

# 2016-17 Annual Report of the Duluth Citizen Review Board

September 27, 2017

In 2016 and the first half of 2017, 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.

## Policy Input

- The Policy Review Committee continued work 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. The DPD discovered that it had two policies in its system covering the same process and so had to merge them. This created a delay into implementing the new policy, but the committee has continued to make suggestions for improvement and offered technical resources for ensuring the policy is consistent with best practices.
- CRB members participated in the DPD’s strategic planning process which led to the development of a new DPD mission statement: “To provide a safe Duluth for all by strengthening relationships and serving in a respectful, caring and selfless manner.”

## Complaints

- Members of the Executive Committee 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. After meeting separately with the family and the DPD and other agencies involved in the situation, the CRB members were able to bring the family and the DPD leadership together in a meeting that led to a resolution whereby the family feels comfortable reaching out to the police if they are again in need of services.
- We have worked with a number of individuals and families to bring complaints forward to be investigated, including both directing people to the appropriate channels for filing a complaint, as well as meeting with people and representatives from the DPD to support them through the process of bringing their story forward.
- Monthly meetings (with the exception of July) continue to provide opportunities for citizens to share their concerns with the board and the DPD representatives in attendance at the meeting. This time can also lead to people filing formal complaints that are investigated.

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## Hiring

- The Duluth Citizen Review Board provided input during the hiring process for the position of Chief of Police, including a meeting with Mayor Larson and then Deputy Chief Tusken before she offered him the position.

## Outreach

- CRB members participated in a community forum on policing at Denfeld High School in July 2016 to respond to national events and how we are prepared locally to address those issues.
- We created 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 & Outreach

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

- Two members of the board went through training with Lt. Bob Shene on the implementation on new firearms that use less than lethal firearms which are used in crisis situations to disarm a suspect with less risk of a death. The board then helped explain to community members how this option helped to fill a significant gap in the department’s use of force continuum.
- We presented about the Citizen Review Board as part of the Duluth Police Department’s Citizen Academy – explaining our role.

## Transition

- We continued to serve the past year with only 5 board members. We are glad that new members have been appointed. The board is working on preparing the training for new board members so they will be ready to fully participate in the work of the board.
- Joan McNamara’s term ended in March of 2017 (though she was not informed of this until August.) We thank her for her service and all the expertise and insight that she contributed to the work of the CRB.
- Doug Bowen-Bailey and Patricia Behning Oakes will both be ending their second three-year term in March of 2018, so the board is beginning transition planning to ensure continuity in the work of the board.
- Chief Mike Tusken assumed the leadership of the Duluth Police Department and selected Laura Marquardt to serve as administrative Deputy Chief and Nick Lukovsky as Deputy Chief for patrol. Mike Ceynowa has been serving as the administrative lt. and is our liaison.
- Our secretary by ordinance is the Duluth Human Rights Officer. Bob Grytdahl retired from this position in 2016 and we welcomed Carl Crawford into this position. We thank them both for their service.
- In 2017, the board has felt some frustration at the time it has taken for two new members to be appointed. Additionally, we have felt at times that the

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city and the Duluth Police Department do very little to highlight the presence and function of the board. We hope that in partnership with the board, the City and police department can raise the profile of the CRB so that its role in building trust between community and police can be expanded.

### **Board Structure**

We wish to thank those who have served as member of the CRB from 2016-17: Doug Bowen-Bailey, President; Joan McNamara, Vice-President; and Patty Behning Oakes, Recording Secretary, Archie Davis and Renee Van Nett.

### **New members**

New members for the board were appointed in the summer of 2017: Cherise Payton, Kenneth Kimber, and Sara Vaccarella. We look forward to bringing them on board and including them in this important work.

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

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