



City of New Haven Civilian Review Board

Minutes for April Monthly Meeting of the Board

6:00 PM

In-Person Attendance:
None

Recording:

1. Roll Call 6:00 PM

Present: Rivera Berrios (Chair), Carter, Comins, Fawcett, Kimbro, Pescatore, Alder Redente.

Absent: Jenkins (excused), McClure

Invited persons: Pastor John Lewis, Asst Chief Manmeet Bhagtana, Lt Jessie Agosto, Alyson Heimer (Administrator), Beth Merkin (legal counsel)

Members of the public: William Sheehan, Mary O'Leary, Konrad Miklaszewski, Al Lucas.

2. Approval of Minutes 6:05 PM

- a. Rivera Berrios motioned to approve minutes for the Monthly meeting December 18, 2023, Fawcett Seconded. 7-0-0.
- b. Rivera Berrios motioned to approve minutes for the Monthly meeting January 22, 2024, Fawcett Seconded. 7-0-0.
- c. Rivera Berrios motioned to approve minutes for the Monthly Meeting on February 26, 2024, Fawcett Seconded. 7-0-0.
- d. Rivera Berrios motioned to approve the minutes for the Special Meeting on March 12, 2024, Fawcett Seconded. 6-0-1, Pescatore abstained.
- e. Rivera Berrios motioned to approve the monthly meeting for March 25, 2024, Fawcett Seconded. 7-0-0.

3. IA Report 6:10 PM

a. Special Presentation

i. Pastor John Lewis

Works with the recruits in the academy and provides them community based non violence training based on the principles of non violence by Dr MLK (5-10 mins and 5 mins of Q and A)

Pastor Lewis presented the basics of the Kingsian training and theory of meeting people in the community with a common understanding of community values. The training is both for



City of New Haven Civilian Review Board

Minutes for April Monthly Meeting of the Board

new police and used as a retraining as needed. This training is being offered to CRB members for 2024.

b. Closed Cases were presented by Lt Agosto

i. 22C-032 - Exonerated

Pescatore: what are the guidelines for what occurs when an officer enters the incorrect apartment?

Lt Agosto: We do not have any general orders that address this, but this was a strange situation where the second floor apartment was unit 2 and the third floor apartment was number 1. Due to the strange numbering, it was determined that any reasonable individual would have made the same error.

Comins: are there any wrongful entries statistics? How often does this happen?

Asst Chief Bhagtana: It is very rare. We are extremely careful when serving warrants. v

ii. 24C-008 - Exonerated

No questions

iii. 24C-020 - Unfounded

No questions

iv. 24C-026 - Exonerated

Carter: Was there any other way to handle this situation?

Lt Agosto: the purpose of the interaction was to secure a location from a domestic dispute during a parade. The officer asked the individual to stay and answer questions before he touched her arm and requested that she stay.

Rivera-Berrios: The video was pretty clear that the officer only touched her to indicate a desire to have the individual stay on the scene.

c. Statistics and Use of Force update

Member Comins requested that comparative statistics for previous years be reported side by side for comparison.

d. General Questions

Rivera-Berrios mentioned that at the previous meeting in March, the Asst Chief said that the NHPD is undergoing an accreditation check and some of these fixes will be part of that.

Comins: complaints are up over the past few years. Do you have comments?

Asst Chief: complaints may be up that does not mean there is a significant concern. We have added new ways to report complaints, we have a kiosk, we



City of New Haven Civilian Review Board

Minutes for April Monthly Meeting of the Board

made sure online systems are functioning and people don't have to file in person at the police department. People can file at the library. This may not necessarily be alarming.

Carter: The process for engaging the community means that when the CRB is more visible and we are making it possible for the community to be heard, we should expect an increase in the number of complaints.

Rivera-Berrios: the PD oversees the animal shelter. Is it possible to have someone from the shelter talk to us to make sure things are improving, following the past year's complaint.

Asst Chief: I oversee the shelter. There have been changes in staffing and there are new people working there. I will happily give a full report and an update on the renovations next month.

4. General Public Comment (Questions in chat and public comment) - 6:30 PM

Pastor Lewis: After a domestic event, is there an engagement officer who can connect with individuals without there being any jeopardization of the investigation to make sure a family can have a point of contact? Are families given the opportunity to express themselves? We do something similar with Project Longevity.

Chair Rivera-Berrios: the CRB does have a plan to create more public communication with the police to express their feelings openly. We had a meeting last month with this focus and we plan to do this biannually.

5. Vote to review cases and discussion on any closed cases

Member Carter: Cases that were closed this month will be for next month and I have some concerns about that. We should share with the people who reported the reasons why complaints are exonerated so they are better educated on the process.

Atty Merkin: That's a priority of the CRB and we are hiring an investigator and getting contact information now for complainants so we can provide our brochure and provide information. It took a year for one of the complaints we discussed tonight to close, and we are hoping that timeline is shortening and we are working on addressing that. We are making progress here.

6. CRB Attorney's Report - 7:25 PM

a. Subcommittee on the Investigator



City of New Haven Civilian Review Board

Minutes for April Monthly Meeting of the Board

The theme here is earlier and wider access so we can support the community. We are trying to provide information and staff availability. We have interviewed an investigator. We are waiting on the City for some paperwork. Atty LeMarr is hopeful that we can complete all the papers by Friday.

We should be able to achieve these via agreement and ordinance rewrite with the Legislative Committee on June 4th.

Member Redente was excused at 7:45pm for a work commitment.

7. Old Business 6:50 PM

None.

8. Chair's Report

a. Subcommittee on the Annual Report

The PD had some concerns with the report and we will be meeting to go over the numbers and make sure we agree on the facts, dates, and counts.

b. Onboarding and Training for members

- i. Ride-along form: <https://newhaven.seamlessdocs.com/f/ifBX2M>

9. Administrator's Report

a. Brochure drafts will be reconciled using city staff if possible. Must meet city criteria for image usage.

b. SVG vector version of logo to be created - required for high quality printing.

10. Motion to adjourn by Rivera-Berrios at 7:54, Pescatore Seconded. 7-0-0.

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