

MINUTES – Duluth Citizens Review Board Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, November 21st | 5:30 PM | Duluth City Hall | Room 330

In attendance: DCRB Members (Sara Vaccarella, Dani Dunphy, Eric Franklin, Blair Powless), City Staff (Chief Mike Ceynowa, Deputy Chief Ryan Morris, Lieutenant Steve Ring, Human Rights Officer Carl Crawford)

1. Call to Order: Approximately 5:30 PM
2. Public Comments: See “APPENDIX A”
3. Approval of Minutes: Tabled until next meeting
4. Police Liaison Report
5. Committee Reports
 - Complaint Audit: DCRB member led complaint audit completed. Report on complaint audit forthcoming.
 - Possibly schedule special meeting with CJI: Discussion about scheduling meeting with CJI lead auditor to discuss DPD citizen complaint process. Members like the idea, but no firm plans made.
 - Executive Committee
6. Other Business
 - Racial Bias Audit: Audit complete, final memo from auditing team is forthcoming. Next step in process is implementation.
 - Annual Report: Overall report looks good. Disagreement on whether to keep an officer’s name in a heading within the report or not. Tabled until more board members are present.
 - Web page – canceled meetings on website: Board member request that city staff post cancellation notice on website when meetings are canceled. City staff agrees to this.
 - Meeting Times: Discussion on whether or not to change monthly meeting times. It was determined that there is no need to change meeting times.
7. Announcements and Community Correspondence
8. Additional Public Comments
9. Board Member Questions and Comments
10. Adjournment: 7:00 PM

APPENDIX A

My name is Betty Greene. In the past CRB members have commented on the desire to expand their role to have greater access to the investigations related to police complaints, similar to what some other cities have, such as St. Paul. I support that expansion of the role of the Duluth CRB, which is also consistent with findings from the recent Racial Bias Audit. I recently learned that when our CRB was formed, there were greater limitations imposed by the state. Since then, the legislature has changed the statute governing citizen review boards, which allows for greater oversight. I encourage the city to enact changes in the city code to allow for this, as well as other changes that might be needed. Ideally this will give citizens of Duluth greater confidence in the board and improvements in satisfaction with how complaints are handled.

I also understand that a policy will be developed for the use of the new armored vehicle. I strongly support development of this policy, including limitations on the use of this vehicle for crowd management (which I understand are already being incorporated into the crowd management policy). I ask that the CRB be involved in developing the policy and gathering public feedback. I also suggest the policy require that every instance of use of the armored vehicle be reported to the CRB, similar to the use of drones.