

Police Accountability Board - Regular Board Meeting**Date:** March 5, 2026**Time:** 6:00 PM**Location:** 30 Church Street, Rochester, NY**Livestreamed on:** YouTube We also stream on WXXI (please get info from Delores)
(youtube.com/rochesterpab)**Police Accountability Board Meeting Minutes****Date:** March 5, 2026

Start Time: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Due to streaming difficulties, a motion to proceed with the meeting was made and passed unanimously. The livestream began at 6:26 PM.

End Time: 8:21 PM

Attendees

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

- **Absent/Excused:** None

- **Staff:**
 - Dr. Lesli C. Myers-Small, Executive Director
 - Delores Ivey-Paige, Director of Operations
 - De'Jon Hall, Director of Policy and Oversight
 - Leslie Green, Executive Assistant
 - Dr. Heather Feinman, Language Access Coordinator
 - Brianna Milon, Communications Manager

- **Absent/Excused:** Brittaney Wells, Director of Community Engagement

- **ASL Interpreters:** James Brown and Shannon Tracy

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(youtube.com/rochesterpab)**1. Welcome & Introductions (6:23 PM)**

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

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes (6:25 PM)

The minutes from the January 8, 2026 meeting were received without additions. The minutes were distributed to the Board via email on January 12, 2026. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Arlene Brown and seconded by Lwam Tecleab.

3. Executive Director Report (6:26 PM) – (streaming begins)**Internal Operations***Body-Worn Camera (BWC) Footage Access*

- Dr. Myers-Small provided an update on BWC footage access, emphasizing its importance to the PAB's oversight responsibilities, including investigations, policy evaluation, and systemic analysis.
- Current access remains limited to view-only, with no ability to download footage. This restricts large-scale analysis and prevents the use of tools such as REDACT, requiring manual, case-by-case review.
- The Vice Chair inquired about assessing the time required to download footage if access were granted.
- The Policy & Oversight and Accountability & Transparency Divisions are conducting analyses, including vehicular pursuit policy, systemic trends, and policy evaluation, all of which require review of multiple BWC incidents.
- Efforts to address access limitations have included discussions with RPD leadership, Captain Swetman, and City Council President Melendez; no resolution has been reached to date.
- The Board discussed potential next steps, including continued engagement with City partners and consideration of policy or governance adjustments.

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Questions for Board consideration included:

- How to proceed if access limitations continue
 - Appropriate level of engagement with City Council
 - Potential policy adjustments
 - Impact on oversight priorities
- The PAB reaffirmed its commitment to fulfilling its Charter-mandated responsibilities and ensuring transparency within current operational constraints.

Strategic Plan Update

- Dr. Myers-Small provided an overview of the PAB Strategic Plan, describing it as a roadmap to strengthen community trust and organizational effectiveness. The plan was informed by staff focus groups, Board and leadership interviews, engagement with City partners and oversight entities, and input from community stakeholders, led by consultant Deb Hanmer.
- Key findings indicated that public trust remains conditional, with concerns related to past leadership instability, limited public visibility, and confusion regarding the PAB's role, independence, and authority amid ongoing litigation. Community members also emphasized the need for increased engagement, clearer communication, and expanded outreach to vulnerable populations.
- In response, the Strategic Plan focuses on:
 - Advancing policy oversight and systemic reform
 - Increasing community awareness and public education
 - Aligning organizational structure to improve clarity, efficiency, and impact
- Implementation is structured across four phases:
 - Phase 1: Foundation and Alignment (July–December 2025)
 - Phase 2: Systems and Engagement (January–June 2026)
 - Phase 3: Planning and Sustainability (July–December 2026)
 - Phase 4: Optimization and Expansion (January–December 2027)

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- Key implementation components include internal alignment and policy revisions, development of performance dashboards, quarterly public reporting, and expanded community engagement efforts.
- Recommendations from the consultant will be distributed to the Board and discussed at the next meeting.

Finance and Administration

- January and February expenditures and encumbrances are current and up to date.
- Website traffic data for January and February was reviewed.
- All relevant financial and operational information is included in the PowerPoint presentation, which will be uploaded to the website.

Policy & Oversight

- A total of 19 complaints were received over the past two months. RPD is notified of each complaint. Case logs have been established for investigators to ensure continuity should investigatory authority be restored.
- Ongoing review of patterns and trends within RPD data continues.
- Joint projects between the Policy & Oversight and Accountability & Transparency Divisions are ongoing, including analysis of RPD's handling of sexual assault cases and the use of AI in policing.

Public Affairs & Community Engagement (PACE)

- The PAB is collaborating with RPD on a satisfaction survey; additional details are expected within the next one to two months.
- Multiple avenues for filing complaints were reiterated, including by phone, email, and in person.

Board Discussion:

Board members engaged in discussion and raised the following questions and comments:

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- **Clark:** Asked whether the view-only policy significantly limits the PAB's ability to fulfill its Charter responsibilities. It was affirmed that the policy makes it very difficult to perform required duties.
- **Tecleab:** Inquired whether the PAB has ever had the ability to download BWC footage. It was confirmed that download access has not been granted.
- **Tecleab:** Asked whether the amount of time lost due to current limitations can be quantified. It was noted that this is difficult to measure; however, by way of example, approximately 7,500 data points related to vehicular pursuits require review by a limited team, including one digital forensic analyst and Policy & Oversight staff.
- **Thomas:** Asked whether the Law Department has provided a legal opinion. It was noted that discussions to date have primarily focused on operational and technical considerations, though a meeting with Law occurred in connection with requests related to REDACT access.
- **Durwin:** Stated that denial of access may be inconsistent with the City Charter and noted that expanded access could improve efficiency for both the PAB and RPD. Also indicated willingness to assist in efforts to obtain access and referenced potential litigation as a future consideration, to be discussed in Executive Session.
- **Knox:** Asked for clarification regarding statements that access is limited due to "investigative sensitivity." It was noted that there is an understanding that a criminal proceeding may be contributing to this limitation.
- **Brown:** Expressed concern that the limitations on access may be inconsistent with the intent of the Charter.

4. PAB Departmental Updates (7:10 PM)**Operations**

- The PAB received a complaint from the Department of Labor, which conducted an inspection. All findings were unsubstantiated.

Accountability & Transparency

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- Joint projects between the Policy & Oversight and Accountability & Transparency Divisions are ongoing, including analysis of RPD's handling of sexual assault cases and the use of AI in policing. Two Statements of Interest (SOIs) have been submitted to RPD related to these projects, including one to the IT Department regarding AI policy.

Policy & Oversight

- The Privacy & Impact Analysis was uploaded on March 9, 2026, and is now publicly available.
- The Policy & Oversight Division is preparing to release the "Drones as First Responder Program – Proposal for Change" in April.
- Work on the RPD budget oversight investigation is ongoing.
- Joshua Singletary and De'Jon Hall delivered a presentation on the "Drones as First Responder Program – Proposal for Change." (Please see attached presentation.)

Public Affairs and Community Engagement

- The Police Accountability Board has taken a leadership role in forming a statewide civilian oversight consortium. A proposal has been submitted to NACOLE, which is considering the New York model for potential national replication. A determination regarding affiliate status is expected in April.
- On April 14, 2026, the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) will host a one-day symposium in New York City, with participation from oversight agencies in New Jersey and Philadelphia.
- On March 12, 2026, the PAB will participate in a panel presentation at the Thomas P. Ryan Recreation Center, alongside community partners including OASIS and Teen Empowerment.
- Dr. Myers-Small and the PACE team will present a "Know Your Rights" session for REOC staff on March 13, 2026.

5. Chair Report (7:55 PM)

- Chair Clark and Board Member Knox completed a tour of the finished space at 57 St. Paul Street and commended the work.
- Chair Clark met with Dr. Myers-Small and Delores to discuss establishing consistent Board meeting dates and the potential for hosting meetings in community-based locations. Any alternate venue must be able to support the technology required for live streaming of PAB meetings.

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- Dr. Myers-Small is working to secure parking accommodations for Board members.
- All Board members have completed required training. On February 10, 2026, four Board members participated in an RPD ride-along with Captain Swetman, which was reported to be informative.

6. Committee Reports (7:57 PM)

- The Youth & Community Engagement Committee, led by Board Members Lwam Tecleab and Yvonne Wilson, meets regularly with Brittany and expressed satisfaction with the team's work.
- For March, Committee Members Tecleab and Wilson will focus on refining the vision and direction for the subcommittee.

8. Old Business (8:03 PM)

- There was no old business

9. New Business (8:03 PM)

- There was no new business

10. Executive Session (8:06 PM)

- A motion to go into short Executive Session made by A.J. Durwin and seconded by Lawrence Knox. No votes are expected to be taken.

11. Meeting Close (8:21 PM)

- A motion to adjourn was made by Chair Clark and seconded by Arlene Brown.
- The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 2, 2026, in Council Chambers at City Hall, 30 Church Street, 3rd Floor.