

**Police Accountability Board - Regular Board Meeting****Date:** June 18, 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**

Note: Due to technical difficulties, a portion of the meeting was not livestreamed. The issue was resolved during the meeting, and livestreaming resumed for the remainder of the session. The full meeting recording was subsequently made available for public viewing.

**Date:** June 18, 2026**Start Time:** 6:02 PM**End Time:** 7:56 PM**Attendees**

- **Board Members:**
  - Lwam Tecleab (Vice Chair)
  - Rev. Keith Patterson
  - Arlene Brown
  - Yvonne Wilson
  - A.J Durwin
  - Cathy Thomas
  - Lawrence Knox
  
- **Absent/Excused:**
  - William Clark (Chair)
  
- **Staff:**
  - Dr. Lesli C. Myers-Small, Executive Director
  - Kevin Rambold, General Counsel
  - Dr. Ashley Campbell, Interim Director/Policy and Oversight
  - Leslie Green, Executive Assistant
  - Brianna Milon, Communications Manager
  
- **Absent/Excused:**
  - Brittaney Wells, Public Affairs and Community Engagement Director
  - Delores Ivey-Paige, Operations Director
  - Dr. Heather Feinman, Language Access Coordinator

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- **ASL Interpreters:** Madisen Baldwin and Jim Brown (Note: Wanya Jefferson replaced Madisen Baldwin as interpreter)

**1. Welcome & Introductions (6:02 PM)**

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

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes (6:02 PM)**

The Board reviewed the minutes from the May 21, 2026 meeting, which had been distributed to Board Members via email on May 28, 2026. During the June 18, 2026 Board meeting, an amendment was proposed to reflect Board Member Yvonne Wilson's attendance at the May 21 meeting. The amendment was approved unanimously by the Board.

Following approval of the amendment, a motion to approve the amended May 21, 2026 meeting minutes was made by Arlene Brown and seconded by AJ Durwin. The motion carried unanimously.

**3. Executive Director's Report (6:04 PM)**

Dr. Myers-Small provided an overview of organizational activities and accomplishments during the month of May.

- Through 14 community engagement activities, the PAB connected with more than 700 community members across the City of Rochester.
- The Board's district meeting initiative continued with meetings hosted by Board Members AJ Durwin and Lwam Tecleab. These meetings have provided valuable opportunities to hear directly from residents, answer questions, and strengthen community relationships.
- The PAB advanced more than five strategic partnerships and coordinated over twenty executive leadership and strategic planning meetings. Partnership efforts included ongoing collaboration with Action for a Better Community (ABC), Regional Transit Service (RTS), the Urban League of Rochester, Willow Domestic Violence Center, Measures for Justice, and the YMCA. Planning also continued for the community empowerment initiative, *The Talk*.

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- Dr. Myers-Small led the FY 2026-2027 budget presentation process and continued efforts to strengthen relationships with oversight, government, and community stakeholders throughout New York State.
- Significant progress was made in implementing the PAB's *Transition to Transformation* framework and advancing the proposal for the New York State Civilian Oversight Consortium, which was submitted for consideration. If approved, it would become the first statewide civilian oversight consortium of its kind in the nation.
- The PAB welcomed Dr. Ashley Campbell as Interim Director of Policy & Oversight. Work also continued on the development of the Public Accountability Dashboard to improve transparency and public access to information.
- Staff continued work on several major year-end publications, including the Strategic Plan, Charter Fulfillment Report, and Annual Report, all of which highlight the agency's activities, accomplishments, and compliance with Charter requirements.
- Looking ahead, organizational priorities include expanding district meetings, advancing the Public Accountability Dashboard, strengthening and broadening strategic partnerships, increasing public education efforts, and continuing implementation of the Transition to Transformation framework.
- In recognition of Juneteenth, PAB staff planned to participate in community outreach activities at the Juneteenth Celebration at Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park.

**Board Discussion**

Board Member Knox requested additional information regarding the proposed New York State Civilian Oversight Consortium. Dr. Myers-Small provided an overview of the initiative, its purpose, and the potential benefits of creating a statewide network to support professional development, collaboration, and best practices among civilian oversight agencies.

Board Member Thomas requested additional information regarding the PAB's developing partnership with Regional Transit Service (RTS). Dr. Myers-Small discussed ongoing conversations focused on increasing community outreach, public education, and accessibility to PAB services through collaborative efforts with RTS.

**4. Departmental Updates (6:27 PM)****Legal Division**

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Kevin Rambold, General Counsel, provided an update on ongoing litigation and legislative matters. He reported that the motion for leave to appeal to the Appellate Division, Fourth Department, was denied on June 5, 2026. The PAB retains the option of seeking leave to appeal to the New York State Court of Appeals, with a filing deadline of July 8, 2026. Outside counsel is currently preparing the necessary materials.

Mr. Rambold also discussed the proposed Legislative Affairs Subcommittee. The purpose of the subcommittee is to monitor legislation affecting police accountability, advance legislative priorities of the Board, and serve as a liaison to state representatives regarding issues impacting civilian oversight.

**Board Discussion**

Board Member Wilson: How many Board Members can serve on the subcommittee?

Mr. Rambold explained that there is no minimum or maximum number of Board Members required. Three Board Members, Durwin, Knox, and Brown, had been initially proposed, but membership could be expanded. Staff members may also participate in support roles.

Board Member Wilson: Does the committee have to be limited to three members?

Mr. Rambold clarified that it does not.

Board Member Wilson: Suggested that representatives from P.A.B.A. be included given their long-standing involvement and advocacy.

Board Member Knox: Emphasized the importance of receiving input from the public regarding potential legislation and police accountability issues under consideration by state lawmakers.

Board Member Durwin: Recommended amending the resolution to explicitly authorize the subcommittee to facilitate communication and coordinate legislative advocacy efforts related to restoring the PAB's powers.

**Operations Division**

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Dr. Lesli Myers-Small presented the Operations Division report on behalf of Director of Operations Delores Ivey-Paige.

During the month of May, the Operations Division continued to provide the administrative, financial, technological, and organizational infrastructure necessary to support agency operations. Accomplishments included the completion of two staff trainings, advancement of three technology projects, resolution of several facilities-related issues, and continued implementation of the agency's Transition to Transformation framework.

The division also supported organizational alignment efforts, planning and training related to Reduct, and ongoing efforts to modernize records management and reporting systems.

**June Priorities**

- Support planning and execution of the June 26, 2026 Staff Retreat;
- Continue facilities planning and space utilization review;
- Coordinate FOIL processes and records management activities; and
- Explore technology solutions to improve meeting transcription and administrative efficiency.

**Board Discussion**

Board Member Knox: Asked for clarification regarding meeting transcription tools.

Dr. Myers-Small explained that the agency is evaluating technology solutions that may improve the efficiency and accuracy of meeting minute preparation and transcription.

Board Member Tecleab: Noted that the location in Google Maps needs to be updated as RPD's address appears when PAB is searched.

**Policy & Oversight Division**

Dr. Ashley Campbell, Interim Director of Policy & Oversight, provided an update on divisional activities.

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The division recently launched an arts-based ethnographic research initiative entitled *What's the Story?* The project involves staff conducting structured observational studies within four designated community locations. The purpose of the project is to strengthen observational, analytical, and critical thinking skills that can be applied to policy analysis, body-worn camera review, document review, and community engagement efforts.

The division is also enhancing its project management systems to improve organizational alignment and oversight of major initiatives.

Current projects include:

- Language Access within the Rochester Police Department;
- The New York State Civilian Oversight Consortium Survey; and
- Planning for an internal learning exercise centered on the film *Let's Be Clear*, designed to stimulate discussion regarding police-community interactions and future oversight strategies.

**Board Discussion**

Board Member Durwin: Asked whether the ethnographic study included locations identified as policing hotspots.

Dr. Campbell stated that policing-related observations are anticipated as part of the project's next phase.

Board Member Durwin: Asked how the division intends to assess RPD compliance with language access policies.

Dr. Campbell acknowledged that measuring compliance is an area requiring additional development and stated that staff are actively working on that component.

Board Member Durwin: Asked whether affected community members, disability rights advocates, or other stakeholder groups would be engaged as part of the language access work.

Dr. Campbell confirmed that outreach is planned and noted that conversations have begun with Gallaudet University regarding best practices in language access and law enforcement interactions.

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Board Member Knox: Asked whether the status of previous recommendations made to City Council or RPD could be tracked and publicly displayed.

Dr. Campbell stated that staff are currently exploring methods to provide greater transparency regarding recommendation implementation and status updates.

Board Member Tecleab: Asked for additional information regarding the purpose of the Civilian Oversight Consortium Survey.

Dr. Campbell explained that the survey is intended to gather information about oversight agencies across New York State and assess their structures, functions, and needs.

Board Member Tecleab: Asked how project priorities are being established following recent staffing reductions.

Dr. Campbell explained that the division's project management system is being designed to ensure strategic alignment and prioritization of work across the agency.

Board Member Wilson: Requested examples of current policy topics under review.

Dr. Campbell identified several areas of focus, including body-worn camera review, sexual assault investigations, drone usage, vehicular pursuits, and collective bargaining agreements.

**Public Affairs & Community Engagement (PACE) Division**

Dr. Myers-Small presented the PACE report on behalf of Director Brittaney Wells.

During the month of May, the division participated in 14 community engagement events, reaching more than 700 community members throughout Rochester. Notable events included the International Plaza Opening Ceremony, a Teen Empowerment Luncheon, and the Thurston Road *Ease on Down the Road* event. These engagements provided opportunities to share information about the PAB, build community relationships, and connect with young people and families.

Board Members were advised that a complete list of upcoming community engagement opportunities is available on the PAB website.

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**Board Discussion**

Board Member Durwin: Asked whether the City's hiring freeze had been lifted following adoption of the FY 2026-2027 budget.

Dr. Myers-Small indicated that no official guidance had been received at that time.

Board Member **Wilson:** Asked whether Board Members could recommend communities, events, or neighborhoods for future outreach efforts.

Dr. Myers-Small confirmed that Board Members are encouraged to share recommendations through the Youth & Community Engagement Committee, which is charged with helping guide community outreach priorities.

**5. Chairperson's Report (7:14 PM)**

Vice Chair Tecleab reflected on the continued importance of the Police Accountability Board's work. She noted that despite the loss of the PAB's investigative authority in April 2025, the agency has continued to receive more than 100 complaints from community members. She stated that this continued engagement demonstrates both the community's need for independent oversight and the public's ongoing trust in the agency as a place to raise concerns regarding policing.

Vice Chair Tecleab also reminded Board Members that the June meeting marked the final regular Board meeting of the current fiscal year. She informed the Board that elections for Chair and Vice Chair would take place at the July 2, 2026 Board Meeting. Board Members interested in serving in either leadership role were encouraged to discuss their interest with fellow Board Members. Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair will be accepted at the July meeting, followed by a vote of the Board.

**6. Committee Reports (7:20 PM)****Training Committee**

Board members William Clark and Larry Knox

The committee had no updates to present at this time.

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**Youth & Community Engagement Committee**

Board Members Lwam Tecleab and Yvonne Wilson provided an update on the work of the Youth & Community Engagement Committee.

Vice Chair Tecleab expressed appreciation to the Board Members who hosted district meetings and noted that the final district meeting was scheduled for June 24, 2026, with Board Member Knox. She highlighted the value of these meetings in strengthening community relationships and gathering direct feedback from residents. While the Charter requires district meetings to be held annually, Vice Chair Tecleab encouraged the Board to consider hosting them more frequently to increase community engagement and accessibility.

Vice Chair Tecleab and Board Member Wilson also reported that they recently met to discuss the committee's priorities and future direction. Their discussions focused on identifying opportunities to expand the PAB's presence throughout the community, strengthen outreach efforts in underserved areas, and ensure that youth engagement remains a central component of the Board's community engagement strategy.

**7. Old Business (7:25 PM)****Consideration of Resolution Establishing the Legislative Affairs Committee**

The Board considered a resolution to formally establish the Legislative Affairs Committee.

Board Member Durwin proposed an amendment to the resolution that would explicitly authorize the committee to support legislative efforts related to restoring the PAB's authority and mandate. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Tecleab and unanimously approved by the Board.

Board Member Durwin also proposed an amendment to the final paragraph on the first page of the resolution to clarify the committee's composition by adding the language: *“and such Board Members, staff, and Police Accountability Alliance members as may be appointed or designated.”* The motion was seconded by Board Member Patterson and motion was passed 6-1-0. Board Member Wilson did not participate in the vote.

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Following discussion and the adoption of both amendments, the Board approved the resolution establishing the Legislative Affairs Committee, as amended.

**8. New Business (7:53 PM)****Amendment from June 21, 2026 Board Meeting**

Board Member Yvonne Wilson noted that the May 21, 2026 meeting minutes did not reflect that she had nominated Board Member Arlene Brown for service on the subcommittee.

To correct the record, Board Member AJ Durwin moved to amend the May 21, 2026 Board Meeting minutes to include Board Member Wilson's nomination of Board Member Brown. The motion was seconded by Board Member Cathy Thomas and approved by the Board.

**July 2, 2026 Board Meeting**

The Board discussed the upcoming July 2, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, including agenda planning, anticipated business items, and organizational priorities for the start of the new fiscal year.

Board Members also discussed the election of Board officers, including the positions of Chair and Vice Chair. It was noted that nominations and voting for these leadership positions would take place during the July 2, 2026 meeting.

**9. Executive Session (7:55 PM)**

No Executive Session held

**10. Meeting Close (7:56 PM)**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Board Member Yvonne Wilson and seconded by Board Member Arlene Brown. The motion carried.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 2, 2026, in Council Chambers at Rochester City Hall, 30 Church Street, 3rd Floor, Rochester, New York.

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