



## City of New Haven Civilian Review Board

### Minutes for

### June Monthly Meeting of the Board

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June 24, 2024

6:00 PM

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In-Person Attendance:  
Meeting Room 3  
New Haven City Hall  
165 Church Street

Recording: [Here](#)

1. Meeting called to order at 6:06pm

Present: Fawcett, Redente, Comins, Rivera-Berrios, Kimbro, Jenkins, Carter

Absent: Pescatore, McClure

Invited persons: Asst Chief Bhagtana, Lt. Agosto, Administrator Heimer

Members of the Public: None.

2. Approval of Minutes 6:05 PM

- a. Monthly Meeting May 20, 2024  
Member Comins had one typo correction. 7-0-0.

3. Chair's Report - 6:35 PM

- a. Ordinance update  
Previously the CMTs had to nominate individuals to join the CRB but that process before the names of nominees get to the Mayor's office has been removed. This will go in front of the Board of Alders in July.
- b. Discussion on Bylaws  
Once the ordinance is updated this will be Atty Merkin's new priority. She will integrate the Ordinance revisions into the document and make other changes as needed.
- c. Requirements for Board Members to review cases  
The main purpose of the Board is to review the closed cases so we can ask questions. There is also a requirement to attend meetings. If any members need support, rides, company, please make that known so we can get you to IA and get you to the meetings.  
Administrator: if you need rides, let people know. It is important to make the time to review the videos and files in their entirety.



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Member Redente: the staff at IA made me extremely comfortable. It took less than an hour to review the cases I had questions about. Thank you to LT Agosto for making that happen and having everything ready.

Proposed making Zoom meetings used less for Members - still required for public participation but Members must start to attend in person.

Kimbro: I haven't reviewed any cases - I work and my availability is limited. If someone does have the time and ability to review cases and there's something that strikes a red flag maybe we should prioritize people's time. He suggested that the board redo the bylaws to increase efficiency.

Chair Rivera-Berrios: IA will make every accommodation to help you review cases. It is required to go. Each person on the board will have a different perspective and that's why you need to do work.

Kimbro: This is a thankless job and I'm being asked to invest a lot of time in this. People are concerned about representation and we need to protect those people.

d. Contract update

Our Administrator's contract has been signed.

We will be putting the RFP out for the Legal counsel again next year.

4. IA Report 6:10 PM

a. Closed Cases

i. 23C-052

August 25, 2023 there was a complaint of a theft. The Complainant learned that his landlord had made a copy of the key to his car and posted it for sale on the internet. The complainant had tracked down the buyer and the police officer refused to arrest the buyer, only charging the landlord. This was unfounded.

ii. 24C-013

The officer in question was standing by for Amtrak, and the complainant had asked for the vehicle to be relocated, but the officer refused because it was parked in the present location as part of an ongoing investigation.

iii. 24C-018



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- The complainant stated that their issue (being injected with a chemical) was not investigated but there was a case opened.
- iv. 24C-024  
The complainant stated that when her son was arrested he was physically assaulted. When we reviewed body camera footage, the violent crime task force completed the arrest of someone with an active warrant. There was a foot pursuit and a tumble to catch him. Medical attention was provided. This was unfounded.
- v. 24C-027  
March 25, 2024 The complainant was against three officers who did not complete an investigation of a stolen TV. There was a formal investigation and there was no way to determine if the TV was given willfully or taken. The TV was set to be returned and the IA case is unfounded.
- vi. 24C-038  
April 12, 2024 There was a stray dog and it was brought to the animal shelter. The complainant asked if the dog would be euthanized and so the man decided to complain against the practice of the kill shelter. The dog is in good health and had applications for adoption, and the complaint was withdrawn because the complainant felt it was an emotional reaction.
- vii. 24C-040  
Complaint of excessive force and verbal abuse after she had set fire to a pile of clothes. This is a repeat complainant who has multiple complaints and is in serious need of mental health. This was Unfounded.
- viii. 24C-046  
May 15, 2024 The complainant was a mother who wanted to file police charges against a child who hit their child in the head with an object. She believes she was denied the opportunity to press charges because she was muslim. The principal, teacher, and other family wanted to resolve this without police. There was no reason to arrest the 5 year old for violent behavior. This was unfounded because he did write a report and was not rude.

Chair Rivera-Berrios: should there be training to have the under age children removed from the room during the investigation process, and to remove any siblings who are not involved. Think about how we could eliminate unnecessary trauma for children who do not need to be in the room for questioning.



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Chief: right now there is no point person for the Schools, but we could have the head of New Haven Security talk to your group about why not every situation can be as sterile as we want it to be.

Alder Redente: There is no reason a cop should have been involved in this situation. The school to prison pipeline ends when we stop allowing police to respond to a five year old fighting with another five year old.

Member Jenkins: I agree but I don't want a call that my child was hit, ever. Teachers need to have a shared ideology.

Member Kimbro: This is overwhelming for me in how we are dealing with police misconduct, and this is not germane to the topic. We need to worry about why the states attorney and IA is ignoring police brutality and its these kinds of incidents that get us here. This is not about arresting or not arresting a child in school.

Member Comins: there were three cases from 2024: 024, 027, 038, These need to be uploaded.

Administrator Heimer: I will connect with Lt Agosto.

Member Comins: 24C-040 the Castro complaint we as a committee might talk about repeat complainants and a strategy that we can create to address repeat complainants.

Lt Agosto: We never want to discourage anyone from making a complaint, even if they are a habitual reporter. We don't want to miss the time that something does happen that is wrong.

Redente: the guy overstepped and shouldn't have jumped up on the truck and the people he worked with may have been embarrassed by his behavior, so jump on the steps of the rig - he's lucky he wasn't arrested. Trucks hit the bridge all the time.

Member Fawcett: there was a way for that guy to get around and get to work and he shouldn't have been involved.

Alder Redente: He was worried about business. There was enough room to get in.

Kimbro: he should get a letter back about how to interact with the police so he doesn't worsen his contact with police.

#### b. Statistics and Use of Force update

No questions.

Members Redente, Comins, Kimbro and McClure need to complete training. Members should also complete a ride along.

#### 5. General Public Comment (Questions in chat and public comment) -None

Member Kimbro logged off at 7:30pm



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Members Redente, Comins, Kimbro and McClure need to complete training. Members should also complete a ride-along. Ride-alongs are available to all members of the public using this Form: <https://newhaven.seamlessdocs.com/f/ifBX2M>

6. Administrator's Report
  - a. Letter to complainants have gone out from April to June 1 complaints, Administrator will send remaining letters and then as needed for new complaints. USPS postage stamp prices will be increasing July 1.
  - b. Brochure draft was presented. It will be emailed to all members for final approval and release to the printer.
7. CRB Attorney's Report
  - a. Attorney not present.
8. Vote to review cases and discussion on any closed cases  
  
No subcommittees were formed.
9. Old Business. None discussed.
10. Recess to Executive Session, if appropriate
11. Return to open session after Executive Session
12. Motion to adjourn by Fawcett. Meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.

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