



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of Police Accountability and Transparency

Civilian Review Board (CRB) Public Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 | Scheduled for 11:00 a.m.

In-Person Meeting | 2201 Washington St, Suite 102, Roxbury, MA 02119

Call to order at 11:13 a.m.

Civilian Review Board (CRB) Members Present: Chair E. Peter Alvarez; Rev. Wayne S. Daley; Joshua Dankoff; Tara Register.

Civilian Review Board (CRB) Members Absent: Anne Hernandez; Natalie Carithers Utley; B. Chris Sumner.

Introduction

Chair E. Peter Alvarez opened the meeting by welcoming members of the public and the CRB members present. The chair established that a quorum was not present and that the board would begin its meeting by reviewing all agenda items that did not require a quorum to vote. Chair Alvarez reminded the public that public comment would not be heard during this meeting and that any comments could be sent to opatboards@boston.gov.

OPAT Executive Director's Report

Chair Alvarez introduced OPAT Chief of Staff, Yasmine Raddassi, to provide the Director's Report.

Chief of Staff Raddassi reported that there were a few staffing vacancies at OPAT with the departure of Executive Director Everett in August and more recently, Deputy Director Steies in November. The Mayor's Office is still in the process of hiring for a new OPAT Executive Director.

Chief of Staff Raddassi gave an overview of community engagement efforts including OPAT Staff attendance at the Union Capital Boston Resource Fair in October and presentations to youth-oriented community organizations. These efforts allowed OPAT to interact with residents and explain what OPAT does and how residents can get involved in police reform.



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of Police Accountability and Transparency

The youth presentations also highlighted youth arrest and field interaction, observation and encounter (FIOE) data. If other youth-oriented organizations are interested in having OPAT present to their youth, they should reach out to opatboards@boston.gov. OPAT also initiated a monthly newsletter with updates from the office; interested individuals can sign up by emailing opatboards@boston.gov or visiting the OPAT website.

Chief of Staff Raddassi also stated that the Youth Advisory Council is still accepting applications. At their most recent meeting, the Council set their calendar for 2024 and worked on a list of policy recommendations to present to the OPAT Commission in the new year.

Board Member Dankoff asked whether OPAT had received any response from Commissioner Cox regarding the two sustained CRB cases from the last meeting in September. Chief of Staff Raddassi responded that yes, OPAT received responses from the Commissioner and sent those responses to the Board members. The response letters are posted on the OPAT website. In the matter of Case #175, the Commissioner declined to accept the Board's sustained finding and discipline. In the matter of Case #190, the Commissioner accepted the Board's sustained finding and discipline. Chief of Staff Raddassi also stated that an agenda item was added to the OPAT Commission Community Meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 14, 2023 to allow for public comment regarding both responses.

Board Member Register asked whether there was an opportunity to suggest additional community events and organizations for OPAT to connect with. Chief of Staff Raddassi stated that any recommendations would be welcome and allow the office to spread the word about OPAT.

Chair Alvarez asked about a timeline on a new OPAT Executive Director. Chief of Staff Raddassi stated that the Mayor's Office is making every effort to make sure that the new director is qualified without rushing the process.

Board Member Dankoff asked whether the Deputy Director position at OPAT had been posted. Chief of Staff Raddassi stated that they were waiting until a new Executive Director was in place to make that staffing decision.



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of Police Accountability and Transparency

Board Member Dankoff asked about CRB vacancies and any progress towards filling empty board seats. Chief of Staff Raddassi confirmed that there are two CRB vacancies following the resignation of the City Council-appointed youth member and a community nominee member. Chief Raddassi explained that with the end of the City Council's legislative session, the Mayor's Office anticipates that the City Council nominee seat will likely take place in February 2024 when Council committees are assigned. Chief of Staff Raddassi stated that she has been in regular contact with the Mayor's Office regarding filling these vacancies.

Board Member Dankoff asked if there was anything the Board members could do to help speed along the process. Chief of Staff Raddassi stated that if Board members had any suggestions, they should send them to OPAT Staff to refer to the Mayor's Office. Chief of Staff Raddassi stated that the City Council process involved an open application portal. Chief of Staff Raddassi also stated that OPAT has been collecting information about CRB members with upcoming expiring terms to present to the Mayor.

Board Member Dankoff asked what the age range is for the youth seat. Chief of Staff stated that the age range is 18-21 years old. Chair Alvarez suggested that individuals interested in becoming a Board member should apply through both the City Council application process and the Mayor's Office process.

Other Business

Chair Alvarez stated that since the Board did not have a quorum, they would discuss best meeting times for meetings in 2024. Chair Alvarez suggested that meetings be moved to the afternoon or evening in order to accommodate the future youth member's schedule. Chair Alvarez instructed the Board to send any schedule restrictions they may have to OPAT Staff.

Complaint Summary & Disposition

After a review and investigation and in accordance with 12-16.7 (b) of the Ordinance, Chief of Staff Raddassi reported the dismissal of the following cases: Case #48, Case #49, Case #70, Case #139, Case #206, Case #207, Case #225, Case #226, Case #235, Case #239, Case #245, and Case #250.



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of Police Accountability and Transparency

Chair Alvarez repeated that due to a lack of quorum, the Board would be unable to review any cases that OPAT Staff had decided to bring before the Civilian Review Board. Chair Alvarez also suggested to the present Board members to look through the proposed OPAT Regulations to be considered at the OPAT Commission Community Meeting on December 14, 2023.

Chair Alvarez motioned to adjourn the meeting, Board Member Daley seconded the motion. The Civilian Review Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:39 a.m.