

Police Accountability Board - Regular Board Meeting**Date:** July 2, 2026**Time:** 6:00 PM**Location:** 30 Church Street, Rochester, NY**Livestreamed on:** YouTube and WXXI

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Police Accountability Board Meeting Minutes**Date:** July 2, 2026**Start Time:** 6:03 PM**End Time:** 7:32 PM**Attendees**

- **Board Members:**
 - William G. Clark
 - Lwam Tecleab
 - Arlene Brown
 - Yvonne Wilson
 - Rev. Keith Patterson
 - Larry Knox
 - A.J. Durwin
 - Catherine Thomas
- **Absent/Excused:**
 - None
- **Staff:**
 - Dr. Lesli C. Myers-Small, Executive Director
 - Brittaney Wells, Deputy Executive Director
 - Kevin Rambold, General Counsel
 - Delores Ivey-Paige, Operations Director
 - Dr. Ashley Campbell, Interim Director/Policy and Oversight
 - Hojin Choi, Senior Staff Attorney
- **Absent/Excused:**
 - Leslie Green, Executive Assistant
- **ASL Interpreters:**
 - Jim Brown (SLC)
 - Shannon Tracy (SLC)

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I. Call to Order & Welcome (6:03 PM)

Board Member Clark called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m., conducted the roll call, and invited Board members to introduce themselves. A quorum was established. Board Member Clark also announced a modification to the meeting agenda, moving the election of officers later in the meeting to allow additional time for a Board member to arrive.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes (6:03 PM)

The Board reviewed the minutes from the June 18, 2026 meeting. Arlene Brown moved to approve the minutes, and Lwam Tecleab seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Executive Director's Report (6:05 PM)

Dr. Myers-Small presented the Executive Director's Report, highlighting the Police Accountability Board's activities and accomplishments during June 2026. Key updates included:

- The June report theme, “Strengthening Oversight Through Leadership, Partnership, and Innovation,” reflected the agency's continued focus on advancing accountability through collaboration, policy development, and community engagement.
- The PAB received 12 new complaints through its online portal, email, walk-ins, and the hotline. Staff also participated in 12 community engagement activities, reaching nearly 1,000 community members through neighborhood meetings, presentations, outreach events, presentations, and strategic partnership meetings.
- The South and Northeast district community meetings were highlighted as significant opportunities for public engagement. Residents asked questions regarding the PAB’s current authority, the complaint process, accessibility, youth engagement, and the future of civilian oversight in Rochester.
- The Policy and Oversight Division advanced seven recommendations related to police surveillance and privacy. Chief Smith formally responded to four recommendations, with responses to the remaining three anticipated later in July.
- Chief Smith agreed to several transparency measures involving privacy impact assessments, including an assessment template, work related to body-worn cameras and digital evidence management, and publication on the open data portal when assessments are completed.

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- Dr. Myers-Small reported positive discussions with the Chief regarding future collaboration, data transparency, and access to complaint data for policy analysis.
- The PAB continued its work to establish the New York State Civilian Oversight Consortium, including collecting survey responses from oversight agencies across the state. Dr. Myers-Small also announced that she had been invited to serve on the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) Existential Threat Working Group, which supports oversight agencies facing significant legislative or judicial challenges to their authority. She noted that New York City was one known participating agency and that additional details would be shared as it becomes available.

Board Discussion

Board members discussed Chief Smith's response to the PAB's policy recommendations and the status of complaints referred by the Rochester Police Department's Professional Standards Section (PSS). Dr. Myers-Small reported that while the PAB continues to receive complaints directly from community members, referrals from PSS have remained minimal, averaging zero to one complaint per month. Board members observed that many community members continue to view the PAB as their preferred avenue for submitting complaints.

Board members also discussed ways to improve public access to information regarding the PAB's policy recommendations, including the development of a webpage or public tracking tool displaying recommendations, agency responses, implementation progress, and completion status.

Finally, Board members emphasized the importance of providing clear, accessible educational materials explaining Privacy Impact Assessments and the significance of the PAB's surveillance and privacy recommendations to the public.

IV. Nomination and Election of Board Officers (6:24 PM)

With all Board members present, Board Member Clark returned to the agenda item regarding the election of Board officers. He noted that, pursuant to the Rochester City Charter, the Board is required to elect a Chair and Vice Chair following July 1 each year.

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Board Member Clark expressed his appreciation to the Board and staff for their support during his tenure as Chair and shared that, due to his professional commitments, he would not seek another term.

Board Member Clark nominated A.J. Durwin for the position of Chair. There being no additional nominations, nominations were closed, and A.J. Durwin was elected Chair by unanimous vote.

Lwam Tecleab was nominated to continue serving as Vice Chair. There being no additional nominations, nominations were closed, and Lwam Tecleab was unanimously elected to serve another term as Vice Chair.

Board Member Clark congratulated Chair Durwin and Vice Chair Tecleab on their elections and formally transferred leadership of the meeting to Chair Durwin.

V. Departmental Updates / Reports (6:28 PM)**Legal Division**

Kevin Rambold, General Counsel, reported that the Legal Division continues working to ensure that all complaints received during the previous fiscal year have been transmitted to the Rochester Police Department (RPD).

He also reported that staff is developing an audit process to track and report the disposition of complaints referred to RPD. He noted that this reporting is required by the Rochester City Charter and supports the PAB's commitment to accountability and transparency.

Mr. Rambold provided an update on the PAB's appeal, stating that the legal team continues to work closely with outside counsel to ensure timely filings and that all relevant legal arguments are fully addressed. He reported that the filing remains on schedule for the July 8, 2026 deadline and may be completed ahead of schedule.

Mr. Rambold further advised that the Legal Division stands ready to support the Board's Legislative Affairs Committee, established at the previous Board meeting, as it begins its work.

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He also discussed the PAB's efforts to restore access to RPD's SharePoint system and other complaint-related data, documents, evidence, and videos. He explained that access to these materials remains important for fulfilling the PAB's Charter responsibilities related to policy review and analysis and stated that the agency is pursuing restoration of access through collaborative discussions with the Rochester Police Department.

Board Discussion

Board members discussed the agency's efforts to restore access to complaint-related data. Dr. Myers-Small reported that City Council is aware of the issue and remains supportive of efforts to identify a resolution. She noted that the immediate next step is to continue discussions with Chief Smith before providing an update to City Council. No additional legislative updates were reported. Staff encouraged Board members to continue supporting legislative efforts by engaging with community partners and policymakers.

Public Affairs & Community Engagement (PACE) Division

Brittaney Wells, Deputy Executive Director, presented the Public Affairs & Community Engagement (PACE) Division report and congratulated the newly elected Chair and Vice Chair.

Ms. Wells reported that during June, the PACE Division continued expanding community outreach and increasing public awareness of the PAB. Staff participated in 12 community engagement activities, reaching approximately 929 community members through outreach events, presentations, and community partnerships.

Highlighted events included the 19th Ward Square Fair, 100 Men of Faith, the Juneteenth Festival, and the launch of bi-weekly community outreach walks in partnership with the Urban League of Rochester in the North Clinton and North Goodman neighborhoods. These events provided opportunities to educate residents about the PAB, strengthen community partnerships, and hear residents' perspectives on public safety and police accountability.

Ms. Wells also highlighted Board Member Community Updates held in the Northeast and South Districts, led by Board Members Larry Knox and Yvonne Wilson. She noted the strong attendance at the South District meeting and

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encouraged residents to visit the PAB website and follow the agency on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn for information about upcoming events and engagement opportunities.

Board Discussion

Board Member Knox requested that Board members receive advance notice of community outreach walks and public events to encourage greater participation by district representatives.

Board Member Wilson recommended that the PAB Alliance be included in future outreach notifications and engagement opportunities to strengthen coordination with the agency's community engagement efforts.

Board Member Brown suggested increasing the frequency of Board Member Community Updates from once annually to twice each year, noting that more frequent opportunities for residents to engage directly with Board members would further strengthen community relationships and public awareness of the PAB.

Operations Division

Delores Ivey-Paige, Director of Operations, presented the Operations Division update, highlighting the agency's continued investment in professional development.

During June, staff participated in 12 training sessions, representing 35 staff participations. For Fiscal Year 2025–2026, staff completed 38 training sessions, totaling 305 staff participations. Ms. Ivey-Paige also reported that the Board's annual training and retreat was held on June 29, with six Board members in attendance, and thanked those members for their participation.

Looking ahead to Fiscal Year 2026–2027, Ms. Ivey-Paige shared that staff training metrics will be incorporated into a dashboard to improve tracking and reporting. She highlighted several recent professional development opportunities, including training on evidence-based approaches to artificial intelligence (AI), a human resources briefing, leading within a multigenerational workforce, and participation in a Monroe County Language Access Coalition meeting.

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Board Discussion

In response to a question from Chair Durwin, staff explained that the AI-related training was coordinated by the Policy & Oversight Division and that additional information would be shared at a future meeting.

Vice Chair Tecleab asked about the progress of the office renovation. Ms. Ivey-Paige reported that construction is expected to be completed in September, with delays attributed to the installation of an ADA lift. She also noted that furniture has been ordered, a walkthrough of the space has been completed, and planning meetings regarding the new office continue.

Policy & Oversight Division

Dr. Ashley Campbell, Interim Director of Policy & Oversight, presented the division's report and congratulated the newly elected Chair and Vice Chair.

Dr. Campbell reported that the division recently launched a research initiative entitled "What's the Story?" The project is designed to strengthen the agency's ability to collect, interpret, and analyze information from multiple sources, including complaint data, observations gathered through staff activities, and physical and digital materials reviewed by the agency. She noted that the initial debrief session was successful and that the project will continue with a focus on Rochester Police Department patrol beats.

Dr. Campbell also announced plans to host an internal screening of "Let's Be Clear," a documentary produced by Measures for Justice. The screening is intended to support informed discussions about criminal justice data and its relevance to the agency's policy work. Dr. Myers-Small added that the film will initially be viewed by staff and Board members, with the long-term goal of expanding the discussion to the broader community.

Finally, Dr. Campbell reported that the division is planning a future training focused on the use of artificial intelligence in policing.

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Board Discussion

Board Member Wilson emphasized that effective community engagement should involve meaningful dialogue with residents and the PAB Alliance rather than passive observation. Dr. Campbell agreed and noted the importance of establishing a consistent process and shared understanding before engaging the public on complex policy issues.

Chair Durwin identified several topics for potential future policy review, including the Rochester Police Department's use of artificial intelligence, the application of AI in analyzing surveillance data, the reliability of drug-detection dogs, and the role of canine alerts in establishing probable cause for searches.

Chair Durwin also referenced Measures for Justice data related to the Rochester Police Department, noting potential discrepancies between reported use-of-force incidents and calls for service during a previous reporting period. The Board agreed that the issue warrants further review.

Board Member Knox provided a brief update on civilian oversight developments in Syracuse. Staff reported that the PAB has reached out to Syracuse's oversight agency on multiple occasions to offer support and request a meeting but has not yet received a response.

Vice Chair Tecleab requested additional information at a future meeting regarding how the Policy & Oversight Division will prioritize its policy agenda in light of the agency's current staffing levels.

VI. Chairperson's Report (7:02 PM)

Newly elected Chair Durwin thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve and outlined several priorities.

- Chair Durwin identified restoration of data access as a major priority, noting that the PAB retains Charter authority to access RPD data and evidence notwithstanding the Locust Club litigation decisions.
- Chair Durwin also emphasized restoration of PAB powers, particularly the ability to investigate and hold officers accountable for misconduct, whether through appeal, legislation, or other available avenues.

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- Additional priorities included building stronger bridges with the PAB Alliance and the community, increasing community engagement and teamwork, and
- Expanding the agency's capacity to perform policy, pattern, practice, and procedure work. The agency is currently focused on policy-related work due to legal limitations and that the Board would benefit from expanded capacity to address the volume of potential issues identified by the community and Board members.

VII. Committee Reports (7:05 PM)**Legislative Affairs Committee**

Chair Durwin and Board Members Brown and Knox provided an update on the newly established Legislative Affairs Committee. As the committee has not yet convened, there was no formal report.

Board members discussed the importance of scheduling the committee's inaugural meeting, inviting participation from the PAB Alliance, and developing a strategic legislative action plan. The discussion also focused on building community and institutional support for legislative initiatives, including opportunities that may arise during a special legislative session or at the start of the next legislative session.

Training Committee

Board members Clark and Knox reported that there were no updates from the Training Committee at this time.

Youth & Community Engagement Committee

Vice Chair Tecleab and Board Member Wilson encouraged Board members to continue participating in summer outreach and community engagement events. They framed the invitation as a friendly challenge to build upon the Board's existing community presence and visibility.

The committee also discussed the importance of measuring the quality of community engagement, including distinguishing between active and passive

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participation, and using that information to identify potential geographic and demographic gaps in outreach efforts.

Board members requested advance notice of community events to allow both Board members and the PAB Alliance sufficient time to participate and present a coordinated community presence

VII. Old Business (7:10 PM)

There was no old business for this discussion.

VIII. New Business (7:11 PM)

There was no new business for this discussion.

IX. Executive Session (7:11 PM)

Board Member Knox moved to enter Executive Session to discuss litigation strategy. The motion was seconded by Board Member Wilson and carried unanimously.

No action was taken, and no votes were cast during Executive Session.

X. Meeting Close (7:32 PM)

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 2026, in Council Chambers, Rochester City Hall, 30 Church Street, 3rd Floor, Rochester, New York.

Regular Board meetings are livestreamed on the Rochester City Council YouTube Channel and City 12 Cable Channel. Meetings are rebroadcast on City 12 the following Saturday at 6:30 p.m.