

2015 Annual Report of the Duluth Citizen Review Board

July 27, 2016

A note: In the midst of our other work, we neglected to complete this annual report of 2015 in a timely manner.

In 2015, the Duluth Citizen Review Board (DCRB) has worked to solidify its procedures in serving as a stronger bridge between the Duluth Police Department (DPD) and community. As events around the nation continue to highlight the tensions between police and community members, this work on the part of both the DCRB and the DPD is extremely valuable to the city.

Complaints

- The Policy Review Committee worked with the DPD to create a new policy and procedure for both the intake of complaints and the process of investigation – centralizing investigations within administration so that one person is accountable for ensuring that all complaints are investigated – rather than spreading out the responsibility.
- Members of the Executive Committee also worked with the DPD to review a closed complaint because we were asked to follow-up on it by a family that felt a lack of resolution. This work is ongoing.

Hiring

- Duluth Citizen Review Board members again served on panels for the Oral Exam in the hiring process for new officer candidates. We were pleased to see that some of the recommendations which we had provided in 2014 had made an impact on how the panels were carried out and how community members were integrated into the process.

Outreach

- Lt. Laura Marquardt presented on the use of Body Cameras by the Duluth Police Department and facilitated a discussion about their use as a community forum at our March 2015 meeting.
- We wrote an Opinion article for the Duluth Budgeteer in July to explain the role of the Duluth Citizen Review Board. This article received both some positive feedback as well as some concerns. It allowed for us to follow up on those concerns.
- Hosted community form on the 6 pillars of 21st Century Policing on June 24 in the Central Hillside.
- Attended Duluth Indigenous Commission and shared updates on our work with the police department – and asked for their input.

The mission of the Duluth Citizen Review Board is to promote positive relationships, trust and communication with our community and Police Department

- Worked with the Human Rights Commission to host a meeting in December of 2015. The gathering included stakeholders looking at the role of School Resource Officers within the school system and how it relates to the concept of the school to prison pipeline and if there is need for changes in policies by the Duluth Public Schools, the Duluth Police Department or the St. Louis County Attorney's Office.
- We began work on a "Know Your Rights and Responsibilities" leaflet that can be shared with citizens and that they can keep in their wallet with bulleted points to help citizens know principles of what they can do to keep both themselves and officers safe in interactions with the police. The document drew on resources from the ACLU, the NAACP, and the National Black Police Association and with advice from the Duluth Police Department.

Training & Education for the Board

The board has continued to undergo learning both about the community and the police.

- The board worked with the DPD to create an expectation for the report from the Police Liaison that explains what complaints have come in and their status, what significant trends the DPD is seeing related to crime and work within the city, and community outreach efforts the DPD is undertaking and the DCRB can help to promote.
- Members of the Mounted Patrol explained their role within the DPD to the board.
- City Attorney Gunnar Johnson presented on Open Meeting and Data Practices laws which legislation concerning our work as a Citizen Review Board.
- Lt. Marquardt provided training on the use of Body Cameras.
- Ona Filliopovich, who is a mental health social worker from St. Louis county and is embedded with the DPD, presented about her work with the Department's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) to address issues related to mental health as it affects policing.

Transition

- Katy Eagle stepped off the board in 2015. We are grateful for her years of service. Michelle Pederson who was appointed to the board realized that the level of commitment was not something that fit in her life at this point. We appreciate her consideration of service.
- Deputy Chief Ann Clancey retired in 2015. The board wishes to express its gratitude for her openness to collaborate with the board to help the DCRB meet its mission. She was replaced by Nick Lukovsky as Deputy Chief.
- We met with both outgoing Mayor Don Ness and incoming Mayor Emily Larson to discuss our needs as a city board and to hear vision from city administration about what they would like us to focus on. We also discussed the two vacancies on our board and the need to appoint two new people.

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Board Structure

We wish to thank our officers for 2015: Doug Bowen-Bailey, President; Joan McNamara, Vice-President; and Patty Behning Oakes, Recording Secretary. Because we have two vacancies on the board, we waited to elect new officers until the board is full and the new members have an opportunity to give input.

Our secretary by ordinance is the Duluth Human Rights Officer, Bob Grytdahl. We additionally wish to thank him for his support.

If you have any further questions regarding the work of the Duluth Citizen Review Board, you can contact:

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