

City of Albany

CITIZENS' POLICE REVIEW BOARD

Annual Report 2007

Submitted by
The Government Law Center of Albany Law School
on behalf of the
City of Albany Citizens' Police Review Board



Seventh Annual Report of the City of Albany
Citizens' Police Review Board

Submitted to:

The Mayor of the City of Albany
The Common Council of the City of Albany
The Police Chief of the City of Albany

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BACKGROUND

In July 2000, legislation creating the City of Albany Citizens' Police Review Board (the "Board") was signed into law, adding part 33 to Chapter 42 (Departments and Commissions) of the Code of the City of Albany. The purpose of this legislation was to create an independent review body to review and comment on completed investigations of complaints made by citizens against officers of the City of Albany Police Department for alleged misconduct. Its goals were to improve communication between the Police Department and the community, to increase police accountability and credibility with the public, and to create a complaint review process that is free from bias and knowledgeable of actual police practices.

DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this report, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning described in this report:

COMPLAINT – A written statement concerning police conduct which is either submitted to the Citizens' Police Review Board for filing with the Albany Police Department or filed directly with the Albany Police Department.

CPRB or BOARD – The Citizens' Police Review Board.

GOVERNMENT LAW CENTER (GLC) – The Government Law Center of Albany Law School.

MEDIATION – A structured dispute resolution process in which a neutral third party assists the disputants to reach a negotiated settlement of their differences.

OFFICER – Any sworn police officer of the City of Albany Police Department affected by a citizen complaint.

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS (OPS) – The Professional Standards Unit of the City of Albany Police Department.

INTRODUCTION

In a unique arrangement, the Government Law Center of Albany Law School was retained by the City of Albany to provide a number of services to the Board, the City, and the community. Among the services to be provided, § 42-340 of the legislation requires that the Government Law Center "file annual reports with the Common Council and the Mayor[,] which contain statistics and summaries of citizen complaints, including a comparison of the [Board's] findings with the final determinations of the [Police] Department" on behalf of the Board. This is the Seventh Annual Report so submitted, covering the Board's operations from November 1, 2006 to October 31, 2007.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

The Board is comprised of nine members, five members appointed by the Common Council, and four members appointed by the Mayor, who serve for three-year staggered terms. In selecting the members of the Board, the legislation provides that the Common Council and the Mayor shall endeavor to reflect community diversity in their appointments, and requires that

members of the Board reside in the City of Albany; possess a reputation for fairness, integrity, and responsibility; have a demonstrated interest in public affairs and services; and neither be an officer or employee nor a relative of an officer or employee of the City of Albany.

The following members constituted the Board during its seventh year of operation:

Jason Allen

Appointed: 10/18/2004
Term Expires: 10/26/2008

Mauri Davis Lewis*

Appointed: 8/16/2006
Term Expires: 10/26/2009

Daniel Fitzgerald

Appointed: 10/10/2006
Term Expires: 10/26/2010

Ronald Flagg

Appointed: 10/18/2004
Term Expires: 10/26/2007

James Malatras

Appointed: 10/5/2006
Term Expires: 10/26/2009

John Paneto

Appointed: 10/5/2006
Term Expires: 10/26/2009

Andrew Phelan, Jr.

Appointed: 9/26/2006
Term Expires: 10/26/2009

Anthony Potenza

Appointed: 10/5/2006
Term Expires: 10/26/2008

Hon. Fowler Riddick

Appointed: 1/5/2006
Term Expires: 10/28/2008

** resignation effective 9/24/07*

Re-appointments

In correspondence dated August 21, 2007, City of Albany Mayor Gerald D. Jennings re-appointed Daniel Fitzgerald to serve a three-year term, which will expire on October 26, 2010. Daniel Fitzgerald was originally appointed on October 10, 2006 as a member of the Board by Mayor Jennings to fulfill the remainder of former member Reverend Beresford Bailey's term which expired on October 26, 2007.

Resignations

In correspondence dated September 24, 2007 to City of Albany Mayor Gerald D. Jennings, Board member Mauri Davis Lewis announced her resignation from the Board effective immediately.

New Member Orientation Program

According to § 42-339 of the legislation, "[c]ompletion of the orientation program concerning the goals, powers, and procedures of the [Board] is required before a member may participate as a voting member. In addition, graduation from the Albany Police Department's Citizen Police Academy . . . within six months of the start of the member's term is required."

In the first quarter of 2007, new Board members John Paneto and Andrew Phelan, Jr. participated and completed their ride-along orientation requirement with APD officers. The ride-along consists of a Board member riding with an APD officer during his/her work shift. This is an opportunity for the Board members to observe the interaction between the officers and the

community.

In the second quarter of 2007, new Board members James Malatras, Anthony Potenza, and Daniel Fitzgerald participated in and completed their ride-along orientation requirement with APD officers. Government Law Center Coordinator of the Board Sharmaine Moseley also participated in a ride-along with APD officers.

New Member Citizens Police Academy

During the second quarter of 2007, new Board members Mauri Davis Lewis, Daniel Fitzgerald, James Malatras, John Paneto, Anthony Potenza, and GLC Coordinator of the Board Sharmaine Moseley attended seven (7) of thirteen (13) three-hour citizen police academy training sessions. These sessions included an overview of the Albany Police Department, including its command structure; patrol unit; the Office of Professional Standards; computerization in law enforcement; emergency services team; community response unit; criminal investigations unit; information coordination unit; community services/crime prevention; PAL; children and family services unit; and domestic violence unit. In addition, the members were given an overview of the University at Albany Police Department.

During the third quarter of 2007, new Board members Mauri Davis Lewis, Daniel Fitzgerald, James Malatras, John Paneto, Anthony Potenza, and GLC Coordinator of the Board Sharmaine Moseley attended and completed the last six (6) three-hour citizen police academy training sessions. These sessions included an overview of the courts and criminal justice; scuba unit; weapons range; traffic safety; and police/fire communications.

Officers

During its seventh year of operation, the Board's officers were:

Chair	Jason Allen
Vice-Chair	Hon. Fowler Riddick
Secretary	Ronald Flagg

At the Board's December 12, 2006 meeting, the following Board members were nominated, pursuant to Article IV, Section 1 of the Board's By-Laws, for positions as Board officers: Jason Allen as Chair, Hon. Fowler Riddick as Vice-Chair, and Ronald Flagg as Secretary.

At the Board's January 16, 2007 meeting, the Board held an election for new Board officers pursuant to Article IV, Section 1 of the Board's By-Laws. The slate was presented, voted on, and approved unanimously to elect Jason Allen as Chair, Hon. Fowler Riddick as Vice-Chair, and Ronald Flagg as Secretary.

Committees and Task Forces

At the Board's November 14, 2006 meeting, members expressed interest in serving as chair or sitting on a particular committee. During the Board's November 14, 2006 meeting, Chairman Jason Allen proposed that the Task Force on Standing/Complainant be deleted from the Board's list of committees because the Standing/Complainant document was voted on. Chairman Allen agreed to work with the Public Official Liaison Committee to get the Standing/Complainant document reviewed and any responsibilities on standing can be addressed through the By-Laws and Rules Committee.

At the Board's December 12, 2006 meeting, the Board elected chairs for its operational committees and task forces and decided which members would sit on each committee and task force. At that meeting, Chairman Allen proposed that the standing committee on mediation be dissolved because the APD, the union representatives and the Board have been working closely on finalizing the mediation protocol. The Board approved the committee/task force structure with amendments.

The following committees and task force were operational and active in the Board's seventh year of operation, with each Board member serving on at least one committee/task force:

<i>By-Laws and Rules</i>	Jason Allen (Chair) James Malatras Hon. Fowler Riddick
<i>Community Outreach</i>	James Malatras (Chair) Jason Allen (<i>ex-officio</i>) Mauri Davis Lewis John Paneto Hon. Fowler Riddick
<i>Complaint Review</i>	Andrew Phelan, Jr. (Chair) Jason Allen Mauri Davis Lewis Daniel Fitzgerald Ronald Flagg James Malatras John Paneto Anthony Potenza Hon. Fowler Riddick
<i>Mediation</i>	Jason Allen (Chair) * <i>dissolved in the first quarter</i>
<i>Police Department Policy Review/Recommendations</i>	Daniel Fitzgerald (Chair) Jason Allen (<i>ex-officio</i>) James Malatras Anthony Potenza
<i>Public Official Liaison</i>	Ronald Flagg (Chair) Jason Allen (<i>ex-officio</i>) Andrew Phelan, Jr. Anthony Potenza
<i>Task Force on Monitors</i>	James Malatras Jason Allen (<i>ex-officio</i>)

At the conclusion of the Board's seventh year of operation, Board member James Malatras was elected by the Board to chair the task force on monitors.

BY-LAWS AND RULES

First Quarter

Chairman Jason Allen met with former CPRB Board Chairperson Barbara Gaige to discuss the mediation policy agreed upon by the former Board members and the APD's union representatives. After that meeting, several members of the Board met to review the mediation policy. A copy of the policy was forwarded to Chief James Tuffey and Assistant Chief Anthony Bruno for their comments.

At the CPRB's November 16, 2006 meeting, the Board dissolved the Task Force on Standing/Complainant because it was formed to create the standing document that was voted on by the Board. The Board agreed that the Chairman of the Board would continue working with the Public Official Liaison Committee on any issues relating to "standing," which would be addressed by the By-Laws and Rules Committee.

Second Quarter

Chairman Jason Allen met with Chief James Tuffey, Assistant Chief Anthony Bruno, Commander Burris Beattie and Board member John Paneto to discuss the mediation and monitors protocol. At that meeting, it was agreed that a meeting with the APD union representatives was necessary to move forward with the mediation protocol.

On April 6, 2007, Board members met with former Board Chairperson Barbara Gaige, Chief James Tuffey, Assistant Chief Bruno, and APD union representatives Lt. Timothy Close and Christian Mesley. At that meeting, the union representatives noted their concerns and provided input on the protocol. The Board agreed to revise the mediation protocol to address the union representative's concerns.

The complainant/standing document that was approved by the Board at its October 2006 meeting was submitted by the City Clerk to the Albany Common Council.

Third Quarter

At its June 12, 2007 meeting, the Board changed the name of the complainant/standing" document to the "complaint process" document because it is a reflection of the complaint process. At that meeting, the Board voted unanimously to recall the draft of the complaint process document from the Common Council with the understanding that a policy is needed based on the experiences and practices of the Board.

On July 31, 2007, several members of the Board met with the Albany Common Council's Public Safety Committee to discuss its initiatives and to establish a frequent dialogue with the Council bi-annually.

The Board and the Albany Police Department reached an agreement on the CPRB's Mediation Program. The Government Law Center agreed to research best practices for training programs for mediators in other cities and states for the CPRB Mediation Program.

Fourth Quarter

Several Board members attended meetings with Executive Director of *Mediation Matters* Peter Glassman, the APD's command staff, Chief James Tuffey and the APD's union representatives to discuss expectations for the CPRB's mediation program.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

First Quarter

On January 16, 2007, the Community Outreach Committee met to discuss revising its community outreach efforts. The Committee agreed to create a consistent message to the public which includes designing a new brochure, creating a template for presentations, updating the Board's website, and implementing an outreach program once a month.

Second Quarter

After reaching out to the community, the Board received several requests from neighborhood associations inviting the CPRB members to their meetings. The Community Outreach Committee created a power point presentation for members to use at community outreach meetings. On February 26, 2007, Chairman Allen and Committee Chair James Malatras gave a presentation to an undergraduate course on, "Introduction to Policing," at the State University of New York at Albany. It was an opportunity for the Board members to educate students about the mission and purpose of the CPRB and the process of complaint review in the City of Albany.

On April 23, 2007, the committee attended and participated in an outreach meeting with the West End Neighborhood Association. At that meeting, the Association provided the committee with suggestions on increasing the Board's visibility in the community. The first suggestion was to submit a letter on what the Board does to each neighborhood association. The second suggestion was to set up a system of liaisons or contact persons from each neighborhood association for communication purposes.

The Board agreed to continue its review of the CPRB brochure.

Third and Fourth Quarter

The committee continued its work on updating its website, and revising the CPRB brochure. The Government Law Center assisted the Board with inputting the text into the brochure.

On August 29, 2007, the committee met to discuss its outreach initiatives, brochure, and website. At that meeting, the committee agreed to implement a new program to enable the Board to work closely with each and every neighborhood association in the City of Albany. The purpose of this program is to identify an interested community member from each neighborhood association who would serve as the liaison between the Board and the neighborhood association.

COMPLAINT REVIEW

Pursuant to Section II, Subsection I of the Board's Operating Procedures, each of the four (4) appointed members of the Committee on Complaint Review, in addition to the Chair of the Committee, shall be responsible for the presentation of a particular complaint to the Board at its regular, monthly meetings, as assigned by the Chair of the Committee.

First Quarter

The Board presented twelve (12) complaints for review and rendered findings for the allegation(s) contained in all twelve (12) complaints. At the conclusion of the Board's sixth year of operation, eleven (11) of the twelve (12) complaints were not reviewed and reported in the Board's Sixth Annual Report and were, therefore, carried forward and reviewed in the seventh year. All twelve (12) complaints reviewed were filed in the Board's sixth year of operation.

Second Quarter

The Board presented ten (10) complaints for review and rendered findings for the allegation(s) contained in seven (7) complaints. In addition, the Board took action on three (3) complaints. These actions included the Board voting unanimously to table rendering its findings and request that the OPS conduct a more thorough and complete investigation of the complaint; and to provide the Board with an opportunity to locate a complainant whose case was suitable for mediation. At the conclusion of the Board's sixth year of operation, all ten (10) complaints reviewed were not reviewed and reported in the Board's Sixth Annual Report and were, therefore, carried forward and reviewed in the seventh year. The three complaints where the Board took action will be carried forward into the eighth year. One (1) of the ten (10) complaints reviewed was filed in the Board's seventh year of operation.

Third Quarter

The Board presented seven (7) complaints for review and rendered findings for the allegation(s) contained in four (4) complaints. In addition, the Board took action on three (3) complaints. These actions included the Board voting unanimously to table rendering its findings and forwarding the complaint to the Chief for review; requesting that the OPS conduct a more thorough and complete investigation of the complaint; and tabling the review of a complaint pending the outcome of the mediation program. Three (3) of the seven (7) complaints reviewed were not reviewed and reported in the Board's Sixth Annual Report and were, therefore, carried forward and reviewed in the seventh year. One (1) of the seven (7) complaints reviewed was filed in the Board's fifth year of operation. Two (2) of the seven (7) complaints reviewed were filed in the Board's sixth year of operation. Four (4) of the seven (7) complaints reviewed were filed in the Board's seventh year of operation.

Fourth Quarter

The Board presented eight (8) complaints for review and rendered findings for the allegation(s) contained in six (6) complaints. In addition, the Board took action on two (2) complaints. These actions included the Board tabling the review of a complaint pending the commencement of the mediation program in January 2008; and tabling the review of the complaint pending the completion of the complainant's court proceedings. Three (3) of the eight (8) complaints reviewed were not reviewed and reported in the Board's Sixth Annual Report and

were, therefore, carried forward and reviewed in the seventh year. One (1) of the eight (8) complaints reviewed was filed in the Board's fifth year of operation. Two (2) of the eight (8) complaints reviewed were filed in the Board's sixth year of operation. Five (5) of the eight (8) complaints reviewed were filed in the Board's seventh year of operation.

The following Board members were appointed to serve on the Committee in the seventh year of operation:

<i>November 2006</i>	Jason Allen, Ronald Flagg and Fowler Riddick.
<i>December 2006</i>	Jason Allen, James Malatras, John Paneto, Andrew Phelan, Jr. Anthony Potenza and Hon. Fowler Riddick.
<i>January 2007</i>	Jason Allen, Mauri Davis Lewis, Daniel Fitzgerald, Ronald Flagg, John Paneto, Andrew Phelan, Jr. Anthony Potenza and Hon. Fowler Riddick.
<i>February 2007</i>	Ronald Flagg, James Malatras, John Paneto, Andrew Phelan, Jr. and Anthony Potenza.
<i>March 2007</i>	Jason Allen, Mauri Davis Lewis, Daniel Fitzgerald, James Malatras, John Paneto and Anthony Potenza.
<i>April 2007</i>	Mauri Davis Lewis, Daniel Fitzgerald, James Malatras, John Paneto, Andrew Phelan, Jr. and Anthony Potenza.
<i>May 2007</i>	Mauri Davis Lewis, James Malatras, John Paneto, Andrew Phelan, Jr., Anthony Potenza and Hon. Fowler Riddick.
<i>June 2007</i>	Jason Allen, Daniel Fitzgerald, James Malatras, Andrew Phelan, Jr. and Anthony Potenza.
<i>July 2007</i>	Daniel Fitzgerald, James Malatras, John Paneto, Andrew Phelan, Jr. and Anthony Potenza.
<i>August 2007</i>	<i>The Board did not meet in August 2007.</i>
<i>September 2007</i>	Daniel Fitzgerald, Mauri Davis Lewis, Andrew Phelan, Jr. and Anthony Potenza.
<i>October 2007</i>	Jason Allen, James Malatras, John Paneto and Andrew Phelan, Jr.

COMPLAINT REVIEW: SUMMARIES AND STATISTICS

Number of Complaints Filed

During its seventh year of operation (November 1, 2006 to October 31, 2007), the Board received a total of twenty-nine (29) complaints (See Figure 1.) The Board received an average of two (2) complaints per month from November 2006 to October 2007. These complaints included those filed with the Board directly (filed either in person, by regular U.S. mail, or via facsimile) and those filed with the Board through the Office of Professional Standards (OPS).

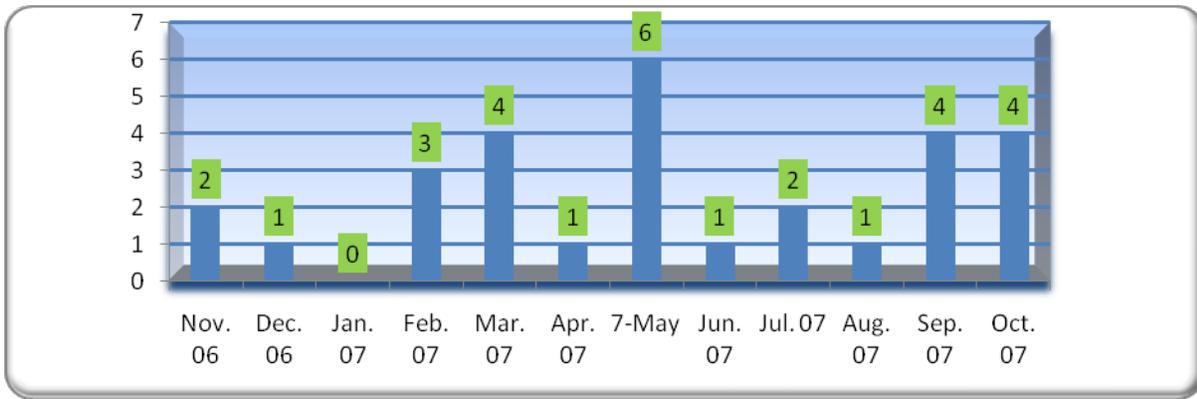


Figure 1: Monthly breakdown of complaints filed November 1, 2006 to October 31, 2007
Total twenty-nine (29).

Since the Board’s inception (October 27, 2000 to October 31, 2007), the Board received a total of two hundred and seventy-five (275) complaints (See Figure 2.) The Board received an average of thirty-nine (39) complaints per year. These complaints included those filed with the Board directly (filed either in person, by regular U.S. mail, or via facsimile) and those filed with the Board through the Office of Professional Standards (OPS).

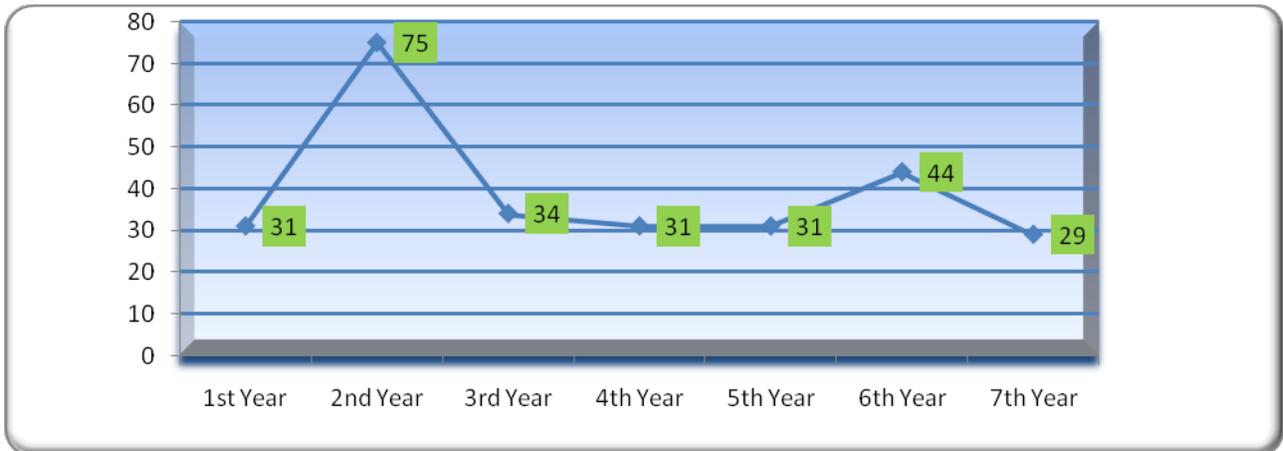


Figure 2: Yearly breakdown of complaints filed October 27, 2000 to October 31, 2007
Total two hundred and seventy-five (275).

Appointment of Monitors

Under § 42-343(B)(1) of the legislation, the Board is required to appoint an individual to observe and monitor the Office of Professional Standards’ investigation of a complaint “in the event the complaint alleges use of force or a violation of civil rights.” Of the twenty-nine (29) complaints filed in the seventh year, the Board appointed a monitor to observe the OPS’s investigation of sixteen (16) complaints.

Race/Ethnicity and Gender of the Complainant and the Officer(s)

Complainants who file a Citizen Complaint Form with the Board may, at their option, include information relating to their race/ethnicity and gender. Of the twenty-nine (29) complaints filed with the Board in the seventh year, sixteen (16) contained information from the complainant regarding the complainant's race/ethnicity and/or gender. There were sixteen (16) identified complainants in these twenty-nine (29) complaints, comprising: one (1) African-American female; six (6) African-American males; three (3) Caucasian females; three (3) Caucasian males; one (1) Asian male; and two (2) Hispanic males (See Figure 3.)

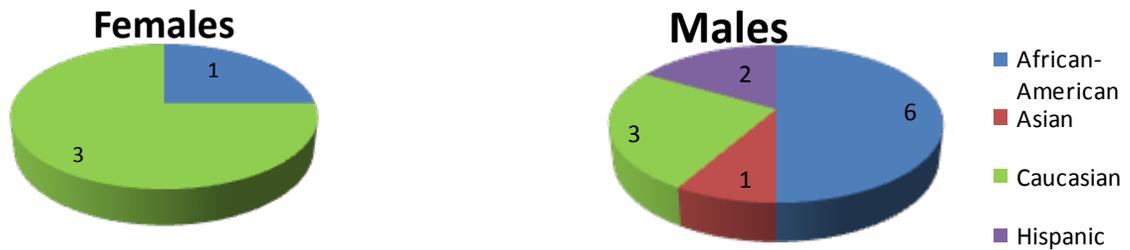


Figure 3: Race/Ethnicity and Gender of the Complainant

Fourteen (14) complainants either submitted a written complaint not using the Citizen Complaint Form or chose not to submit information regarding their race/ethnicity or gender. However, in twelve (12) of those complaints the gender of complainant, six (6) males and six (6) females, was determined by language contained in the complaint form, the Office of Professional Standards' preliminary report, and/or the report of the monitor, if a monitor was assigned to the complaint. In one (1) of the twelve (12) complaints the complainant submitted information about her gender but not race/ethnicity. Also, in one (1) of the twelve (12) complaints, although the complainant chose not to submit information regarding his race/ethnicity or gender, that information was determined based on a complaint previously filed by the complainant.

In addition to the optional section provided for complainants, the Citizen Complaint Form provides a section for the complainant to enter descriptive information about the officer who is, or the officers who are, the subject of the complaint. In this section, the complainant is asked to provide race/ethnicity and gender information about the officer(s), if known. Forty-nine (49)¹ police officer descriptions, including race/ethnicity and gender, were included within the twenty-nine (29) complaints filed with the Board in the seventh year.

Eighteen (18) of the twenty-nine complaints filed with the Board included information about the police officer's gender. The gender information of twenty-six (26) police officers was provided by the complainants. Fifteen (15) of the twenty-six (26) police officer gender descriptions, however, were redacted by the Office of Professional Standards. Of the fifteen (15) police officer gender descriptions that were redacted, the gender of fifteen (15) officers (male),

¹It should be noted that the Board is not privy to any information that would identify the officers who are the subject of a citizen complaint. Therefore, it not known whether these twenty-five (25) police officer descriptions are of twenty-five (25) different officers or are of a number of the same officers.

was determined from the language contained in the complaint. Eleven (11) of the twenty-six (26) police officer gender descriptions were not redacted by the Office of Professional Standards. Of the eleven (11) police officer gender descriptions that were not redacted, the genders of all eleven (11) police officers were male. Concerning the gender information of seven (7) police officers that was not provided by the complainant, the genders of six (6) males and one (1) female police officer were determined from the language contained in the complaint. Of the twenty-nine (29) complaints filed with the Board in the seventh year, the gender of five (5) police officers was not provided by the complainant in four (4) complaints.

The ethnicity/race of twenty-three (23) police officers was provided by the complainants. Sixteen (16) of the twenty-three (23) police officer ethnicity/race descriptions, however, were redacted by the Office of Professional Standards. Therefore, the ethnicity/race of the police officers could not be ascertained from the language contained in the complaints. Of the seven (7) police officer ethnicity/race descriptions that were not redacted, the ethnicity/race of all seven (7) police officers was Caucasian. Descriptions for fifteen (15) police officers were either not included or the information was unknown.

Allegations Contained in the Complaints

In the seventh year of operation, nine (9) of the twenty-nine (29) complaints filed with the Board contained a single allegation of misconduct against an officer or officers of the Albany Police Department. Twenty (20) complaints contained multiple allegations, with a majority of these complaints averaging three (3) misconduct allegations. Figure 4 illustrates the allegations made in the twenty-nine (29) complaints filed with the Board. Given that many of these complaints contained more than one allegation, the total number of allegations made is not equal to the number of complaints filed with the Board.

Seventy-one (71) allegations were made in the twenty-nine (29) complaints filed with the Board in the seventh year. Of the seventy-one (71) allegations, the Board identified six (6) categories of allegations. Twenty-three (23) subcategories of allegations were also identified, three (3) of which fell under the category of Abuse of Authority, two (2) of which fell under the category of Abuse of Authority and Procedures, nine (9) of which fell under the category of Call Handling, seven (7) of which fell under the category of Unprofessional Conduct Standards and two (2) of which fell under the category of Use of Force. In identifying these categories and subcategories of allegations, the Board accounted for the complainant's own classification of the allegations contained in his or her complaint.

Five percent (5%) of the allegations identified in the complaints filed with the Board were classified as abuse of authority. These allegations were characterized as harassment, evidence tampering/handling, or threatened physical force.

Two percent (2%) of the misconduct alleged was identified as a violation of civil rights.

Nine percent (9%) of the allegations made were classified as arrest authorities and procedures. These allegations were characterized as false, illegal, improper or unlawful arrests, false records, and inconsistent testimony.

Figure 4: Allegations Contained in Complaints Filed - Total 71

Abuse of Authority	
Harassment	1
Evidence Tampering/Handling	1
Threatened Physical Force	1
Arrest Authority and Procedures	
False/Illegal/Improper/Unlawful Arrest	3
False/Inconsistent Testimony/Records	3
Call Handling	1
Illegal/Improper/Unlawful Search	1
Illegal/Improper/Unlawful Stop	2
Illegal/Improper/Unlawful Detention	4
Illegal/Improper/Unlawful Entry into Private Residence	1
Improper Handling of Personal Property	1
Failure/Refusal to Provide Information/Assistance	5
Failure to Complete Report	1
Failure/Refusal to Provide/Accept Complaint Form	2
Failure/Refusal to Provide Medical Treatment	1
Unprofessional Conduct Standards	6
Harassment	4
Conspiracy	1
Racial Bias	1
Rude/Disrespectful	3
Derogatory/Inappropriate/Profane/Offensive/Vulgar/Threatening/Racially-Biased/Unnecessary Language	8
Denied Access to Phone	2
Theft	1

Use of Force	
Excessive Use of Force	14
Unnecessary Use of Force	2
Violation of Civil Rights	1

Twenty-seven percent (27%) of the misconduct alleged were classified as call handling. Call handling included: illegal, improper, or unlawful searches, stops, detention, handling of personal property, and entry into a private residence. Stops included pedestrian stops as well as traffic stops. Allegations of call handling also included: failure or refusal to provide information or assistance; failure to complete a report; failure or refusal to provide or accept a complaint form; and failure or refusal to provide medical treatment.

Use of force accounted for twenty-three percent (23%) of the misconduct alleged. The use of force allegations were identified as excessive or unnecessary use of force.

Thirty-seven percent (37%) of the allegations identified in the complaints were classified as unprofessional conduct standards. Unprofessional conduct standards included allegations of harassment; conspiracy; racial bias toward the complainant; rude/disrespectful behavior toward the complainant; language; denied the complainant access to a phone; and theft. Language was identified as unnecessary, derogatory, inappropriate, profane, offensive, vulgar, threatening, or racially-biased.

Suspension of Review

“Upon the written recommendation of the Corporation Counsel, the Common Council or the Mayor may suspend the [Board’s] review of any complaint where a separate criminal investigation is underway or where a civil action against the City is underway, or pending.” (See § 42-348). In its seventh year of operation, none of the twenty-nine (29) complaints filed with the Board was suspended. At the end of the sixth year, the Board had twelve (12) suspended complaints. In the second quarter of 2007, the Board received correspondence from Corporation Counsel Patrick Jordan to re-open five (5) of the twelve (12) suspended complaints. Two (2) of these re-opened complaints were closed during the seventh year and are included in the Seventh Annual Report. The other three (3) re-opened complaints will be carried forward to the eighth year and reported in the Board’s Eighth Annual Report.

Board and Police Department Findings

At the conclusion of the Office of Professional Standards’ investigation of a citizen complaint, the Police Department is required to submit a preliminary report of its findings to the Board. (See § 42-343(E)). Following its review and deliberation of a complaint, which may include, in appropriate cases: 1) review of the complaint, the OPS’s preliminary report, the monitor’s report, if one has been assigned to the complaint, transcripts, and any other information contained in the Board’s complaint file and the OPS’s investigative file, which is not confidential and/or otherwise protected by state, federal, local law, or by the collective bargaining agreement; 2) presentations made by monitors; and 3) questioning of detectives from the OPS and officers of the Police Department, the Board is authorized by § 42-343(F)(1) of the legislation to render a finding or findings on the complaint. The Chief of Police must then “review the Department’s preliminary report in light of the [Board’s] finding and . . . make the Department’s final

determination.” (See § 42-345).

2005-2006

At the conclusion of the Board’s sixth year of operation, findings had not yet been made with respect to thirty-six (36) complaints. Three (3) of the thirty-six (36) complaints were filed in the Board’s first year of operation (October 27, 2000 - October 31, 2001). Two (2) of the thirty-six (36) complaints were filed in the Board’s second year of operation (November 1, 2001 -October 31, 2002). Eight (8) of the thirty-six (36) complaints were filed in the Board’s fifth year of operation (November 1, 2004 - October 31, 2005). Twenty-three (23) of the thirty-six (36) complaints were filed in the Board’s sixth year of operation (November 1, 2005 - October 31, 2006). These complaints were not reported in the Board’s Sixth Annual Report and were, therefore, carried forward into the seventh year.

2006-2007

In the Board’s seventh year of operation, twenty-nine (29) complaints were filed with the Board. In addition, thirty-six (36) complaints were carried forward from the Board’s sixth year of operation. The Board reviewed thirty-seven (37) complaints and rendered findings for twenty-nine (29) complaints. Twenty-two (22) of the thirty-seven (37) complaints reviewed were previously not reviewed and were, therefore, carried forward into the Board’s seventh year of operation. Inadvertently, one (1) of the thirty-seven (37) complaints was not included in the Board’s first quarter report of complaint summaries and statistics for the seventh year. Therefore, this report includes the statistics for that one (1) complaint. One (1) of the thirty-seven (37) complaints was previously reviewed and a finding was rendered for one (1) of its two (2) allegations. Therefore, the Board reviewed and rendered a finding for the second allegation in its seventh year. Out of the twenty-nine (29) complaints that were filed in the Board’s seventh year, the Board reviewed and rendered findings for the allegations contained in eight (8) complaints that were filed in the seventh year. Out of the thirty-five complaints that were carried forward from the Board’s sixth year of operation, the Board reviewed and rendered findings for twenty (20) of those complaints.

The Board took action on eight (8) complaints which they reviewed but for which they were unable to render a finding. These actions included the Board voting unanimously to table rendering its findings and forwarding the complaint to the Chief for review; requesting that the OPS conduct a more thorough and complete investigation of the complaint; to provide the Board with an opportunity to locate a complainant whose case was suitable for mediation and referring a complaint to mediation; tabling the review of a complaint pending the outcome of the mediation program; tabling the review of a complaint pending the commencement of the mediation program in January 2008; and tabling the review of a complaint pending the completion of the complainant’s court proceedings. In two (2) separate quarters, action was taken by the Board twice on two (2) of the thirty-seven (37) complaints that were reviewed by the Board before a finding was rendered. In one (1) of the thirty-seven (37) complaints, the Board took action three (3) times and did not render a finding. The four (4) complaints where the Board took action and did not rendered a finding will be carried over into the Board’s eighth year of operation.

In its seventh year of operation, since twenty-one (21) of the thirty-seven (37) complaints reviewed contained multiple allegations of misconduct, the number of findings made is not equal to the number of complaints in which findings were rendered.

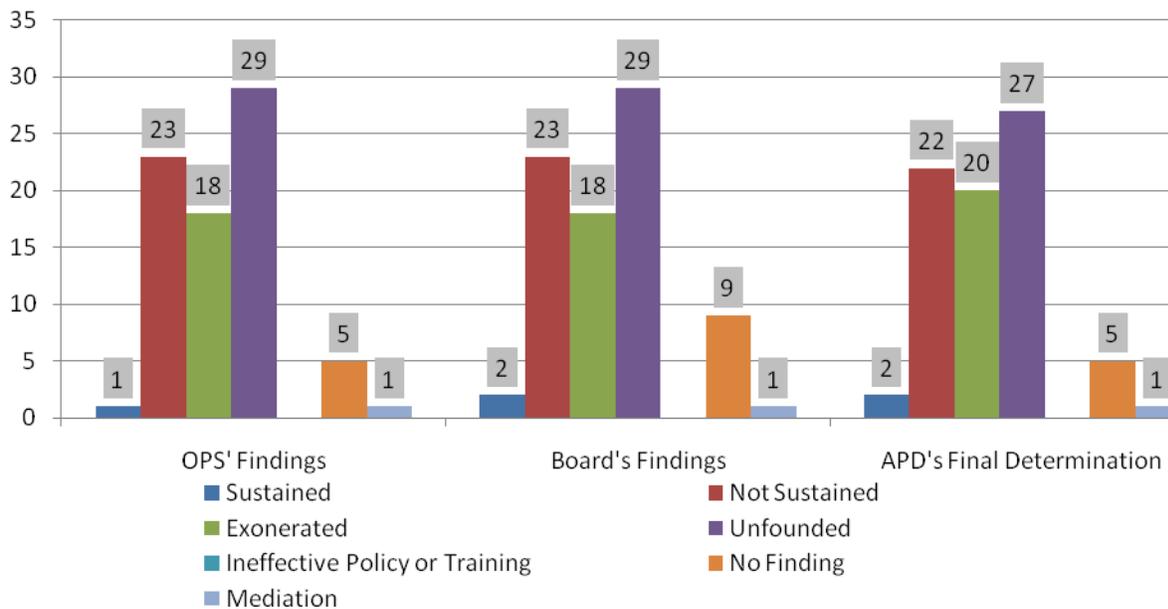


Figure 5: Comparison of Findings Made by the Board, the OPS, and the Police Department (November 1, 2006-October 31, 2007)

As to the thirty-seven (37) complaints reviewed, the Board made findings consistent with the preliminary findings of the Office of Professional Standards in twenty-four (24) cases. Of the thirty-seven (37) complaints reviewed, the Board made findings that were inconsistent with the preliminary findings of the Office of Professional Standards in five (5) cases. Of the thirty-seven (37) complaints reviewed, the Board made findings that were inconsistent with the Albany Police Department’s final determinations in three (3) cases. The Board reviewed and took action on four (4) of the thirty-seven (37) complaints reviewed. The findings for these four (4) complaints will not be reported in the Board’s Seventh Annual Report and, therefore, will be carried forward into the eighth year.

Figure 5 depicts a comparison of the findings made by the Board and the findings made by the Police Department, including the preliminary findings of the Office of Professional Standards and the Albany Police Department’s final determinations.

Further Investigation

Under § 42-343(F)(2) of the legislation, the Board may, after its “review and deliberation of the preliminary report of the Department’s finding . . . request that Professional Standards conduct further investigation of the complaint.”

In the seventh year, of its thirty-seven (37) complaints reviewed, the Board returned three (3) complaints reviewed to the Office of Professional Standards for further investigation. In addition, one (1) of the thirty-two complaints reviewed was forwarded to Chief James Tuffey for review. The four (4) complaints involved two (2) allegations of use of force; three (3) allegations of unprofessional conduct; one (1) allegation of misuse of personal property; one (1) allegation of improper firearm use; four (4) allegations of call handling; and one (1) allegation of false arrest. In the seventh year, the Office of Professional Standards made a further investigation of two (2) of the three (3) complaints which the Board reviewed and rendered its findings. The third complaint along with the complaint that was forwarded to Chief Tuffey will be carried forward into the eighth year.

Mediation

After a complaint is filed, § 42-346(C) of the legislation provides that “the complainant or officer may at any time in the review process utilize the [Board’s] mediation process . . . to resolve the complaint. Additionally, the Board is authorized under § 32-343(F)(4) to refer the complaint to mediation following its review and deliberation of the Department’s preliminary report of its findings. In the seventh year, the Board had one (1) complaint that was referred to mediation in the Board’s fifth year of operation. In the seventh year, the review of this complaint was tabled by the Board two (2) times to give the Board an opportunity to locate the complainant to see if she was still interested in mediation pending the outcome and commencement of the mediation program.

Complaints Reviewed and Closed

At the close of its seventh year in October 2007, the Board had reviewed thirty-seven (37) complaints and had closed a total of twenty-nine (29). Figure 6 illustrates a monthly comparison of the number of complaints reviewed and closed by the Board between November 1, 2006 and October 31, 2007.

At the conclusion of the seventh year of operation, the Board had not yet made findings with respect to thirty-six (36) complaints, twenty-nine (29) of which are open and active complaints and seven (7) of which are complaints that have been suspended from the Board’s review. None of these thirty-six (36) complaints will be reported in the Board’s Seventh Annual Report and, therefore, they all will be carried forward in the eighth year.

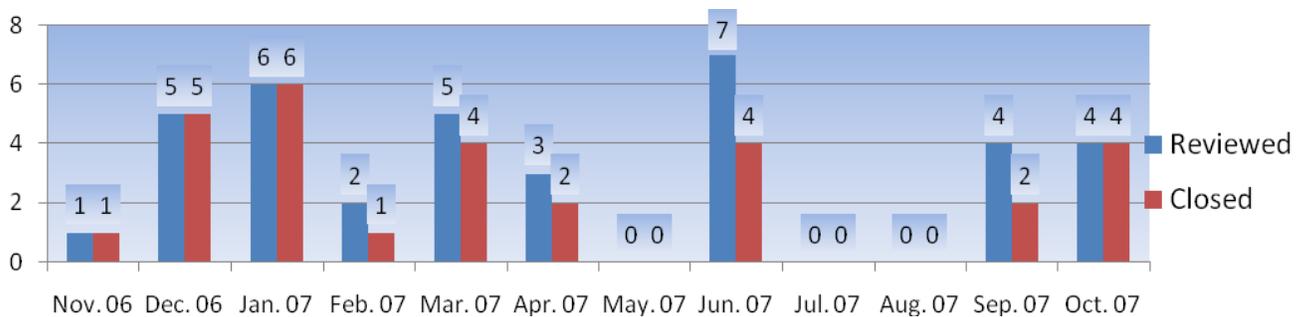


Figure 6: Monthly Comparison of Complaints Reviewed and Closed for the period November 1, 2006 to October 31, 2007.

POLICY REVIEW/RECOMMENDATIONS

First Quarter

During the first quarter of 2007, the Board nominated and elected Board member Daniel Fitzgerald as Committee Chair. During this quarter, it was decided by the Board that the standing monthly meeting with the Albany Police Department will resume at the discretion of the Committee Chair.

Second Quarter

During the second quarter of 2007, the committee held its first meeting of the year. The committee met on April 10, 2007 to discuss the APD's early warning system which was created by the Department to track and identify problems early.

Third Quarter

The Police Department Policy Review/Recommendations Committee forwarded correspondence to Chief James Tuffey informing him that the Board continues to receive complaints of people not being able to get officers' badge numbers and names.

On June 7, 2007, Committee Chairman Daniel Fitzgerald, Chairman Jason Allen, and staff of the Government Law Center met with the OPS to review the first round of the APD's early warning system prototype. The APD is creating an early warning system to track repeat alleged offenses and offenders reported to the Board and the APD.

PUBLIC OFFICIAL LIAISON

On May 4, 2007, Chairman Jason Allen, Committee Chairman Ronald Flagg, and staff of the Government Law Center met with Deputy Mayor Philip Calderone. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss Board initiatives which included; the complaint process document, mediation program, monitors' protocol, budgetary items, and community outreach.

On June 27, 2007, Chairman Jason Allen, Committee Chairman Ronald Flagg, and Board member James Malatras met with Chief James Tuffey to discuss the Board's decision to recall the draft of the complaint process document from the Common Council.

TASK FORCE ON MONITORS

First Quarter

The Task Force continued looking at ways to expand the monitor pool. It developed a job description, qualifications and requirements, and protocol for monitoring and reporting back to the Board. Copies of the monitor protocol were forwarded to the new Board members, Assistant Chief Anthony Bruno and Commander Burris Beattie for input.

Second Quarter

The Task Force completed its input and revision of the monitor protocol. At its April 10, 2007 meeting, with the approval of the City of Albany, the Board voted unanimously to increase the monitors' pay rate from \$50 per hour to \$65 per hour.

Third Quarter

On June 11, 2007, the task force met with the CPRB's monitors to discuss the monitors' protocol. Based on the monitors' feedback and suggestions, the task force will look at updating the protocol.

Fourth Quarter

At its September 11, 2007 meeting, Board member James Malatras agreed to serve as Chair of the Task Force on Monitors. Committee Chairman Malatras continued his review of the monitors' protocol which included feedback and suggestions from the monitors.

REPORTS

Board Reports

In its seventh year of operation, three (3) quarterly reports and the Fifth and Sixth Annual Reports were submitted to the Board for approval. Each report detailed the activities of the Board and the Government Law Center during each time period covered. The Second, Third, and Fourth Quarterly Reports for 2006 and the Annual Reports for 2005 and 2006 were adopted by the Board before the close of the seventh year. A copy of each of these reports was submitted and filed with the Mayor, the Common Council, and the Chief of Police as required by § 42-340(c) of the City Code. Additional copies were forwarded to members of the public, community groups and organizations, and other interested parties on the Board's mailing list.

Other Reports

In the second quarter of 2007, the Board received a summary of the Office of Professional Standards' 2007 First Quarter Report.

TRAINING

Section 42-339 of the legislation creating the Board requires that "the Government Law Center . . . provide, to [Board] members, and the members shall undergo continuing education on issues related to the interaction between civilians and police officers . . ."

First Quarter

On January 5, 2007, Board members participated in a two-hour training session, at which the Board received information on the history and development of the proposed Mediation Program and Monitors' Protocols. The training session was organized and facilitated by the Government Law Center.

Fourth Quarter

The 13th Annual Conference of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) was held in San Jose, California from September 24-28, 2007. The conference, entitled "Transparency, Accountability, Integrity," featured workshops on: examining the credibility of witnesses; police performance auditing; use of force investigations; oversight of prisons and law enforcement; awareness of transgender issues; investigative journalism; oversight of agency statistical reports; conducting police misconduct hearings & appeals; mediation of citizen complaints against the police; police reform & public confidence; and dealing with police corruption. Board members John Paneto and Andrew Phelan, Jr., and Board coordinator Sharmaine Moseley were in attendance at the conference.

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

The Board met as a whole ten (10) times for the conduct of business in the seventh year. All meetings held in the seventh year of operation took place at the Albany Public Library, 161 Washington Avenue, in the Large Auditorium. There was a public comment period held at each of the monthly meetings, and the meetings were devoted primarily to the review of complaints and a discussion of committee activities.

The Board met as a whole three (3) times for the conduct of business in the first quarter. Meetings were held on November 14, 2006, December 12, 2006, and January 16, 2007. In the second quarter, three (3) regular monthly meetings were held on February 13, 2007, March 13, 2007, and April 10, 2007. The Board met two (2) times for the conduct of business during the third quarter. Meetings were held on May 8, 2007, and June 12, 2007. In the fourth quarter, the Board met as a whole two (2) times for the conduct of business. Meetings were held on September 11, 2007 and October 9, 2007.

At its June 12, 2007 meeting, the Board voted in favor of changing its summer meeting schedule from the Board holding its monthly meetings during July and August to the Board not meeting during July and August unless an emergency occurs or if there is a specific need to meet.

OTHER

During the second quarter, members of the Board attended an Albany Police Department piping out ceremony for former Assistant Chief of Police Paula Breen.

GOVERNMENT LAW CENTER

Pursuant to the enactment of the legislation creating the Board in July 2000, the Government Law Center was retained by the City of Albany to provide a number of support services to the Albany Citizens' Police Review Board. The Coordinator of the Board and support staff worked collaboratively during this year to prepare, submit, and file the Board's quarterly reports; organize and facilitate the Board's ongoing training program; coordinate the Board's public education/community outreach campaign and initiatives; provide staff support in preparation of, during, and following each of the Board's monthly meetings; handle all administrative matters relating to the complaint review process and assist the Board in its day-to-day operations. These services are discussed in detail below.

First Quarter

During the first quarter of 2007, the Government Law Center engaged in the following activities as directed by the local law and pursuant to its contractual obligations with the City of Albany:

- Coordinated and prepared materials for a Board training session on the mediation and monitor protocols.
- Revised the mediation and monitor protocols to include feedback from the Board.
- Forwarded the revised mediation protocols to the Board, CPRB monitors, Chief James Tuffey, and Assistant Corporation Counsel Patrick Jordan for comments.

- Coordinated and scheduled Board member ride-alongs with the Albany Police Department.
- Prepared and forwarded to the Board revised copies of CPRB contact and appointment term information.
- Prepared and forwarded to the Board revised copies of the CPRB Contact Schedule for Monitor Assignments, Committee/Task Force Structure list and complaint review committee schedule for 2007.
- Drafted and forwarded letters to the City of Albany's public officials announcing Senior Staff Attorney Justina Cintròn Perino's resignation from the Government Law Center and the appointment of Sharmaine Moseley to the position of Coordinator of the Albany Citizens' Police Review Board at the Government Law Center.
- Drafted and forwarded correspondence from the Board to the new Board members welcoming them to the CPRB.
- Drafted and forwarded correspondence to Chief Tuffey requesting the APD's final determinations for complaints reviewed by the Board.
- Forwarded correspondence to the Board from Chief Tuffey on the APD's final determinations for complaints reviewed by the Board.
- Drafted and forwarded correspondence regarding Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests.
- Prepared memorandum, summarizing monitor assignments for each open and active complaint in the first quarter, and forwarded the memo to the OPS, Assistant Chief Bruno, and members of the CPRB.
- Forwarded the Board's Second Quarterly Report to its members, City of Albany public officials and residents.
- Prepared and forwarded to the OPS, a summary of pending complaints before the Board.
- Forwarded to the Board press clippings regarding the Albany CPRB.
- Updated the contact information for the organizations listed on the CPRB's complaint form and brochure.
- Met with Albany Law School's Computer Resources staff regarding the development of the CPRB electronic database.

Second Quarter

During the second quarter of 2007, the Government Law Center engaged in the following activities:

- Arranged logistics for and attended seven (7) of thirteen (13) three-hour citizen police academy training sessions.

- Prepared and forwarded materials about the Board and the complaint review process to members of the outreach committee for its guest lecture to students participating in a criminal justice course at SUNY Albany and its meeting with the West End Neighborhood Association.
- Engaged in discussions with Deputy Mayor Philip Calderone and Corporation Counsel John Reilly regarding the Center's contract for services to the CPRB. Also discussed was the proposed increase in compensation for the CPRB monitors.
- Revised the mediation and monitor protocols to include feedback from the Board and APD union representatives.
- Forwarded the revised mediation protocols to the Board, Chief James Tuffey, and Assistant Corporation Counsel Patrick Jordan for approval.
- Coordinated and scheduled Board member ride-alongs with the Albany Police Department.
- Drafted and forwarded correspondence from the Board to the Albany Common Council requesting a resolution for GLC Senior Staff Attorney Justina Cintròn Perino.
- Drafted and forwarded correspondence from the Board to the OPS requesting the further investigation of CPRB No. 37-06/OPS No. C06-683.
- Drafted and forwarded correspondence to Chief Tuffey requesting the APD's final determinations for complaints reviewed by the Board.
- Forwarded correspondence to the Board from Chief Tuffey on the APD's final determinations for complaints reviewed by the Board.
- Forwarded correspondence to the Board from Mayor Jennings regarding the suspension of CPRB No. 35-05 and CPRB No. 33-06.
- Drafted and forwarded correspondence regarding Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests.
- Prepared memorandum, summarizing monitor assignments for each open and active complaint in the second quarter, and forwarded the memo to the OPS, and members of the CPRB.
- Forwarded the Board's 2006 Third Quarterly Report to its members, City of Albany public officials and residents.
- Forwarded to the Board press clippings regarding the Albany CPRB.
- Prepared and forwarded to the OPS, a summary of pending complaints before the Board.

Third Quarter

During the third quarter of 2007, the Government Law Center engaged in the following activities:

- Arranged logistics for and attended six (6) of thirteen (13) three-hour citizen police academy training sessions.
- Engaged in discussions with Board members and City officials regarding the complaint process document, the CPRB's mediation program, and the Center's contract for services to the CPRB. Also discussed was the proposed increase in compensation for the CPRB monitors.
- Revised the monitors' protocols to include feedback from the CPRB monitors.
- Forwarded the revised monitors' protocols to the Board, Chief James Tuffey, and Assistant Corporation Counsel Patrick Jordan for approval.
- Coordinated and scheduled Board member ride-alongs with the Albany Police Department.
- At the Chairman's request, prepared and forwarded to the Board a timeline schedule for the mediation program.
- Drafted and forwarded correspondence to Mayor Gerald Jennings and Albany Common Council President Shawn Morris notifying them of the expiration of the terms of Board members Daniel Fitzgerald and Ronald Flagg.
- Drafted and forwarded correspondence from the Board to Chief James Tuffey noting its concern that the Board continues receiving complaints alleging officers are not giving complainants their names and badge numbers.
- Drafted and forwarded correspondence from the Board to the OPS requesting the further investigation of CPRB No. 21-05/OPS No. C05-231 and CPRB No. 1-07/OPS No. C06-596.
- Drafted and forwarded correspondence to Chief James Tuffey requesting the APD's final determinations for complaints reviewed by the Board.
- Forwarded correspondence to the Board from Chief James Tuffey on the APD's final determinations for complaints reviewed by the Board.
- At the Board's request, compiled and forwarded to the Chair of the policy committee, a list of complaints alleging officers' refusal to provide complainants with badge numbers and names.
- Drafted and forwarded correspondence to Deputy Mayor Calderone, estimating the expenses associated with sending one Board member to the Annual NACOLE (National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement) Conference and inquiring as to how many Board members the City would be willing to send to the 2007 Conference.

- Arranged travel reservations for two (2) Board members and one (1) staff person from the Government Law Center to attend the 2007 NACOLE Conference in September 2007. Forwarded travel confirmations to two (2) Board members.
- Drafted and forwarded to the Board for its approval, the Board's 2006 Fourth Quarterly Report and 2005 Annual Report.
- Forwarded the Board's 2005 Annual Report and 2006 Fourth Quarterly Report to its members, City of Albany public officials, and residents.
- Prepared and forward an updated Board member attendance record to the Board.
- Hired an Albany Law School student intern to assist in providing administrative and staff support services to the Board.
- Participated in training by Albany Law School's Computer Resources staff on using Microsoft Access for tracking complaints.
- At the Board's request, conducted research on best practices for training programs for mediators in other cities and states. Prepared and forwarded to the Board memorandum summarizing the Center's research and findings.
- Updated and forwarded to the Board and the OPS, a complaint status report chart which included: the CPRB number; the OPS number; the complainant's name; the date the complaint was filed; the Board member assigned to review the complaint; a summary of the complaint; information regarding the appointment of a monitor; and the status of the complaints.

Fourth Quarter

During the fourth quarter of 2007, the Government Law Center engaged in the following activities:

- Arranged logistics for and attended meetings with Board, *Mediation Matter's* Executive Director Peter Glassman, and APD staff regarding the CPRB mediation program.
- Received and forwarded to the Board the resignation letter of Board member Mauri Davis Lewis.
- Received and forwarded certificates of achievement to the Board members who graduated from the APD Citizen Police Academy during the third quarter of 2007.
- Drafted and forwarded correspondence to Chief James Tuffey requesting the APD's final determinations for complaints reviewed by the Board.
- Forwarded correspondence to the Board from Chief James Tuffey on the APD's final determinations for complaints reviewed by the Board.
- Forwarded draft of CPRB brochure to the Board for review.

- Attended the 13th Annual NACOLE Conference in September 2007.
- Forwarded correspondence to the Board from NACOLE regarding designating a CPRB member to exercise the Board's vote at the NACOLE annual conference.
- Drafted and forwarded correspondence to NACOLE regarding the Board member designated to exercise the CPRB's vote at its annual conference.
- Drafted and forwarded to the Board for its approval, the Board's 2006 Annual Report.
- Forwarded the Board's 2006 Annual Report to its members, City of Albany public officials, and residents.
- Drafted and forwarded correspondence to the City of Albany Neighborhood Associations regarding the Board's new program.
- Forwarded correspondence received from the City of Albany Neighborhood Associations to the Board.
- Participated in continued training by Albany Law School's Computer Resources staff on using Microsoft Access for tracking complaints.
- Updated and forwarded to the Board and the OPS, a complaint status report chart which included: the CPRB number; the OPS number; the complainant's name; the date the complaint was filed; the Board member assigned to review the complaint; a summary of the complaint; information regarding the appointment of a monitor; and the status of the complaints.

Over the course of the Board's seventh year, the Government Law Center also performed the following administrative tasks:

- Scheduled and revised the Board's 2007 Monthly Meeting Schedule;
- Arranged logistics for and coordinated regular monthly meetings, including: securing dates, times, and locations for each meeting, and providing notice to the affected parties and to the public;
- Arranged logistics for and coordinated committee/task force meetings, including: securing dates, times, and locations for each meeting, and preparing meeting materials;
- Arranged logistics for and coordinated orientation training sessions, including: securing dates, times, and locations for each session, and preparing training materials;
- Prepared and assembled regular monthly meeting packets for Board members, including: photocopying complaints, reports, and accompanying documents for review;
- Prepared a summary of new complaints filed with the Board for presentation by the Chair of the Committee on Complaint Review at each monthly meeting;

- Prepared findings forms for the recording of Board determinations by members of the Committee on Complaint Review at each monthly meeting;
- Attended monthly meetings, committee meetings, task force meetings, and training sessions;
- Reported all activities related to Board business at each monthly meeting;
- Recorded and transcribed the minutes of each monthly meeting;
- Notified affected parties of Board findings, recommendations, and requests following each monthly meeting;
- Provided content for, updated, and maintained the Board's website to include new meeting minutes and reports;
- Conducted a monthly accounting and inventory of complaints filed with the Board, including a summary of active and closed complaints, recommendations, and pending requests submitted to the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Office of Professional Standards, and the Corporation Counsel's Office;
- Reported monthly complaint accounting and inventory to the Board at each of its quarterly meetings;
- Assisted with word processing and forwarding the Board's requests and recommendations to the Chief of Police; the Office of Professional Standards; and/or the Corporation Counsel's Office;
- Received and logged in complaints;
- Opened and closed complaint files;
- Maintained regular communications with Board members, the Albany Police Department and the Corporation Counsel's office; *and*
- Answered inquiries from the community and the media about the Board and the complaint review process.

CONCLUSION

The Board was very active in its seventh year of operation. In its seventh year, the Board re-elected Board officers; continued updating its outreach materials; expanded its education and outreach program; drafted a new brochure to better express its message and function; served as guest lecturers to community-based organizations and schools; reviewed more than half of its active complaints; held ten (10) regular monthly meetings; attended and participated in new member orientation training sessions for six (6) newly appointed Board members; participated in the 2007 NACOLE Conference; and participated in meetings with Chief James Tuffey, the Office of Professional Standards, the Albany Common Council's Public Safety Committee, and City officials.

After seven years of operation, the Board remains dedicated to improving communication between the Police Department and the community; increasing police accountability and credibility with the public; and building upon and maintaining a complaint review process that is credible, impartial, and fair to all.

Respectfully submitted,

The Government Law Center of Albany Law School
Approved by and submitted on behalf of the
City of Albany Citizens' Police Review Board