

MINUTES

Civilian Review Board
Bascom Room—Eugene Public Library—100 West Tenth Avenue
Eugene, Oregon

September 8, 2015
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Bernadette Conover, Chair; Eric Van Houten, Vice Chair; Maurice Denner, Lindsey Foltz, Steven McIntire, Heather Marek, Chris Wig, Civilian Review Board members; Leia Pitcher, Vicki Cox, Mark Gissiner, Police Auditor's Office; Bonnie Souza, Human Rights Commission Liaison; Lt. Nathan Reynolds, Cindy Harper, Jennifer Reynolds, Eugene Police Department.

ABSENT: None.

Chair Conover convened the CRB at 5:30 p.m.

I. AGENDA AND MATERIALS REVIEW

Mr. Gissiner reported there was a concern that the employee who was the subject of tonight's Case Review had not had an opportunity to review all of the material. He said it was in the best interest of the CRB to defer reviewing the case until information loop was closed. The CRB discussed how to move forward with the case.

Mr. Wig, seconded by Mr. Van Houten, moved to amend the agenda and postpone the case review to a future meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 7:0.

Ms. Conover deemed the agenda approved as amended.

II. MINUTES APPROVAL—July 14, 2015

Noting no objections, Ms. Conover deemed the minutes approved as submitted.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one who wished to offer public comment.

IV. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS, HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION LIAISON AND POLICE COMMISSION LIAISON

Mr. Denner inquired if this was an appropriate time to suggest cases for review by the CRB at a future meeting. He noted there were several cases of interest included the Eugene Police

Department (EPD) June 16, 2015 Open Case Report. He requested that a July 2016 bias/use of force case be brought to the CRB when the investigation was completed. He added a September 16, 2014 case contained serious charges against an employee. Mr. Denner noted he was saddened by the events in the national news related to assaults on police officers.

Mr. McIntire said the Police Commission was scheduled to meet September 10, 2015.

Mr. Van Houten was disappointed that the CRB was not reviewing the case scheduled for tonight's meeting, but he appreciated the rationale for postponing the review. He echoed Mr. Denner's comments that these were difficult times for police officers and the public.

Ms. Conover agreed it was frustrating that tonight's case review was postponed. She had discussed the issue with the City Attorney. The CRB could only be as transparent as Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) allowed.

Mr. Wig shared the sentiments of other CRB members regarding postponing the case review. He noted the CRB would review two high profile cases in the next two months. The EPD was already addressing issues being addressed by Campaign Zero and Black Lives Matter at the national level. He was unable to attend the last HRC meeting.

Ms. Pitcher agreed to include a link to Campaign Zero in the next Police Auditor's newsletter.

Ms. Marek said she was becoming familiar with the CRB and her role on the CRB. She offered suggestions for improvement of the Auditor's newsletter.

Ms. Foltz was pleased that the EPD was already addressing issues raised by Campaign Zero.

Bonnie Souza said she was the Human Rights Commission (HRC) liaison to the CRB.

V. TRAINING: POLICE COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Mr. Gissiner confirmed a member of the audience was recording the meeting.

Mr. Gissiner introduced Cindy Harper and Jennifer Reynolds. Supervisors at the Central Lane 9-1-1 Communications Center.

Ms. Harper and Ms. Reynolds distributed a handout and reviewed the August 2015 statistics for Central Lane 9-1-1. They facilitated a discussion on how Central Lane 9-1-1 operated and qualifications for employees at the facility.

VI. BREAK

There was consensus to not have a break.

VI. CASE REVIEW—Internally reported allegation that an employee violated policies while engaging in a vehicular pursuit.

Postponed to a future meeting.

VIII. AUDITOR REPORT

Mr. Gissiner noted that CRB meetings had been recorded in the past, but there were concerns about the legal implications for public safety, and identifying EPD officers and employees. He proposed one option would be to record future meetings, with the exception of the case reviews.

Ms. Conover suggested that CRB members think about the merits of recording CRB meetings and discuss the issue at the next meeting.

Mr. Gissiner said he was moving forward with recruiting a Community Engagement Coordinator for the Police Auditor's office. He said the Babb deadly force case was not ready for CRB review. He suggested scheduling the next CRB meeting for October 27, 2015. He said the use of force for EPD appeared to be declining. Chief Kerns was emphasizing de-escalation training for officers.

Ms. Conover said members of the public could contact the EPD to inquire about enrolling in EPD's Citizens' Police Academy. Mr. Denner noted the Springfield Police Department also offered a citizen police academy.

IX. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

(Recorded by Linda Henry)