

Police Accountability Board - Regular Board Meeting**Date:** September 4, 2025**Time:** 6:00 PM**Location:** 245 E. Main Street, Rochester, NY**Livestreamed on:** YouTube
(youtube.com/rochesterpab)**Police Accountability Board Meeting Minutes****Date:** September 4, 2025**Start Time:** 6:06 PM**End Time:** 8:21 PM**Attendees**

- **Board Members:**
 - William Clark (Chair)
 - Lwam Tecleab (Vice Chair)
 - Lawrence Knox
 - Rev. Keith Patterson
 - Yvonne Wilson
 - Arlene Brown
- **Absent/Excused:** A.J. Durwin
- **Staff:**
 - Dr. Lesli C. Myers-Small, Executive Director
 - Brittaney Wells, Director of Public Affairs and Community Engagement
 - Victoria Harmon, Secretary to the PAB
 - Kevin Stewart, Community Engagement Specialist
 - Delores Ivey-Paige, Director of Operations
- **ASL Interpreters:** Madisen Baldwin, James Brown

1. Welcome & Introductions (6:05 PM)

- Chair Clark called the meeting to order and requested introductions. Board members and the Executive Director introduced themselves.
- Thanked interpreters for their service.
- Acknowledged staff as the PAB's most valued resource, praising their heavy lifting and role in accountability and transparency.
- Expressed support for staff affected by union negotiations.

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(youtube.com/rochesterpab)**2. Approval of Prior Minutes (6:09 PM)**

- **August 7, 2025:** Motion was made by Arlene Brown to approve the minutes, seconded by Rev. Keith Patterson. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Executive Director's Report (7:02 PM)

- **Community Engagement & Public Input:**
 - **911 Call-to-Arrival Survey:**
 - Launched on the PAB's website (rocpab.org).
 - Nearly 80 responses received so far.
 - The Executive Director and Sofia Lopez Cartagena (Bilingual Data Analyst) conducted an interview with Spectrum News about the survey and response time disparities.
 - Board members and public encouraged to share survey widely.
 - **Community Listening Sessions scheduled:**
 - September 10 – Frederick Douglass Art Center (6–8 PM).
 - October 14 – Ibero Community Resource Room (6–8 PM).
 - Purpose: gather community stories, feedback, and recommendations; and to foster transparency and trust.
 - **Youth Engagement:**
 - PAB presentations scheduled for secondary schools and St. John Fisher University.
 - Goal: educate youth on their rights and oversight role in public safety.
 - **Participation in the Statewide & External Engagement:**
 - **September 15 – NYCLU Statewide Panel:**
 - Focus: Panel discussion featuring legal experts, reporters and advocates to discuss the fight to advance police transparency and accountability in New York, five years after the repeal of 50-a.
 - **September 30 – NYS Civilian Oversight Consortium hosted by the PAB:**
 - Participation of 8 oversight agencies statewide.

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- Keynote speaker to be finalized.
 - Goal: to collaboratively draft a governance structure for the consortium and establish a working group focused on deliverables such as a shared legislative agenda and best practices.
- **Board Transition:**
 - Bid farewell to Rabbi Setel, recognizing her outstanding courage, compassion, and dedicated service to both the board and the community.
 - Extended a warm welcome to AJ Durwin, an attorney and former staff member who has joined the board and will be present at the next board meeting.
- **Staff Development:**
 - Staff Undoing Racism Training (a 3-day program) scheduled for staff.
 - Ongoing workspace improvements at 57 St. Paul office; move expected by the end of this year or the beginning of next year.
- **Legal Update:**
 - Reiterated that the April 2025 court ruling revoked the PAB's authority to independently investigate complaints, however, the PAB remains empowered to:
 - Conduct policy-level oversight.
 - Lead transparency initiatives.
 - Engage actively in community outreach.
 - Publish proposals for change.
 - Advance accountability through data.
- **Website and Public Visibility:**
 - Increased website and social media traffic, especially during survey launches and public forums.
 - Recent and upcoming press coverage has focused on listening sessions and community forums, reinforcing our visibility, presence, and accessibility to the public.
- **Discussion: Meeting Venue Change:**
 - PAB to begin holding board meetings in City Council chambers for better technology/streaming quality through WXXI.

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- Concerns were raised about perception of independence if meetings are held at City Hall.
- Agreement to trial the move, reassess based on community feedback after one year.
- **PAB Community Survey Presentation (Kevin Stewart):**
 - **Key Findings**
 - 66% believe Rochester is not doing enough for police accountability.
 - 52% have direct proximity to perceived police misconduct.
 - 68% support PAB having disciplinary authority.
 - 75% support public release of investigative reports.
 - 71% are unfamiliar with the PAB complaint process.
 - 40%+ are interested in attending PAB events but need more information.
 - 17% hesitate to file complaints due to fear of retaliation.
 - **Action Plan Initiatives**
 - Advancing Accountability & Transparency through Strategic Engagement and Operational Transparency
 - Reengage the Police Accountability Board Alliance (PABA).
 - Share survey findings with elected officials and policymakers.
 - Demonstrate consistent impact across all departments.
 - Strengthening Public Trust Strategic Engagement
 - Expand community engagement efforts.
 - Engage external stakeholders with a unified message.
 - Bridging the Knowledge Gap in Complaint Reporting
 - Refine and streamline the iSight complaint portal.
 - Integrate complaint process education into public presentations.
 - Increase community engagement focused on complaint awareness.
 - Expanding Equity in Engagement
 - Build deeper relationships through on-the-ground presence.
 - Improve accessibility with translated and simplified materials.
 - Use targeted media to reach underserved populations.
 - Partner with schools and youth organizations.
 - Activating Community Curiosity into Civic Engagement
 - Use a district-based approach for events and partnerships.

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- Clearly communicate PAB mission, work, and impact to the public.
- Building Trust & Safe Access to Oversight
 - Emphasize anonymous reporting in outreach and social campaigns.
 - Provide support resources for complainants.

4. Chair Report (6:30 PM)

- Board members received a comprehensive package, both in print and via email, containing required board trainings, standard operating procedures (SOPs), and board responsibilities.
- All board members must complete annual trainings to remain compliant with the Police Accountability Board charter; a complete list of trainings is available through the board secretary.
- SOPs outline expectations regarding code of conduct, onboarding, continuing education, and conflict of interest disclosures.
- Conflict of interest disclosure statements and other required documents must be submitted before October's board meeting. Board members may reuse last year's form if no changes, but must confirm.
- Youth and community engagement activities are being scheduled across primary, secondary, and post-secondary schools.

5. Committee Reports (6:55 PM)

- **Training Committee:**
 - The committee chair and vice-chair are coordinating with the executive director to ensure board members are enrolled in all required trainings.
- **Youth and Community Committee:**
 - Youth engagement activities are being scheduled across various schools, as mentioned earlier in executive director's report.
 - Vice-Chair Tecleab will be meeting with Brittaney bi-monthly.

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(youtube.com/rochesterpab)**6. Old Business (6:56 PM)**

- Board members and staff attended the regional NACOLE (National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement) conference in San Francisco.
- Topics included the role AI in accountability, the use drones in policing, and community engagement strategies.
- Staff shared their learning and networking experiences with the board.

7. New Business (7:05 PM) - None**8. Executive Session (7:05 PM)**

- Motion moved by William Clark to enter executive session, seconded by Lawrence Knox. Motion carried unanimously.
- No votes taken during the executive session.

9. Adjournment (8:21 PM)

- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Rev. Keith Patterson and seconded by Yvonne Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting: October 2, 2025, at 6:00 PM