



## MINUTES OF A QUARTERLY MEETING

**APPROVED**

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### CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW BOARD

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 24, 2023

**TIME:** 5:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** Urbana City Council Chambers  
Urbana City Building  
400 South Vine Street  
Urbana, Illinois 61801

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ricardo Diaz, Chair; Tony Allegretti; Peggy Patten

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Katrina Kindle; Ashley Withers

**ALSO PRESENT:** Carla Boyd, Human Rights and Equity Officer  
Lt. Dave Smysor, Urbana Police Department

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Ricardo Diaz called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. Roll was taken. A quorum was present.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Diaz asked for approval of the agenda. Peggy Patten so moved. Tony Allegretti seconded. The motion carried on a voice vote.

#### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### A. January 19, 2023

Mr. Diaz called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 2023 meeting. Mr. Allegretti so moved. Peggy Patten seconded. Mr. Allegretti then requested a correction to show the year throughout the minutes as 2023. With the correction noted, the motion to approve the minutes passed by a voice vote.

#### 4. PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

#### 5. OFFICER'S REPORT

Carla Boyd provided an update highlighting:

- A survey to determine the availability of board members for possible hearing nights
- Seeking volunteers for "Jettie Rhodes Day", Saturday, June 24, Noon – 4:00 p.m. at Dr. King Park
- Appeals Hearing completed on May 10<sup>th</sup>
- Next Appeals Hearing scheduled for Friday, June 2, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Board Members' follow up:

- Outreach at Urbana's Saturday Market would also be helpful with 600 attending some weekends. Mr. Diaz intends to organize a calendar for members to table during the summer.

## **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was none.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Appeals review process**

Mr. Diaz reported an evening of hearing appeals occurred two weeks ago and resulted in completing four appeals. In addition to wanting ideas to continue to improve the process, he suggested there might be recommendations for ordinance changes.

### **B. Overview of pending appeals**

Ms. Patten stated the batching process worked as she had hoped. Hearing similar appeals within one evening serves to address the backlog. After the closed session, votes occur in public session on each individual case.

### **C. Future appeals backlog**

Discussion occurred about handling cases in the future, whether there is a need for ordinance changes. Recording explanatory information and board suggestions in the annual report potentially could suffice.

### **D. Taser Use Review**

Mr. Diaz explained the history of the CPRB's involvement with the review of Taser usage. At one point, every unholstering was reviewed. That has changed to reviewing only when a discharge of a Taser occurs. Originally the only camera available was on the Taser itself. Now the common use of police-worn body cameras has increased the options to review an incident.

Lt. Dave Smysor introduced himself to the Board. He attended to assist the Board with their review of the use of Tasers by the Urbana Police Department in recent years. The review began with cases dating back to 2019.

The Board reviewed a series of five videos and reports. Lt. Smysor shared his perspective and responded to questions throughout the session. Board members offered feedback as well. Numerous topics covered during the discussion included police protocols, use of force, training and retraining, 911 transcripts, responding to mental health concerns, and what is expected of the first officer on the scene.

There was discussion about the functionality of the video player in the portal and how to improve the options for viewing by the board members and reviewing at meetings. While it was determined that not every meeting would include a review of Taser usage, the board intends to include another review at the September meeting in order to continue to reduce a backlog of video needing review.

## **8. PUBLIC INPUT**

There was none.

## **9. BOARD INPUT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

### **A. Applicants needed for Board vacancies**

Two positions are open at this time. Applications may be obtained by calling the mayor's office.

**B. Use of Force Updates**

Ms. Patten requested information be passed along as to when use of force updates would be coming before the City Council.

**C.** Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Allegretti moved and Ms. Patten seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas D. Unzicker  
Recording Secretary