

**City of Albany  
Citizens' Police Review Board**

**Thursday, December 8, 2016, 6:00 p.m.**  
University at Albany, Downtown Campus - Milne Hall, Levitt Room (M120)  
135 Western Ave, Albany, N.Y.

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Present:** Larry Becker, Mickey Bradley, Reverend Victor L. Collier, Zach Garafalo, Charles Goodbee, Sr., Mike A. Grady, Veneilya Harden, Matt Ingram, Ivy Morris

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Mickey Bradley called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**II. Approval of the Agenda**

Board member Larry Becker motioned to approve the Agenda. Board member Zach Garafalo seconded that motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**III. New Business**

*A. New Complaint(s)*

1. Complaints for Board Review (\*see Table 1)

*B. Appointment of New Members to the Committee on Complaint Review*

Board Members Larry Becker, Mickey Bradley, Reverend Victor Collier, Zach Garafalo, Charles Goodbee, Mike Grady, and Ivy Morris all agreed to review complaints for the next meeting.

*C. Committee/Task Force Reports*

By-Laws and Rules

Committee Chair Zach Garafalo reported that there were no updates at this time.

Education and Community Outreach

Committee Chair Ivy Morris reported that the community outreach event held on December 6, 2016, produced good discussion. The event provided a valuable opportunity to pilot the Committee's outreach presentation. APD Chief Brendan Cox attended, and the low attendance was not a deterrent. The Committee has tentative plans to meet monthly going forward in order to establish its priorities and goals.

### Mediation

Committee Chair Reverend Victor Collier reported that a complaint is currently slated for mediation pending agreement by complainant. Coordinator Maureen Obie explained that future complaints chosen for mediation will be assigned to the professional mediators hired. Board members discussed the extensive training that has been provided to mediators; protocol bars active Board members from mediating complaints.

### Police Department Liaison

Committee Chair Mike Grady reported that there were no updates.

### Public Official Liaison

Committee Chair Mickey Bradley noted the valuable opportunity to attend 9 interviews conducted by the Common Council Public Safety Committee over the course of two days for new Board members. He noted that Board members are not allowed to question member candidates or to vote; Board members are permitted to answer candidates' questions only.

### Task Force on Monitors

Committee Chair Larry Becker reported that there were no new updates at this time.

## **D. Nominations for Elected Board Officer Positions**

The nominations for Chair are as follows: Board member Larry Becker nominated Chair Mickey Bradley for the position of Chair. Chair Bradley accepted the nomination. Board member Mike Grady nominated Vice-Chair Ivy Morris for Chair. Vice-Chair Morris accepted the nomination. Vice-Chair Ivy Morris nominated Board member Larry Becker for Chair; Mr. Becker declined the nomination.

The nominations for Vice-Chair are as follows: Vice-Chair Ivy Morris nominated Board member Zach Garafalo for the position of Vice-Chair; Mr. Garafalo accepted the nomination. Board member Mike Grady nominated Board member Larry Becker for Vice-Chair; Mr. Becker accepted the nomination. Board member Charles Goodbee nominated Reverend Victor Collier for Vice-Chair; Reverend Collier declined the nomination.

The nominations for Secretary are as follows: Vice-Chair Ivy Morris nominated Board member Charles Goodbee for the position of Secretary; Mr. Goodbee declined the nomination. Chair Mickey Bradley nominated Secretary Mike Grady for Secretary; Secretary Grady accepted the nomination.

**E. Report from the Government Law Center (GLC)**

Coordinator for the CPRB Maureen Obie reported that there were 13 active complaints as of tonight's meeting. Of those, 4 were reviewed this evening, and 2 were closed with no review, leaving 7 complaints. A total of 714 complaints have been closed, including 37 complaints that have been closed with no review. The total number of complaints that remain suspended from review by the Board is 5. The total number of complaints filed to date is 729. Since the Board's last meeting on November 10, the GLC received 2 Grievance Forms, leaving the total number of forms received at 601. The Board's outreach to all individuals has resulted in 148 CPRB complaint forms received, or 24%.

The Government Law Center welcomes the two newest CPRB members: Veneilya Harden and Matt Ingram. A confirmed date for Ms. Harden's and Ms. Ingram's GLC Orientation is pending.

One of the CPRB's valued research assistants, Steven Cummings, resigned recently in order to accept a highly sought-after legal research assistant position with Albany Law School Professor Patrick Connors. The GLC wishes Steven all of the best with his future endeavors. The GLC is currently exploring the possibility of recruiting undergraduate student interns.

The GLC proposed a list of initiatives to the Outreach & Education Committee over the last several months, and a number of projects were approved. Ms. Obie's office drafted a public service announcement that was distributed to local radio stations. A short ad for local newspapers, and community organization newsletters and websites, was also developed. Radio and television interviews are pending confirmed dates, and a Committee presentation at University at Albany's College & University Community Relations Committee meeting during February or March is planned. The GLC recently purchased a pop-up banner, implemented a CPRB email address ([CPRB@albanylaw.edu](mailto:CPRB@albanylaw.edu)), and developed an outreach PowerPoint presentation for community events. The GLC is also in the process of creating an outreach postcard mailer.

The next Board meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, January 12, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at Albany Law School, in the 2000 Building, in the Boardroom.

**F. Report from the Office of Professional Standards**

OPS plans to schedule training for new Board members, and the Government Law Center will be notified of a confirmed date and time.

**G. Report from the Chair**

The Board is exploring ways to expedite unsuspending complaint cases when the circumstances that resulted in the suspension have been resolved. Typically cases are suspended because in addition to filing the complaint, the complainant has made some kind of claim against the city. Often claims are resolved, although the complaint is not being

unsuspended. Several new procedures will be enacted to address this issue. Assistant Corporation Counsel Adrianna LeBlanc's office will record in the complainant's litigation file an indication that the complainant has filed a complaint with the CPRB and the complaint is currently suspended. The GLC will send Corporation Counsel lists of current suspended complaints on a quarterly basis based on its records; Corporation Counsel will verify that the cases are still currently suspended. When complaints are suspended from the Board's review, the GLC will, on behalf of the Board, send the complainant a letter every six months stating the status of the complaint, noting that the complaint still has not been cleared for CPRB review, and stating the reason why.

The GLC has a new Director, Andy Ayers. The Board is looking forward to working with Mr. Ayers in his new role.

The Board has discussed with Chief Cox the matter of releasing more information about officer discipline while still respecting the 50-A provisions of the New York State Civil Rights Law which prohibits the release of personnel information for police officers. Chair Mickey Bradley has drafted a letter for Board members to review and provide feedback on regarding this issue.

The Albany Police Department plans to schedule a future meeting with OPS detectives and the CPRB.

#### IV. Public Comment

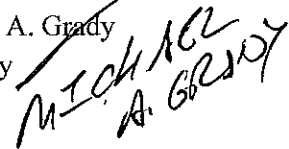
Chair Mickey Bradley conveyed an update on behalf of Common Council member and Public Safety Committee Member Leah Golby. The CPRB Outreach Committee has been looking at the option of videotaping Board meetings and airing the meetings, whether it be on a public access television station, YouTube, or some other format. The Public Safety Committee expressed concern recently that taping would violate the confidentiality of complainants and potentially affect complainants' willingness to come to meetings or even their willingness to file a complaint. Due to these concerns, the Public Safety Committee requested that they have an opportunity to first conduct a public survey on how videotaping meetings would affect the complainants and the public. The Board assured the Public Safety Committee that any inquiries regarding videotaping meetings are preliminary at the moment, and the Board will not move forward without consulting the Public Safety Committee.

#### V. Adjournment

Board member Mike Grady motioned to adjourn the meeting. Board member Reverend Victor Collier seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Grady  
Secretary



**\*Table 1 Complaints for Board Review**

| CPRB / OPS NO.      | SUMMARY   | ALLEGATIONS   | OPS FINDING  | CPRB FINDING / ACTION  |
|---------------------|---|---|--|--|
| #12-16 / CC2016-016 | Co. alleged he was stopped for no reason and APD officers acted in a manner to “scare” the complainant; Co. further alleged the officer intentionally harassed him.   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Arrest Authority &amp; Procedures</li> <li>2. Biased-Based Policing</li> </ol>                                    | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Unfounded</li> <li>2. Unfounded</li> </ol>                               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Unfounded</li> <li>2. Unfounded</li> </ol>                               |
| #36-12 / CC2012-087 | Co. alleged he and his wife were told by an APD officer to “shut the f—up,” called crackheads; Co. further alleged he was issued a parking ticket and the officer said he would be given more, and that would teach the Co. “not to f--- with the officer.” | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct Standards</li> <li>2. Arrest Authority &amp; Procedures</li> </ol>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Not Sustained</li> <li>2. Unfounded</li> </ol>                           | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Not Sustained</li> <li>2. Unfounded</li> </ol>                           |
| #39-12 / CC2012-090 | Co. alleged that during a traffic stop, after APD officers were notified there was a weapon in the vehicle, Co. was taken out of the car, slammed on the road, and kicked in the face.  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use of Force</li> <li>2. Evidence &amp; Property Handling</li> <li>3. Evidence &amp; Property Handling</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Unfounded</li> <li>2. Not Sustained</li> <li>3. Not Sustained</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Unfounded</li> <li>2. Not Sustained</li> <li>3. Not Sustained</li> </ol> |
| #40-12 / CC2012-089 | Co. alleged APD officers handcuffed him roughly, and threw his belongings to the ground; Co. further alleged he was thrown onto steps and an officer’s knee was pressed into his back.  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use of Force</li> </ol>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Unfounded</li> </ol>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Not Sustained</li> </ol>   |

| CPRB / OPS NO.      | SUMMARY   | ALLEGATIONS | OPS FINDING | CPRB FINDING / ACTION   |
|---------------------|---|-------------|-------------|---|
| #05-16 / CC2016-004 | Co. alleged he was profiled while driving his car, his hand was grabbed through his window in a hostile way, and he was pulled out of the car. Co. further alleged when he got to the precinct officers attempted to assault him, dragged him, and attempted to sodomize him. | n/a         | n/a         | Complaint <u>withdrawn</u> by complainant - no OPS investigation conducted.<br><br>Action: Board voted for "Closed No Review" |
| #17-16 / CC2016-037 | Co. alleged that during altercation with a security guard, an APD officer used excessive force while restraining him and laughed in response to his stated injuries.  | n/a         | n/a         | Complaint <u>withdrawn</u> by complainant - no OPS investigation conducted.<br><br>Action: Board voted for "Closed No Review" |