

Police Accountability Board - Regular Board Meeting

Date: February 6, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: 245 E. Main Street, Rochester, NY

Livestreamed on: YouTube
(youtube.com/rochesterpab) & X (Twitter)

Police Accountability Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 6, 2025

Start Time: 6:15 PM

End Time: 7:10 PM

Attendees

- **Board Members:**, Rabbi Drorah Setel (Vice Chair), Rev. Keith Patterson, Arlene Brown, William Clark, Lwam Tecleab
- **Absent/Excused:** Lawrence Knox (Chair), Yvonne Wilson, Dr. Lesli C. Myers-Small (Executive Director)
- **Staff:** Benjamin Wittwer (Deputy Executive Director), Brianna Milon (Communications Manager), and Victoria Harmon (Secretary to the PAB)
- **ASL Interpreters:** Wanya Jefferson, Shannon Tracy

Meeting Agenda and Minutes

1. Welcome & Introductions (6:15 PM)

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

2. Approval of Prior Minutes (6:18 PM)

- **January 9 Minutes:** Motion made by W. Clark to approve the minutes with correction, seconded by K. Patterson. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Staff Reports (6:18 PM)

Public Affairs and Community Engagement:

- **PAB Survey:**
 - 100 survey responses have been collected. The survey remains open on the PAB website, rocpAB.org, and efforts are being made to continue engage with more community members in various areas of the city.
- **PAB Resource Booklet:**
 - Now available on the website and hard copies are being distributed to community members.

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- The booklet includes valuable information about law enforcement, legal assistance resources, and how individuals can access PAB services.
- **Community Forum:**
 - On February 4, 2025, the PAB hosted a forum at East High School titled “How Many More? A Call for Change, Action, and Accountability” in honor of Robert Brooks. The event brought together impacted families, community members, and leaders, providing a platform for them to share their voices and engage in discussions on justice and accountability.

Investigations and Case Management:

- **Language Accessibility:**
 - Intake forms are now available in 13 languages on the PAB website.
 - Staff will also be providing interpreters for individuals based on their language preferences to ensure effective communication throughout an investigation
- **Body-Worn Camera Analysis:**
 - The PAB is working on the integration of Reduct, a cutting-edge video software, to enhance the analysis of body-worn camera footage. The implementation has been discussed with RPD and we are set to begin this month.
- **Case Review:**
 - Two closing reports were sent to the RPD on January 23, 2025, and posted on the PAB’s website on February 6, 2025. The public tracking numbers for these cases are 2022-0009 and 2024-0070.

Policy and Oversight:

- **Mental Health Data Analysis:**
 - The PAB has received a dataset from Monroe County detailing mental health calls that resulted in hospital transport. The Policy & Oversight team is analyzing this data to assess how law enforcement interacts with mental health crises and identify patterns in response to these incidents.
- **General Order 680 Implementation:**
 - The PAB is reviewing the RPD's updated policies on mass demonstrations and protests, specifically General Order 680. The PAB had previously issued

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recommendations on this matter and RPD is adopting some of those suggestions. The PAB is closely monitoring the policy updates to ensure alignment with best practices.

- **Strategic Planning:**
 - Breakthrough Leadership Consulting has completed initial focus groups with community stakeholders, faith leaders, and the Rochester Police Department (RPD). Findings are being integrated into the strategic planning process.
- **Board Training:**
 - The board participated in a training session with the Policy and Oversight Division last week relative to Policy and Oversight priorities.
- **Board Vote (6:32 PM)**
 - The slate of Policy and Oversight priorities for 2025-2026 presented to the board were as follows:
 - Vehicular Pursuits
 - Sexual Assault Investigations
 - Applications of Artificial Intelligence
 - Collective Bargaining Agreement: Arbitration
 - Collective Bargaining Agreement: Overtime
 - Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreements
 - Language Access at the RPD
 - Equitable Policing
 - Intimate Partner Violence
 - Moved by D. Setel to approve the Slate of Policy and Oversight priorities for 2025-2026. The motion was seconded by A. Brown and passed unanimously.

Operations

- **Budget Equity:** The Executive Director participated in the City's Budget Equity Road Show, where she discussed resource allocation and equitable funding models that will be integrated into the PAB's budget.

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- **Personnel Updates:**
 - **New Hires:**
 - Kannan Tyagarajan has been selected as the new Director of Investigations and will begin on February 24, 2025.
 - Kevin Rambold, a former criminal defense attorney, will join the PAB as a staff attorney on March 3, 2025.
 - **Open Positions:**
 - PAB is actively recruiting for an Investigator, Case Manager (Bilingual), and Data Analyst, with interviews underway. We are still seeking applications for the Digital Forensic Analyst position.
- **PAB Office Relocation & Space Planning:**
 - Progress is being made on the move of the PAB office to 57 St. Paul Street. The PAB is coordinating with city officials and architects to ensure a smooth transition.
- **Meetings with City Council Members:**
 - Dr. Myers-Small has been conducting one-on-one meetings with City Council members to discuss PAB priorities, challenges, and the upcoming budget.
- **Board Meeting Accessibility:**
 - The PAB is addressing feedback regarding the accessibility of its board meetings, particularly for those watching remotely. New microphones, cameras, and streaming features will be implemented to ensure clearer communication and improved visibility.
 - Non-English speaking members of the community can contact us if they wish to attend a Board meeting in person by calling our hotline or emailing us at PAB@cityofrochester.gov. Arrangements will be made for an interpreter in their primary language. Those watching at home can enable live captions in their language on YouTube by clicking the settings icon and enabling subtitles with auto-translate.
- **Locust Club Lawsuit Update:**
 - The Locust Club filed a lawsuit against the City of Rochester in November 2024, relating to PAB activities, seeking to curtail our operations. Our legal team has filed a motion to dismiss, scheduled for a hearing on February 13th, 2025, at 10:00 AM in the Monroe County Supreme Court.

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(youtube.com/rochesterpab) & X (Twitter)**4. Chair's Report (6:34 PM)**

- **Board Opening Announcement:**

- Board member Daniel Cadet has resigned from the PAB, as he will be returning to the New York City area to be with his family and pursue job opportunities. Board members expressed their appreciation for his contributions, dedication, and valuable work on the board, and wished him well in his future endeavors.
- This resignation creates two openings on the board. Community members are encouraged to apply through the Police Accountability Board Alliance.

5. Committee Reports (6:35 PM) - None**6. Old Business (6:35 PM) - None****7. New Business (6:35 PM) - None****8. Executive Session (6:36 PM)**

- Motion moved by W. Clark to enter executive session, seconded by L. Tecleab. Motion carried unanimously.
- No votes taken during the executive session.

- **Recusal Announcement (7:09 PM)**

Board member Lwam Tecleab declared that moving forward with any business matters, she will recuse herself from any matters involving the City National Bank.

9. Adjournment (7:10 PM)**Next Meeting:** March 6, 2025, at 6:00 PM