

Police Accountability Board - Regular Board Meeting**Date:** December 5, 2024**Time:** 6:00 PM**Location:** 245 E. Main Street, Rochester, NY**Livestreamed on:** Facebook (facebook.com/rocpab) & YouTube (youtube.com/rochesterpab) & X (Twitter)**Police Accountability Board Meeting Minutes****Date:** December 12, 2024**Start Time:** 6:07 PM**End Time:** 9:15 PM**Attendees**

- **Board Members:** Lawrence Knox (Chair), Daniel Cadet, Yvonne Wilson, Lwam Tecleab, Rev. Keith Patterson, Mary E. Wambach
- **Absent/Excused:** Rabbi Drorah Setel (Vice Chair), Arlene Brown, William Clark
- **Staff:** Dr. Lesli Myers-Small (Executive Director), Benjamin Wittwer (Deputy Executive Director), De'Jon Hall (Director of Policy and Oversight), Sandra Simon (Interim Director of Public Affairs and Community Engagement), Kevin Stewart (Community Engagement Specialist), Faizulis Vides Beleno (Community Engagement Specialist/Bilingual), Victoria Harmon (Secretary to the PAB)
- **ASL Interpreters:** Shannon Tracy, Wanya Jefferson

Meeting Agenda and Minutes**1. Welcome & Introductions – 6:07 PM**

- Chair Knox called the meeting to order and requested introductions. Board members and the Executive Director introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Prior Minutes – 6:08 PM

- **November 7 Minutes:** Motion to approve by Y. Wilson, seconded by K. Patterson. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Staff Reports**Community Engagement Updates**

- **Team Introduction:** Sandra Simon introduced her team — Kevin Stewart and Faizulis Vides Beleno.
- **Survey Outreach:**
 - 33 survey responses received in Spanish and English.

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- Flyers distributed to 72 locations; goal to reach 150-200 locations.
- 23 outreach events completed in November.
- Targeted engagement with youth, seniors, the deaf community, and the LGBTQ+ community.
- **Resource Guide:** Developing a multilingual resource guide about the PAB.
- **Rebranding:** New slogan: *“Transparent and accountable public safety for you, for me, for us.”*
- **Acknowledgment:** Board praised the team for achieving significant outreach milestones with limited resources.

Case Management

- **November Complaints:**
 - 14 complaints received; 12 opened, 2 administratively closed.
 - Board closed 4 cases.
- **Intake Form Updates:** Forms aligned for consistency; available in English and Spanish.
- **Language Support:** Language line service available until a bilingual case manager is hired.

Investigations

- **Reports:** Three investigative reports sent to RPD; will be posted online.
- **Disciplinary Matrix:** Awaiting feedback from Locust Club and RPD.
- **Legal Updates:** Collaborating with City attorneys on Locust Club litigation; advocating for independent legal representation.

Operations

- **Charter Training:** Scheduled for December 20, covering civilian oversight best practices.
- **Citizen Police Academy:** Staff and board members attended for insights on RPD operations.
- **Hiring:** Communications Manager position interviews to be scheduled soon.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

- **Three Draft SOPs:**
 1. **Board Member Code of Conduct**
 2. **Conflict of Interest and Ethics**

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- **Feedback:** Discussion focused on clarifying conflicts of interest and fiduciary liability.

4. Motions and Votes**Removal of Strategic Initiative**

- The Executive Director discussed the removal of the "Alternatives to Dispute Resolution (ADR)" program from the strategic initiatives with the board. The initiative, originally developed by the previous executive director, aimed to create a restorative dispute resolution program. However, the current leadership is not moving forward with this initiative due to resource constraints and other priorities.
- The Executive Director explained that although the ADR program was linked to enhancing public safety and increasing community engagement, the focus has shifted to other strategic priorities. The team is already achieving these goals through other initiatives, making the ADR program unnecessary at this time. Additionally, the initiative would require funding and resources that are not available.
- The Executive Director emphasized the importance of removing the initiative to avoid being held accountable for progress, as the project is not being worked on. If the initiative remains in the budget, the city council could question the lack of progress, which could negatively impact the budget process.

Motion and Vote: 7:34 PM

- Motion moved by L. Knox to remove the initiative from the strategic goals and seconded by D. Cadet. The motion carried with one dissenting vote (5-1).

The Cost of Misconduct: A Proposal for Change

- The Director of Policy and Oversight presented "The Cost of Misconduct: A Proposal for Change" to the board for discussion and a vote. He noted that during the public input, there were no changes to the five recommendations that the policy division put forward. Most of the requested changes were to expound upon some of the ideas written in the initial draft.
- There was discussion on the concerns raised by RPD regarding the data used in the proposal and the analysis conducted. These concerns would be addressed in revisions to be submitted the following week. Specifically, they would elaborate on the discrepancy

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regarding the 78 claims not provided to the PAB, though some of the numbers were available to trace the source of those claims.

Motion and Vote: 7:58 PM

- Motion moved by L. Knox to accept the "The Cost of Misconduct: A Proposal for Change" incorporating small additions based on feedback from the RPD. The motion was seconded by D. Cadet and carried unanimously.

Break for ASL Interpreters:

- Motion moved by L. Knox, seconded by D. Cadet. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Chair's Report – 7:59 PM

- **End-of-Year Acknowledgment:** Gratitude for staff and board efforts.
- **City Council Support:** Noted growing support, though not unanimous.
- **Union Representation:** Expressed hope for resolving staff union recognition issue.

6. Committee Reports

- **Training Committee:** Upcoming SharePoint training on December 19.

7. Executive Session – 8:03 PM

- Motion moved by L. Knox to enter executive session. Motion carried unanimously.
- **No votes taken.**

Adjournment: 9:15 PM**Next Meeting:** January 9, 2025, at 6:00 PM