

Police Accountability Board - Regular Board Meeting

Date: May 21, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: 30 Church Street, Rochester, NY

Livestreamed on: YouTube and WXXI

(youtube.com/rochesterpab.org)

Police Accountability Board Meeting Minutes

Date: May 21, 2026

Start Time: 6:08 PM.

End Time: 9:10 PM

Attendees

- **Board Members:**
 - William Clark (Chair)
 - Lwam Tecleab (Vice Chair)
 - Rev. Keith Patterson
 - Arlene Brown
 - A.J Durwin
 - Cathy Thomas
 - Yvonne Wilson

- **Absent/Excused:**
 - Lawrence Knox

- **Staff:**
 - Dr. Lesli C. Myers-Small, Executive Director
 - Kevin Rambold, General Counsel
 - Dr. Ashley Campbell, Interim Director/Policy and Oversight
 - Delores Ivey-Paige, Director of Operations
 - Leslie Green, Executive Assistant
 - Brianna Milon, Communications Manager
 - Dr. Heather Feinman, Language Access Coordinator

- **Absent/Excused:** Brittaney Wells, Director of Public Affairs and Community Engagement (PACE)

- **ASL Interpreters:** Wanya Jefferson and Anna Walton

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1. Welcome & Introductions (6:02 PM)

Chair Clark called the meeting to order and invited the Board Members to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes (6:11 PM)

The minutes from the April 2, 2026 meeting were distributed to the Board via email on April 9, 2026. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Arlene Brown and seconded by AJ Durwin. No amendments to the minutes were proposed.

Amendment Note: These minutes were amended by action of the Police Accountability Board at its June 18, 2026 Regular Board Meeting to reflect Board Member Yvonne Wilson's attendance at the May 21, 2026 meeting. The amended minutes were approved by the Board on June 18, 2026.

3. Transforming Data into Transparency: PAB Public Dashboard Demonstration (6:12 PM)

- PAB Webmaster Luan Vu presented the new PAB dashboard, designed to make agency information more accessible and digestible for the public.
- Mr. Vu explained that the dashboard is an ongoing project that will continue to evolve with additional interactive and dynamic features over time.
- A Board Member asked whether the PAB is building relationships with other cities to better inform and enhance the dashboard's development. Staff responded that the PAB is collaborating with and learning from other jurisdictions to help guide future improvements and best practices.
- A Board Member inquired about the dashboard's analytical capabilities, specifically regarding the ability to compare and filter data. Staff explained that additional functionality will be implemented as more data is entered into the system, including filters related to zip codes, race, gender, and other demographic information. These features are expected to be added to the live platform in the future.
- A Board Member also asked whether zip code data represented the most granular geographic information available. Staff shared that the PAB is exploring future mapping capabilities that could allow the public to view case-related information geographically. However, additional technical research and privacy considerations

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must be addressed prior to implementation, particularly regarding the handling of specific address information and public concerns related to confidentiality.

4. Proposal for Change Presentation & Board Consideration (6:18 PM)

Community Surveillance and Your Right to Privacy: A Proposal for Change

- Sara Jenks, PAB Oversight Manager, delivered a presentation regarding community surveillance and the related Proposal for Change. During the presentation, Ms. Jenks noted that the Rochester Police Department (RPD) has not utilized the StarChase technology system in over ten years. A Board Member asked what technologies or practices have been utilized in its place since that time.
- Following discussion, a motion to approve the Proposal for Change and transmit it to RPD Chief David Smith was made by Board Member Cathy Thomas and seconded by Board Member Yvonne Wilson. The motion carried.

5. Language Access Update (6:31 PM)

- Dr. Heather Feinman delivered a presentation focused on best practices for receiving reports and engaging with individuals who speak languages other than English. The presentation also emphasized the importance of ongoing training and capacity-building opportunities for Board Members related to language access, cultural responsiveness, and equitable community engagement.

6. Executive Director’s Report (6:46 PM)

- Dr. Lesli Myers-Small provided an organizational transition update entitled “*From Transition to Transformation,*” outlining the PAB’s evolving role and strategic direction following recent litigation.
- Dr. Myers-Small explained that the agency’s reframed role is centered around four key functions:
 - Complaint Intake and Pattern Identification
 - Transparency and Public Education Resource
 - Policy, Oversight, and Systems Reform
 - Community-Informed Reform Entity
- Dr. Myers-Small also discussed the agency’s strategic priorities and efforts to align organizational workstreams with the PAB’s current authority and mission.

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- Rev. Patterson asked how the PAB plans to ensure accessibility for individuals with reading difficulties. Dr. Myers-Small responded that the agency is exploring additional communication methods, including video-based and social media platforms such as TikTok, to make information more accessible and engaging for the public.

7. Departmental Updates (7:25 PM)

- **Legal Division:** General Counsel Kevin Rambold provided an update regarding the ongoing appeal process and the current status of the litigation. He stated that a decision from the Appellate Division is anticipated on either June 5, June 26, or July 24, 2026. Mr. Rambold further explained that if permission to appeal is not granted by the Appellate Division, the PAB may seek permission to appeal directly to the New York State Court of Appeals.

Mr. Rambold also shared that the *Restore Rochester Mandate Act of 2026* memorandum and draft legislation were completed on April 21, 2026 and transmitted to members of the legislative delegation. During discussion, it was suggested that the Board consider establishing a committee to work collaboratively with staff and legal counsel to help formulate a strategy and maintain momentum regarding legislative and advocacy efforts.

- **Operations Division:** Delores Ivey-Paige provided an update regarding renovations to the LiRo side of the building and noted that the agency anticipates relocating into the renovated space in September 2026. Ms. Ivey-Paige also shared that she is continuing to address ongoing laptop and technology issues experienced by several Board Members.
- **Public Affairs & Community Engagement (PACE) Division:** In the absence of PACE Director Brittaney Wells, Dr. Lesli Myers-Small provided updates regarding upcoming community engagement and tabling events planned for the summer. On May 30, 2026, the PAB will participate in the “Ease on Down” community event on Thurston Road. Additionally, on June 20, 2026, the agency will participate in an all-day Juneteenth celebration at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park. Dr. Myers-Small also shared that the PAB is exploring a future collaboration with a community organization to assist in the development of curriculum and professional development materials related to “The Talk.”
- **Policy & Oversight Division:** Dr. Ashley Campbell was introduced as the Interim Director of Policy & Oversight. Dr. Campbell briefly discussed her professional

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background and expressed enthusiasm regarding the division's ongoing work related to policy briefs, data analysis, and systemic oversight initiatives.

8. Chairperson's Report (8:02 PM)

- Chair Clark combined the Chairperson's Report with the Training Committee Report. He shared that he was very pleased with the outcome of the day's meeting, particularly the development of the Public Explainer document intended for community distribution and education. Chair Clark emphasized the importance of restoring the PAB's investigatory authority, noting that the agency experienced the highest level of engagement and traffic on its website during the period when investigative findings were publicly released.
- Chair Clark also reminded the Board that, pursuant to the PAB Charter, the Board is required to select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson by majority vote at the first meeting following the new year, scheduled for July 1, 2026. He encouraged any Board Members interested in serving in those leadership roles to notify the Board.
- Additionally, Chair Clark reflected on his attendance at NACOLE training in Minnesota the previous year, where he learned that jurisdictions with civilian oversight boards have experienced decreases in police complaints. He further stated that, according to information shared during the training, jurisdictions with stronger oversight authority have generally seen fewer complaint incidents overall.

9. Committee Reports (8:10 PM)**Youth & Community Engagement Committee**

- Vice Chair Tecleab shared that she and Board Member Yvonne Wilson have been working to identify ways the Board can continue to support and be of service to both the agency and the PACE Division. She also provided updates regarding the Board's ongoing district-based community engagement meetings, noting that the South District meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2026, the Northwest District meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2026, and the Northeast District meeting is currently in the process of being scheduled.

10. Old Business (8:15 PM)

- There was no old business discussed

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11. New Business (8:15 PM)

- Board Member AJ Durwin moved for the creation of a legislative affairs committee related to the PAB's ongoing legislative and advocacy efforts. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Tecleab and passed by the Board.
- Board Member AJ Durwin expressed interest in serving as one of the three committee members. In his absence, Board Member Larry Knox was nominated by the Board to serve on the committee, and Board Member Arlene Brown was nominated by Board Member Yvonne Wilson.

12. Executive Session (8:17 PM) - No votes were taken**13. Meeting Close (9:10 PM)**

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chair Clark and seconded by Board Member AJ Durwin. The motion carried.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2026, in Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 30 Church Street, 3rd Floor, Rochester, New York at 6:00 PM

Board meetings are streamed live on the City Council YouTube Channel and on City 12 Cable Channel. Meetings are rebroadcast the following Saturday at 6:30 PM.