

CITY OF NEWBURGH
POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND REVIEW BOARD

Corey J. Allen, Chairperson

83 Broadway, Newburgh, New York 12550

POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND REVIEW BOARD MEETING, February 25, 2015
The City of Newburgh Police Community Relations and Review Board meeting was held on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, in the Council Chambers, Third Floor, City Hall, 83 Broadway, Newburgh, New York.

Members Present:

Corey J. Allen, Chairman
Patrick Berardinelli, Sr.
Anthony Bruce
Jose Casteneda
George Keller
Ramona Monteverde
Rasheda Worth

Members Absent:

Reggie Brown
Lenny Lewis

Also Present:

Michelle Kelson, Corporation Counsel

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Allen at 7:00 pm after a quorum was confirmed.

Chairman Allen opened the meeting by welcoming the members and the public and invited each of the Board members to introduce themselves.

Chairman Allen then began a discussion of the ordinance creating the PCRRB and establishing its powers and duties by addressing each section of the ordinance. During the discussion of the administrative function of the Board, a **motion** to hold regular monthly meetings on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm was made by George Keller and **seconded** by Anthony Bruce. The motion was approved unanimously.

Rashida Worth volunteered to take the minutes at future meetings.

The discussion of the ordinance continued noting responsibilities for making recommendations and reports as well as community outreach and education.

During the discussion of the complaint process, Acting Police Chief Daniel Cameron and Lieutenant Thomas Murphy were invited to address the Board. Acting Chief Cameron provided each Board member with a packet of information containing business cards, the Police Department's Internal Affairs policy and civilian complaint forms. Acting Chief Cameron told the Board that the Police Department views the Board as a positive step and a partner in realigning with the community, increasing communication and establishing relationships. Acting Chief Cameron welcomed the Board as another body to validate Police Department investigations into formal complaints. Acting Chief Cameron also encouraged communication regarding issues related to the provision of service to the community.

Chairman Allen continued to discuss the ordinance requirements related to the filing and investigation of complaints. Several questions regarding the mediation option were raised including the topics of training, budget and costs and the mediator selection process. Mayor Kennedy noted that there were agencies in the local area that provide mediation and mediation training services. Board members Keller, Worth and Berardinelli noted the importance of developing the mediation process. Chairman Allen offered to gather more information and add mediation as a topic for the next meeting.

Lily Howard questioned the Board about a study of the Police Department in 2012 at the request of then Councilman Curlie Dillard and about report and recommendations submitted by attorney Michael Sussman.

Councilwoman Karen Mejia responded to comparisons between New York City's Civilian Complaint Board and the City of Newburgh's Police Community Relations and Review Board by noting the difference in size and resources between the two cities and that the Newburgh City Council was working diligently with existing resources to implement strategies and programs to improve the Police Department and the relationship between the Police Department and the Community. Ms. Worth stated that while the Board is not titled as a "civilian" review board, the community members are "civilians". Mayor Kennedy thanked everyone for their comments and noted that the Council was making changes and focusing on transparency.

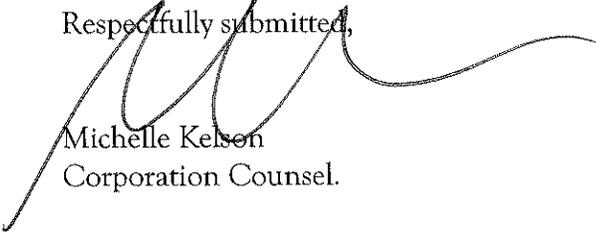
Other comments and questions from the members of the public in attendance focused on the Board's goals and tasks that would be proactive and build community relationships. Chairman Allen noted that this was an introductory meeting and that identifying goals and objectives to improve the community relations would be a subject of the Board's next monthly meeting.

Acting Chief Cameron responded to a question about body cameras for the Police Department by stating that the implementation process for a body camera program has begun and that a review of policies, procedures and best practices is underway. Acting Chief Cameron noted that the Police Department wanted the body camera program to be legitimate, transparent and successful. He also stated that the Matrix Report referred to earlier in the meeting is available on the City's website.

Chairman Allen thanked the Board members and the public for attending this initial meeting and stated he had high hopes for the future and for continued participation.

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by Patrick Berardinelli and **seconded** by Rasheda Worth. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Kelson
Corporation Counsel.