new cases to review
 - i. Discussion on any current cases

Pescatore motioned to review **22C-004**.

Discussion: There was some back and forth about the merits of creating a subcommittee.

Pescatore (Chair), Kimbro, McClure, Comins

Member Pescatore left the meeting at 7:49pm.

- ii. 22C-051 (Fawcett, Jenkins, Rivera, Comins)
 1. Review to ensure no further discussion required.
No review needed.
- iii. Tabled 23C-013 (Pescatore, Rivera, Jenkins, Comins)
 1. More information sought.



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2. Laudermill Hearing held.

Member Comins raised the possibility of investigating 23C-003 and wanted to hear Member Carter's response.

Member Comins motioned to create a subcommittee for 23C-003. Jenkins Seconded

Carter yes

Fawcett yes

Jenkins yes

Comins yes

Rivera-Berrios: yes

Kimbro: yes

Subcommittee: Members Carter, Comins, Jenkins, Rivera-Berrios

7. Chair's Report - 7:00
 - a. March Community Meeting/Forum
Send to CMT and alders.

8. Administrator's Report - 7:05
 - a. brochure

Administrator Heimer presented the brochure draft. Members are welcome to edit the language.

9. CRB Attorney's Report - 7:15
 - a. Ordinance interpretation and revisions.

Atty Merkin reiterated that the 5 day disclosure of redacted files is of primary importance.

Wednesday at 2pm will be a meeting between legal and the Chair and the Chief of Police and IA staff and Atty Lamarr from corp council to address the redacted complaints.

10. Discussion of complaints and reports and vote on new cases to review - 7:25

Fawcett: Motioned to create a motion for RFP for an Administrator, Legal for January 2025.

Jenkins seconded

Carter yes

Fawcett: yes

Jenkins yes

Comins yes

Rivera-Berrios: yes

Kimbro: yes



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11. Motion to adjourn by Rivera-Berrios, Jenkins seconded. Adjourn at 8:16pm.