

Regular Board Meeting
Police Accountability Board
August 3, 2023 at 6:30 PM

245 E. Main Street, Rochester, NY
 Livestreamed on Facebook (facebook.com/rocpab) & YouTube
 (youtube.com/rochesterpab) & Twitter

Attendees

Board Members: Lawrence Knox (Chair), Arlene Brown (Vice Chair), William Clark, Rabbi Drorah Setel, Mary E. Wambach, Rev. Keith Patterson, Yvonne Wilson

Absent/Excused: Daniel Cadet

Staff: Sherry Walker-Cowart, Victoria Harmon

ASL Interpreters: Jefferson Wanya and Kel Mullaney

Item	Details	Vote	Time
Start of Meeting	<p><u>Welcome & Introductions:</u></p> <p>Chair Knox called the meeting to order and requested self-introductions. Board members introduced themselves.</p> <p>Chair Knox introduced Yvonne Wilson, the new board member. S. Walker-Cowart introduced Delores Paige, the new Director of Case Management.</p>		6:33PM
Approval of Prior Minutes	<p><u>Minutes:</u></p> <p>July 6, 2023. Motion to approve the minutes made by A. Brown, with a second by W. Clark. Motion carried.</p>	Unanimous	6:35PM

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<p>Staff Report</p>	<p><u>Public Affairs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community sessions are being held regarding the Right to Know Proposal. • There was a community session with the youth at the Center for Youth (August 3). There is another public session with the United Church Ministries (August 3). • The Right to Know Proposal aims to inform individuals of their rights when stopped by the police. It covers the rights of individuals to know what to say and what to say, when asked to consent to a search. It also explains expectations for police officers. • Dates and venues for the upcoming community engagement activities are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urban League: August 8th ○ RMAPI Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative: August 14th ○ PAB Alliance: To be determined ○ Democratic Socialist of America: To be determined ○ Father Tracy Advocacy Center (Latino-Focused Public Session): August 16th ○ Public Defender’s Office; To be determined ○ PODER Radio Interview: To be determined. 		<p>6:35PM</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional community outreach events are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Puerto Rican festival this weekend (August 5th) at Innovation Field (formerly Frontier Field) ○ ROC the Block: August 9th, Edgerton R-Center, September 6th, La Markets, September 27th, Parcel 5. ○ Caribbean Festival: August 12th • The PAB’s inaugural quarterly newsletter is expected to be launched by the end of the week and posted on the website. • The new website is set to be launched this month (August), with information on public affairs, community outreach events, and other updates. <p><u>Operations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dolores Paige has been hired as the Director of Case Management. • Ian Benz has been promoted to Supervising Case Manager. • Four investigators have been hired and will begin work in August. • The Director of Investigation will be starting by August 31st. • A Staff Attorney will be starting on August 28th. • The current office lease ends next spring and efforts are underway to identify a new 		
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	<p>location. The City’s Real estate department is assisting in this process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A schedule for the 29th annual NACOLE Conference has been provided. Some board members and staff have the opportunity to attend. <p><u>Investigations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Efforts are still being made to get download access for case analysis. Work is being done to secure different computers and equipment. This will allow digital forensic analyses to be carried out.• The software program where the case status is posted is currently experiencing glitches. There is no update available on case status at this time. <p><u>Policy and Oversight:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The focus of Policy and Oversight is currently on the Right to Know Proposal.• Right to Know public input sessions will continue until August 17th.• Regarding oversight investigation on the deployment of beanbag guns within RPD and juvenile pepper spray, there is ongoing effort to catalog any evidence found. Efforts are still being made to ensure a secure transfer of information from the police department for us to proceed with this investigation.		
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<p>Chair's Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft of the annual report is in the final stage and will be posted once it is completed <p><u>Chair's Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair expressed excitement for new positions that have been filled and emphasized the importance of having sufficient staffing to fulfill the responsibilities outlined in the charter. • The board now has eight members. New board member, Yvonne Wilson, was provided the opportunity to introduce herself and her desire to join the PAB. • The application process for the East District seat is still open. The board emphasized the importance of having a member representing the Latinx community, and encouraged anyone in the Latinx community who is interested in representing the East district to submit an application. • Members of the public were urged to attend the public input sessions and assured that their suggestion during these sessions would be recognized, shared with board members and staff, and included in the draft report. • The board emphasized that attending these sessions will provide an opportunity for public input to be considered in the decision-making process for policy development. 		<p>6:44PM</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Those who can't attend the public input sessions are encouraged to call or email suggestions.• One concern was raised in regards to children of parents being detained. A question was posed about how these children are handled. It is hoped there will be a section regarding how children will be treated, which will be addressed soon.• The chair updated the board in regard to the pending court decision concerning the board's disciplinary power under the charter. There is no update yet on the court date regarding this issue.• The board is currently reviewing cases and NOT recommending discipline. The process could change after the court decision on the disciplinary power.• A question was raised about the City response to the unscientific survey discussed in the previous meeting, and whether there were plans to conduct a more balanced survey that accurately reflects the demographics of Rochester. The possibility of conducting another survey is under consideration and the board hopes that the City Council will consult with the PAB when another survey is conducted, especially because the PAB has staff members trained to conduct scientific surveys.		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The chair encouraged attendees to participate in the public input sessions to get a more comprehensive view of the community’s opinions and experience. <p><u>Committee Reports:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The board acknowledged the recent addition of new board member, Yvonne Wilson representing the South district seat.• There is one more board member that needs to be added. With eight out of nine board members, the committee can now go into overdrive and ensure the smooth functioning of the board. <p><u>Training Committee:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The board will be following up the City’s human resource and training department to ensure that the board receives all necessary training.• It was stated there was a need to customize training for new board members. It was emphasized that the training should cover the essential knowledge needed to carry out the police accountability work correctly.• The board members who have already undergone training shared their experiences. It was decided that the training committee will work on developing a training schedule and identify the specific trainings that newer board members should go through.		
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<p>Old Business</p>	<p><u>Search Committee:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board acknowledged that Sherry Walker-Cowart, the current interim executive director, will not be staying in the position beyond this year. • The board is in the process of selecting a search firm. A subcommittee will be meeting next week to draft the proposal for the executive search firm and the job description is still being reviewed by the human resources department. <p>The board expressed its commitment to finding a high-quality candidate who is familiar with the Rochester community and can continue the work of the PAB.</p> <p><u>Old Business:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board provided an update on the discussion with the City Council regarding staffing needs. It was mentioned that while the budget passed was not entirely as desired, there was an understanding that additional positions will be filled based on the needs identified by the staff. • The current staffing model was acknowledged to be inadequate. The staffing model outlined in the charter is larger than the current staffing level. Efforts are being made to demonstrate the need for more 		<p>7:07PM</p>
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