

DRAFT MINUTES

CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARD

Meeting of June 15, 2023 City Hall, Saratoga Springs, 3re floor

Members present: Kristen Dart (chair), Diana Goodwin, Stephen Boxley, Caitlin Jorgensen, Jack Maiellaro

Also Present: Lt. Angela McGovern, Saratoga Springs Police
Lt. Eric Warfield, Saratoga Springs Police
Anthony J. Izzo, City Attorney

Meeting called to order at 6:02.

K. Dart called for approval of agenda. Ayes all

K. Dart discussed policies and procedures and recent changes as she discussed with the City Attorney earlier this week. Many of the changes are grammatical. A few others are minor and intended to reinforce the applicability of the city's own Code of Ethics. K. Dart moved to approve the written policies and procedures as revised. Ayes all.

K. Dart opened the floor to Lt. Warfield and Lt. McGovern of the Police Department to inform the Board about current procedures for the filing of personnel complaints. Lt. McGovern first stated that the Police Dept. welcomes the CRB and looks forward to working with the Board members. She discussed her background and why she chose to become a police officer. She then asked if any of the CRB members wished to discuss any supervisory experiences they had in their careers. Several members did so.

Lt. McGovern presented recent statistics on personnel complaints. These complaints are used to allege many different types of misconduct. Some are sustained, some are determined to be unfounded. In some years a large number of filed complaints are internal. There have been changes in the way complaints are handled. The person that is complained about determines which official will be assigned to handle the complaint. Complaints are initiated by phone, online, in writing, in person, and other ways. In person complaints are recommended if possible. Anonymous complaints are accepted.

Lt. McGovern gave a slideshow presentation showing the steps in processing a complaint.

Final disposition may result in findings of "sustained", "not sustained", "unfounded", or "exonerated". If the employee resigns, the investigation still goes on. NY Executive Law section 75(5)(b).

Lt. McGovern then presented several scenarios to the Board as examples and showed how each would be processed.

Lt. Warfield stated it is inaccurate to ask how many complaints are resolved "favorable" to the complainant. It isn't asked what the complainant wants as a resolution.

Discussion re body cameras: Lt. Warfield stated there have been several generations of body cameras. Lt. McGovern stated that the cameras are not recording all the time. They don't record the routine activities all officers engage in. Often the camera is turned on if there is any non-consensual contact with a person.

K. Dart thanked the officers for speaking. It is a goal of the CRB to promote communication and understanding between police officers and members of the public.

The Board discussed possible methods and services that could be used for mediation.

Meeting adjourned 7:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anthony J. Izzo (acting as clerk)