



PAB

POLICE
ACCOUNTABILITY
BOARD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

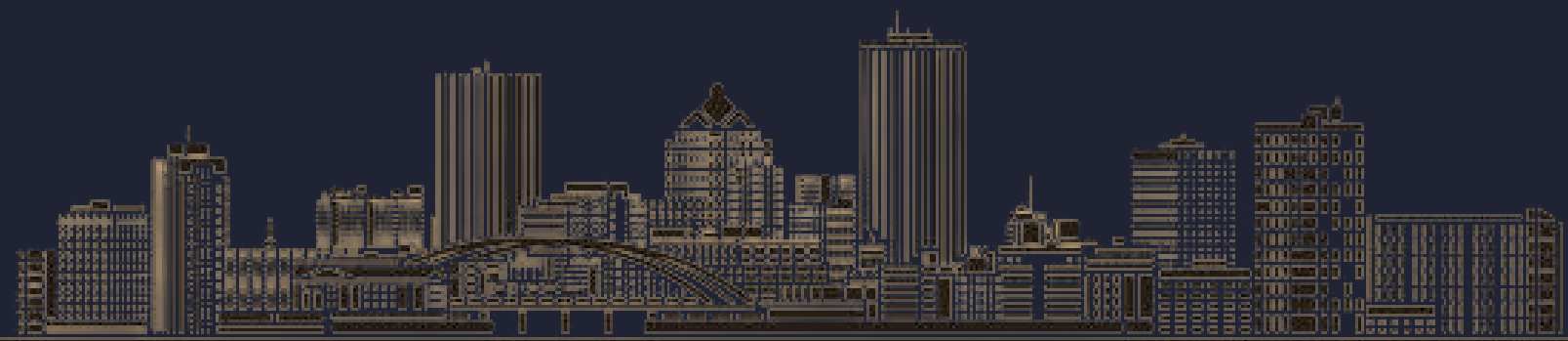
JUNE 2026



PRESENTED BY:
DR. LESLI C. MYERS-SMALL
(SHE/HER/HERS)



*Strengthening Oversight Through Leadership, Partnership,
and Innovation*



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As we close Fiscal Year 2025–2026, I am proud to report that the Police Accountability Board continues to demonstrate that meaningful civilian oversight extends far beyond investigative authority.

Although the legal challenges facing our agency remain significant, June represented one of the strongest months in our organization's history. Through strategic leadership, innovative partnerships, policy development, community engagement, and statewide collaboration, the PAB continued to fulfill its Charter responsibilities while positioning itself as a leader in the future of civilian oversight.

Throughout the month, we strengthened relationships with community organizations, advanced important policy initiatives, expanded public engagement, invested in staff and Board development, secured continued budget support from the City, and gained national recognition for Rochester's leadership in navigating the challenges facing civilian oversight agencies across the country.

Rather than allowing legal limitations to define our work, we continue to demonstrate what is possible when an organization remains committed to transparency, accountability, innovation, and public trust.

As we begin a new fiscal year, our focus remains clear: strengthen public confidence, expand community partnerships, advance policy reform, support legislative efforts to restore investigative authority, and continue building an oversight agency that serves as a model both statewide and nationally.



June at a Glance

Impact Area	June 2026
Complaints Received	12
Community Engagement Activities	12
Community Members Reached	929
Policy Recommendations Approved	7 Transmitted; Chief formally responded to 4
District Community Meetings	2
Strategic Partnerships Advanced	8
Leadership & Professional Development Activities	10
Statewide Consortium Milestones	Governance Framework Advanced
National Leadership Appointment	1

The PAB continued to receive complaints from the public despite ongoing legal restrictions on investigative authority, demonstrating continued public confidence in independent civilian oversight. The Community Engagement Team reached more than 929 residents through presentations, outreach events, and relationship-building activities while the Policy & Oversight Division formally transmitted seven recommendations from Policing and Community Surveillance: Your Right to Privacy to the Chief of Police, Mayor, and City Council.

Strategic Leadership and National Recognition

June brought national recognition through an invitation to join NACOLE's Existential Threat Working Group, reflecting confidence in Rochester's leadership and resilience during a period of significant transition. The PAB also continued leading efforts to establish the New York State Civilian Oversight Consortium.



Policy Leadership

The Policy & Oversight Division continued advancing the Proposal for Change, 'Policing and Community Surveillance: Your Right to Privacy.' Chief David M. Smith formally responded to four recommendations, agreeing to develop a Privacy Impact Assessment template, complete assessments for the Body-Worn Camera Program and Digital Evidence Management System, and publish completed assessments on the City's Open Data Portal. A misunderstanding regarding the final transmission resulted in three recommendations remaining outstanding; the Chief has committed to providing responses in July 2026.

Following the written response, I met personally with Chief Smith. We discussed implementation of the recommendations, continued collaboration, community education initiatives, and the PAB's request for limited complaint-data access for policy review and pattern analysis. The meeting reaffirmed a shared commitment to communication, mutual respect, and collaboration while recognizing the legal boundaries established by the courts.



Community Impact

Community engagement remained one of the agency's highest priorities throughout June.

The Community Engagement Team participated in 12 outreach activities, connecting with 929 residents across Rochester through neighborhood meetings, presentations, cultural events, and community partnerships.

During June, the PAB continued its District Community Meeting series with meetings in both the South District and Northeast District. These meetings provided residents with opportunities to learn about the Board's current role, ask questions, and share concerns related to police accountability, transparency, public trust, and the future of civilian oversight in Rochester.

The South District Meeting, hosted by Board Member Yvonne Wilson, brought together approximately 30 community members and included strong participation from Board members, staff, and residents.



The Northeast District Community Listening Session, led by Board Member Larry Knox, included 16 participants, including Deaf and Hard of Hearing residents, American Sign Language interpreters, Board members, staff, and a representative from the PAB Alliance.

Across both meetings, residents raised thoughtful questions about the complaint process, the PAB's current authority, legal efforts to restore investigative powers, accessibility, youth engagement, Board membership, the role of the PAB Alliance, and ways community members can support stronger civilian oversight.

Several themes emerged, including the need for continued transparency, accessible public education, stronger community partnerships, youth-focused engagement, and meaningful opportunities for residents to participate in policy and oversight work.

These meetings reaffirmed that Rochester residents remain deeply invested in accountability and public trust. The feedback received will help inform future outreach, policy discussions, public education materials, and the Board's ongoing efforts to strengthen community-informed oversight.





Organizational Excellence

Throughout June we continued strengthening the organization internally.

Highlights included:

- Annual Staff Retreat focused on collaboration and organizational culture.
- Leadership Team strategic planning meetings.
- Budget Equity Program participation.
- Association of Inspectors General professional development.
- Kronos workforce management training.
- Continued website redesign planning.
- District meeting evaluation and future engagement planning.
- Expansion of internal leadership meetings.

These investments strengthen organizational effectiveness while preparing the agency for continued growth.

Strategic Partnerships

The PAB continued expanding relationships with organizations throughout Rochester.

Major partnership initiatives included:



- Action for a Better Community (ABC)
- RTS Regional Transit Service
- Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School
- NACOLE
- New York City CCRB
- RASE Commission
- NTID/RIT
- Community faith leaders
- Community-based organizations

Each partnership reflects our commitment to collaborative approaches to accountability, education, and community trust.

Budget Stewardship

June concluded with Rochester City Council approving the FY 2026–2027 budget. The budget process provided an important opportunity to demonstrate how the Police Accountability Board continues to fulfill its Charter responsibilities despite the loss of investigative authority.



Looking Ahead

As we begin Fiscal Year 2026–2027, our priorities include:

- Advancing the appeal before the New York Court of Appeals.
- Supporting legislative efforts to restore investigative authority.
- Launching the New York State Civilian Oversight Consortium.
- Expanding district-based community meetings.
- Completing website enhancements.
- Developing additional public issue briefs and educational resources.
- Strengthening community partnerships.
- Expanding data transparency initiatives.
- Continuing implementation of the agency's strategic transformation.



A vibrant, abstract illustration of a human head profile in shades of blue. The interior of the head is filled with various colorful shapes and symbols representing different academic disciplines: a pink puzzle piece at the top left, a yellow lightbulb with a green base at the top right, a green magnifying glass over a blue square in the center, a purple pencil pointing upwards on the left side, two interlocking gears (one dark blue, one light blue) on the lower right, a bright yellow sunburst on the far left, and soft blue clouds at the bottom. The background is white, decorated with floating elements like a pink circle, a starburst, a spiral, and other geometric forms. A wavy blue line runs along the bottom edge of the head profile.

Thank you for your continued commitment to this important work.

Let C. Myers-Small

This document was designed by Faizulis Vides, Community Engagement Specialist-Bilingual