

Police Accountability Board - Regular Board Meeting**Date:** July 10, 2025**Time:** 7:00 PM**Location:** 245 E. Main Street, Rochester, NY**Livestreamed on:** YouTube
(youtube.com/rochesterpab)**Police Accountability Board Meeting Minutes****Date:** July 10, 2025**Start Time:** 7:04 PM**End Time:** 8:58 PM**Attendance**

- **Board Members Present:** Chair Lawrence Knox, Vice Chair Rabbi Drorah Setel, Rev. Keith Patterson, Arlene Brown, Lwam Tecleab, Yvonne Wilson, William Clark
- **Staff Present:**
 - Dr. Lesli C. Myers-Small, Executive Director
 - Brittaney Wells, Director of Public Affairs & Community Engagement
 - Victoria Harmon, Secretary to the Board
 - Brianna Milon, Communications Manager
 - Dr. Amanda Heideman, Senior Data Policy Analyst
- **ASL Interpreters:** Madisen Baldwin, Jim Brown
- **Absent Board Members:** None

1. Call to Order & Introductions (7:04 PM)

Chair Larry Knox called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. Board members and staff introduced themselves, including newly hired Senior Policy Analyst Dr. Amanda Heideman.

2. Approval of Minutes – June 5, 2025 (7:06 PM)

- Motion to approve: William Clark
- Seconded by: Lawrence Knox
- Outcome: Unanimous approval (7-0)
- Minutes will be posted online for public reference.

3. Election of Board Officers (7:11 PM)

- **Chair Transition:**
 - Chair Knox concluded his term after three years of service and reflected on the Board's progress, challenges, and community support.
 - Rabbi Setel, outgoing Vice Chair, offered remarks expressing optimism for the agency's future and appreciation for the Board's growth.

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- **New Chair Elected:**
 - **Nominee:** William Clark
 - **Motion:** Lawrence Knox | **Seconded by:** Rabbi Setel
 - **Outcome:** Unanimous approval (7-0)
 - Mr. Clark expressed gratitude and reaffirmed his commitment to advancing the Board's mission during a critical time.
- **New Vice Chair Elected:**
 - **Nominee:** Lwam Tecleab
 - **Motion:** William Clark | **Seconded by:** Lawrence Knox
 - **Outcome:** Unanimous approval (7-0)
 - Vice Chair Tecleab shared her appreciation and reaffirmed her dedication to community engagement and collaborative leadership.

4. Oversight Investigation Report – “Calls for Service” (7:18 PM)

To accommodate staff schedules, the agenda was reordered. Dr. Amanda Heideman, Senior Policy Analyst, presented key findings from an analysis of RPD 911 response data.

Key Insights:

- **Report Scope:** March 14, 2021 – December 31, 2024; focused on long-term planning and evaluation.
- **Findings:**
 1. Only 25% of 911 calls are routed to RPD; classification systems may oversimplify complex incidents.
 2. Faster response times stem largely from improved call handling, not faster officer deployment.
 3. Disconnect exists between Emergency Communications Department (ECD) and RPD classifications of call priority.
 4. RPD meets Tier 1 response goals but underperforms on Tier 2 and Tier 3 calls.
 5. Response times vary widely—even within the same tier (e.g., faster response to burglaries than sexual assaults).
 6. Geographic disparities noted; central/west regions receive faster responses than north/southeast sectors.

Discussion Highlights:

- Concerns raised about prioritization criteria and response equity.

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- Suggestions to include ward-level data and clarify tier classification methodology.
- Continued analysis expected in future reports.

5. Staff Report (7:47 PM)**Legal Update:**

- The PAB remains bound by the Locust Club II court ruling.
- The agency submitted its final appeal reply on July 21, 2025.
- Amicus brief outreach is ongoing, with support from the Mayor and City Council acknowledged.

Strategic Planning:

- Finalized strategic plan presented by consultant Deb Hanmer.
- Staff retreat scheduled for July 11, 2025; stakeholder rollout forthcoming.

Operations & Staffing:

- Intern Hannah acknowledged for her work on communications and outreach materials.
- Complaint intake remains active (10 new complaints in June); individual investigations are suspended.
- 323 existing complaints are under review by the Policy & Oversight Division for systemic analysis.
- Case Management transitioned to the Accountability & Transparency Division on June 30.

Division Updates:

- **Accountability & Transparency Division:** No investigative work underway. Job specifications submitted for HR certification.
- **Policy & Oversight:** Continues systemic analysis. Reports being developed on key patterns and practices.
- **Community Engagement:**
 - 13 outreach events in June reached 404 individuals.
 - Sessions held with Urban Fellows, City Councilmembers, and Albany CPRB.
 - Continued focus on multilingual access and public trust.
- **Website Analytics:**

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- 60%+ of traffic is mobile-based; mobile optimization in progress.
- Full FY24–25 web usage report shared.

Workplace Culture & HR:

- Investments in professional development and staff wellness underway in response to recent personnel challenges.

6. Policy Agenda Approval (8:06 PM)

The Board unanimously approved five policy areas proposed by the Policy & Oversight Division for public review and development:

1. Officer Trauma
2. Misuse of Government Funds
3. RPD Affiliations
4. Body-Worn Camera Manual Rewrite
5. Prisoner Transport

Motion: Made by L. Tecleab and seconded by L. Knox**Outcome:** Unanimous approval (7-0)**7–9. Reports & Old Business (8:06 PM)**

- **Chair Report:** None
- **Committee Reports:** None
- **Old Business:** None

10. New Business (8:08 PM)

Yvonne Wilson emphasized the importance of community engagement and attendance at PAB events, stressing that progress requires public participation. The board reiterated its commitment to transparency and community partnership.

11. Executive Session (8:10 PM)

- The Board entered executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

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- Motion moved by L. Knox to enter executive session, seconded by Y. Wilson. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

12. Adjournment (8:58 PM)

- No votes were taken during the session.
- Motion moved by L. Knox to adjourn the meeting, seconded by L. Tecleab. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.