



Oversight Investigation: RPD Discipline

Scope of Investigation

The Police Accountability Board seeks to review and assess the policies, procedures, patterns, and practices related to discipline of sworn members of the Rochester Police Department. The Policy and Oversight Division will analyze RPD general orders and the collective bargaining agreement between the City of Rochester and the Rochester Police Locust Club.

Investigation Background

In 2020, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo issued Executive Order 203 on “Police Reform and Reinvention,” which required every local government to create a plan to address disproportionate policing of communities of color. The city of Rochester used community input to create the plan. In a virtual town hall in February 2021, city residents were asked whether New York State should amend labor laws to allow the city to negotiate a contract with the Locust Club from scratch. At that time, 87% of respondents said that it was somewhat or very important for the state to allow the city of Rochester to negotiate a fresh contract with the Locust Club. In response to this message from the community, the Police Accountability Board will evaluate the sections of the Locust Club contract that outline the discipline of officers.

Involved RPD Divisions

1. Professional Standards Section
2. Administration Bureau

Relevant Policymaking RPD Staff

1. Chief David Smith
2. Representative(s) from Administration Bureau at negotiations
3. RPD Officers Representing the Rochester Police Locust Club at negotiations

Policies, Practices, Procedures, and Laws

1. Collective bargaining agreement between the City of Rochester and the Rochester Police Locust Club
2. RPD General Order 301: Discipline
3. RPD General Order 305: Command Discipline
4. June 2020 repeal of Section 50-a of the New York State Civil Service Law
5. Rochester Police Department Discipline Database
6. Article 18 of the Charter of the City of Rochester