

Police Accountability Board - Regular Board Meeting**Date:** May 1, 2025**Time:** 6:00 PM**Location:** 245 E. Main Street, Rochester, NY**Livestreamed on:** YouTube
(youtube.com/rochesterpab)**Police Accountability Board Meeting Minutes****Date:** May 1, 2025**Start Time:** 6:04 PM**End Time:** 8:22 PM**Attendees**

- **Board Members:** Lawrence Knox (Chair), William Clark, Rev. Keith Patterson, Arlene Brown, Lwam Tecleab, Yvonne Wilson
- **Absent/Excused:** Rabbi Drorah Setel (Vice Chair)
- **Staff:** Dr. Lesli C. Myers-Small (Executive Director), Brittaney Wells (Director of Public Affairs and Community Engagement), Brianna Milon (Communications Manager), Victoria Harmon (Secretary to the PAB), Sandra Simon (Interim Director, PAB)
- **ASL Interpreters:** Madison Baldwin, Jim Brown

Meeting Agenda and Minutes**1. Welcome & Introductions (6:04 PM)**

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

2. Approval of Prior Minutes (6:06 PM)

- **April 3 Minutes:** Motion was made by A. Brown to approve the minutes, seconded by L. Tecleab. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Staff Reports (6:06 PM)

The Executive Director delivered a report focused on the April 2025 Locust Club II court decision, which curtailed the PAB's investigative and disciplinary authority.

The decision invalidated the PAB's ability to:

- Investigate allegations of police misconduct
- Impose or recommend discipline
- Issue subpoenas
- Conduct disciplinary hearings

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(youtube.com/rochesterpab)**Internal Compliance Measures Implemented:**

- **Website Audit:** All language referencing prohibited investigative authority was either removed or revised for legal accuracy.
- **New Complaint Confirmation Letter:** Implemented to clearly communicate to complainants the board's revised scope and limitations.
- **Suspension of Investigative Activities:** All panel reviews and hearings concerning officer conduct were immediately halted. Investigative activities such as interviews, evidence collection, and the use of case templates were discontinued.
- **Document & Report Revision:** Templates and publications are being revised to focus solely on the board's permitted policy review and oversight functions.
- **Internal Staff Training:** Conducted training for staff on distinguishing between allowed and prohibited activities post-ruling.
- **Public Communications Update:** FAQs, phone scripts, and all public-facing materials are being rewritten to reflect the board's limited scope.

Legal Consultation:

- The PAB is consulting with legal counsel to:
 - Explore the feasibility of appealing the court ruling.
 - Consider requesting a legal stay to delay the enforcement of restrictions.

Ongoing Duties of the PAB Under New Limitations:

Though no longer authorized to investigate, the PAB will:

- Accept complaints (without investigative follow-up).
- Monitor systemic patterns in RPD conduct.
- Review and evaluate policies and procedures.
- Issue oversight and policy-focused reports.
- Advocate legislatively for restoration of full oversight authority.

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(youtube.com/rochesterpab)**4. Chair Report (6:11 PM)**

- Acknowledged board members and staff for resilience before and after the court's ruling.
- Noted that 75% of voters approved the creation of the PAB and described the Locust Club's legal challenge as a direct challenge to the will of Rochester's residents.
- Called for state-level appeals and coalition building with:
 - City Council
 - Mayor's Office
 - Community allies
- Reaffirmed the PAB's commitment to police oversight despite legal setbacks.
- Noted potential for appeal and further legal consultation in executive session following the public meeting.

Board Members Comments:

- **Arlene Brown:**
 - Thanked staff for rapid compliance measures.
 - Emphasized the need for community trust and understanding of board's goals.
 - Clarified the board is not anti-police; the goal is mutual reimagining of safety.
 - Reassured the community that their voice remains central.
- **Yvonne Wilson:**
 - Urged public to contact elected officials to advocate for the PAB's powers.
 - Reiterated the board's legitimacy through a democratic vote.
- **William Clark:**
 - Criticized the old oversight system for its lack of transparency and secrecy around misconduct findings.
 - Cited this as the primary reason citizens overwhelmingly voted to establish the PAB.
 - Promised to fight for the restoration of the PAB's powers.

5. Committee Reports (6:19 PM) - None**6. Old Business (6:19 PM) - None****7. New Business (6:19 PM) - None**

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- Motion moved by Y. Wilson to enter executive session, seconded by W. Clark.
Motion carried unanimously.
- **Purpose:**
 - To discuss the implications of the Locust Club II ruling.
 - To seek legal advice on next steps, including potential litigation or legislative strategies.
 - Evaluate how best to restore the board's charter-based powers in collaboration with legal counsel.
- No votes taken during the executive session.

9. Adjournment (8:22 PM)**Next Meeting:** June 5, 2025, at 6:00 PM