

**Regular Board Meeting
Police Accountability Board
February 2, 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), Daniel Cadet, Rabbi Drorah Setel, Rev. Dr. Rickey Harvey

Staff: Sherry Walker-Cowart, Natalie Banks

Item	Details	Vote	Time
Start of Meeting	<u>Welcome & Introductions:</u> Chairperson Knox called the meeting to order and requested self-introductions. The Chair read a press release statement regarding the death of Tyre Nicholas in Tennessee.		6:47
Approval of Prior Minutes	<u>Minutes:</u> January 19, 2023. Correction – Chair Knox called the meeting to order. Motion to approve the minutes as corrected made by Dr. Harvey with a second by Vice Chair Brown.	Unanimous	6:50
	<p><u>Staff Report:</u></p> <p>Operational Division Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently working on 23-24 KPIs and Strategic Initiatives; • Initial conversations started on the process of identifying office space for 2024; • Working with City Council on the immediate hiring needs for the PAB; • Working with the City to create a timeline for the completion of mandated staff trainings; • Working with the Office of Management and Budget to complete NYS Grant contract; <p>Case Management Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started surveying callers about their intake experience this month. We welcome their feedback and suggestions for improvement. • Made a change to 30-day status updates after receiving feedback from some callers and our case managers. Updates will now only be sent out when their case progresses to the next stage of the investigation. (Stages are listed in the recent monthly report) *Question raised – Where on the website can the reports be found? • Replaced previous intake form on the website with iSight CMS. Community members will now have the opportunity 		

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	<p>to create a login to anonymously send us correspondence directly to their case and communicate with caseworkers. Question raised – with reporters corresponding with PAB case managers, will this give us more opportunity to connect/get back in touch with them to get more information if we need it for investigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case managers continue to attend relevant trainings on an ongoing basis. <p>Public Affairs – Community Engagement Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Case Management to discuss restarting Library Outreach/Intake partnership with the public library (discussing capacity, scope, process etc.) • Currently in discussion with PABA Outreach Team about partnering for outreach in Crescent and Latino Engagement goals in that area. • Work on PAB’s new website is ongoing. Planning for spring launch. • Planning for spring launch of the PAB’s new volunteer program. Question raised – What are the specific plans for the volunteer program? How will it be done? • Finalized designs for billboards with Causewave. Waiting for draft mock-ups from the project designer (will share these more broadly when we receive them). • Planning for upcoming youth leadership program (goal is for a summer launch; activities will be dependent upon the ability to hire outreach staff). Question raised – What is the design and plan for the youth program. What is the specific outline? <i>While there may be concerns about engaging underage youth, working in collaboration with agencies with youth involvement may be a way to achieve our objectives.</i> <p>Policy Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Disciplinary Matrix is in the final stages of stakeholder review. This week, copies of the draft that was made available to the public, will be sent to the Chief of Police and President of the Locust Club with a formal invitation to provide feedback. We have also offered to meet with them to present and discuss this tool in greater detail. We look forward to the forthcoming responses. 		
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Team has initiated the work of identifying a tentative Policy Agenda for the Agency. The overarching themes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Privacy and policing • Cost of policing • Community engagement/empowerment • Information transparency • Law Enforcement Interactions with Youth/Minors <p>This list is not exhaustive, and the Team is working with the Board to finalize and inform this Agenda before presenting to the public for comment, modification and enhancement.</p> <p>Investigations Updates</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Total cases reported in January was 27. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. These 27 cases reported in January brings the total number of cases reported to 272 since June 20, 2022. 2. Total cases assigned to Investigators in January was 26. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. These 26 new assigned cases in January brings the total assigned cases to 151 since June 20, 2022. 3. Total Source of Information Request (“SOI”) sent to RPD in January was 21 (9 sent on 01/25/23 & 12 sent on 01/31/23). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. These 21 SOIs sent in January brings the total SOIs sent to RPD to 101 since June 20, 2022- Question raised - #of SOIs returned information requested? b. Closings -20 cases have been closed by the Board; 56 cases have closing reports uploaded to the Boards SharePoint folder and are pending a vote from the Board to close; 28 cases have been identified for closing and currently drafting closing reports that will be uploaded to the Board’s SharePoint folder. <p>Question raised about the status of RPD ride-alongs. Waiting all Board members to submit their Release of Liability forms.</p> 	
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	<p>Training: Staff’s December and January trainings revolved around Investigation procedure and techniques gleaned from NACOLE. Specifically, they have gone over training materials for: interrogation and investigation interviewing; making factual determinations and applying legal standards; and addressing the credibility of witnesses just to name a few.</p> <p>The question was raised about the status of the cases.</p> <p>D. Setel requested a map/flow chart showing where each case is along a continuum.</p> <p>R. Harvey asked the question – What are we doing? What are we doing to get cases moving? Discussion ensued regarding the status of cases and feedback from the community. When individuals share that something happened between them and the police, they are being directed to file a report on the website. The concern and frustration raised is around what happens from there, as no cases have been moved from investigations to the Board for review.</p> <p>R. Harvey mentioned the emphasis on police accountability made by Al Sharpton at Tyre Nichols’ funeral. This puts PAB in an advanced position to impact police oversight and accountability.</p> <p>L. Knox responded to the question, “what are we doing” by referencing the work of the Policy Committee, e.g. Disciplinary Matrix, Data Transparency report. The sense of urgency around police accountability has not waned. This Board individually and collectively is fully committed.</p> <p>A. Brown responded with reminders of the time it takes to make significant changes to the culture of policing in Rochester, and being careful to do what is right. Work with the PABA could be instrumental in pressuring City Council to fill vacant board seats.</p> <p><u>Chair’s Report:</u> The need to fill the vacancies on the board has been expressed, repeatedly. According to the Charter, Council has 60 days to fill the vacancy. One position has been vacant for far beyond 60 days. The two newest vacancies became</p>		
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	<p>available within the past two weeks. One is from the Alliance and one from the South. We would like all three (3) seats to be filled at the same time, ideally, so training can happen for the members simultaneously. Any seat filled expeditiously would be our first desire. Filling these seats is crucial to ensuring a quorum and doing our work as a Board.</p> <p>R. Harvey asked if the interim executive director could send a letter to City Council regarding filling of the empty Board seats. This could be a new approach that may generate different responses. Discussion ensued and it was determined that filling Board seats was the work of the Board.</p> <p>It was noted that in the past a suggestion was made to file a law suit forcing City Council to fill the vacant seats. Another suggestion was to use reasoning or a different approach for filling Board seats. D. Setel reminded the Board of the need for more diverse representation and to consider someone from the deaf community, the Latinx community and ensure gender equity. The suggestion of a letter to City Council will be taken under consideration. It is imperative we immediately start hiring back the people we need.</p> <p>D. Cadet offered a reminder that we are operating at a deficit with personnel from the Board level to the staff level. We are in a very complex situation involving law enforcement, city government etc. One day at a time is how we move forward. R. Harvey stated, we are ready to serve the community.</p> <p>The Board will receive a training from the Policy team February 9th. This will begin at 6:30pm.</p> <p><u>Committee Report:</u> None</p> <p><u>Old Business:</u> None</p> <p><u>New Business:</u> The Board voted to close the cases they reviewed in SharePoint, except case #50. Motion made by R. Harvey with a second by D. Setel to close the batch of cases. Note: The</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Unanimous</p>	
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	motion will need to be made at the next board meeting listing each case's PTN number.		
End of meeting	<u>Adjourn:</u> Motion to adjourn made by R. Harvey, seconded by A. Brown. Motion carried unanimously. * http://rocpab.org/ Click on New and Events, then the blue tab Visit our News Center. You will see PAB releases which contain monthly reports.	Unanimous	8:05PM