

DULUTH CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MEETING: June 26th – 5:30pm

Present board members: President Eric Franklin, Blair Powless, Leah Hansen Bobbie Underthun, Todd Maas, Melissa DeRosier-Holshouser

Others in attendance: Chief of Police Mike Ceynowa, Deputy Chief Ryan Morris, Lieutenant Steve Ring, Human Rights Office representative – Laura Laaksonen, Citizen Kathleen Spencer, Citizen Betty Green, Reporter John Ramos – Duluth Monitor

1. **Call to Order and introductions:** 1732hrs everyone went around the room and introduced themselves.
2. **Nominations:** President Franklin nominated Blair Powless to be Vice Chair – 2nd by Leah Hansen – approved.
President Frankin explained the role of the Recording Secretary to the new board members – Bobbie Underthun said she would be interested in the position. President Frankline nominated Underthun – 2nd by Melissa DeRosier-Holshouser – approved.
3. **Public Comment:** Betty Green welcomed the new board members and thanked them for their service.
4. **February 2024 meeting minutes:** approved – unknown where or if there are March 2024 minutes.
5. **Police Liaison Report:**
 - Lt. Ring: CRB fully staffed – welcomed new members and thanked all for service. Lt. Ring will continue to email reports to CRB via the Human Rights office prior to CRB meetings. This time it was three months of documents because CRB hasn't met since March.
 - Info sent will include summary of all complaints/compliments for the month, and crime data reports which track crime trends.
 - New this year, drone reports – training is not documented / officers are FAA licensed drone pilots / plan is to try and have a drone pilot on all shifts.
 - Went over the Mobile Field Force staging for Grandma's Marathon – NO MFF equipment was used, however officers that were staged did make an arrest of someone that was interfering with spectators and participants.
 - The hiring process is underway – conditional offers are out to 15 people – 3 of which are lateral from out of state – if they make it to the final offer stage and pass all the requirements looking at 3rd or 4th week in August for starting.
 - Started the year at 145 officers which is about 14 short of what they are budgeted for – at the end of the year with retirements/medical retirements/transfers they expect to be about 24 down – that's not including the conditional offers they have out right now.
 - The new contract was just signed – giving officers a significant pay raise to bring them into a better position to attract quality applicants and compete with like-size departments.

- The department does not have a shortage of CSO applicants – they are a great asset to the department and are recruited to apply for the department after they are done with schooling.
- 30/30 initiative is in the process of being implemented – which is 30% of the department is to be female officers by 2030 to create more diversity and shows an inclusive and welcoming environment.
- Discussion was had about discipline and coaching vs. formal.
- Complaint documents and their breakdown are produced by Lt. Ring and Sgt. McClure and crime analysts. Vice Chair Powless asked if the crime analysis could be broken down in a way to better understand what we are looking at.
- Chief Ceynowa stated the annual reports and PDF crime data are available on the city website and information is broken down into crime vs. society, crime vs. person and crime vs. property.
- Very close to having live crime mapping back available on the website.

6. **Complaint Audit:** President Franklin will reach out to former President via the City to get more information on this. Tabled for now until we have more/better information.

7. **Other Business:**

- Lt. Ring explained the facilitated dialogue program/process. This would be offered to someone who has filed a complaint that was maybe satisfied with the process of the complaint, but not the outcome. It is not a blanket offering, would not be appropriate in all cases. Both the complainant and the officer at the focus of the complaint would sit down with a third party trained facilitator (not a member of DPD) and have a discussion so both parties can see both sides of things and hopefully come to an understanding. Both the complainant and the officer would be there on their own free will and not required to participate.

8. **Announcements and Community Correspondence:**

- Summer events: – Every week - Get Hooked on Fishing takes kids in the community fishing to build positive and lasting relationships between youth and officers. This program just received an \$8,000 donation from the Larry and Donna Pulkrabek Foundation which will continue to help fund the program.
- Thursday, August 1st Operation K9 at Wessman Arena in Superior 4:30 – 8pm – see K9 teams in action and many other emergency vehicles – all welcome
- Thursday, August 1st at Wade Stadium – 6pm - Field of Dreams charity baseball game benefiting the Northern Lights Foundation. Military, first responders and all kids get in FREE – fun-filled community event featuring police and fire displays, food, raffles and a ball game.
- Tuesday, August 6th – National Night Out – 5pm-9pm – Officers will be out in force trying to attend all neighborhood block parties.
- Wednesday, August 14th – Kids, Cops & Cars at Bayfront Park – 11am – 2pm – Lots of police vehicles, and K9 teams around, games, treats and lots of positive interactions with kids and families.

9. **Additional Public Comment:** Citizen Betty Green inquired about inviting the new City Attorney to a meeting to discuss open meeting laws and ways CRB can communicate with each other and ways it cannot.

10. **Board Member Comments and Questions:**

- Board member Maas expanded on opening meeting laws and talked about open record requests and asked if the board could get a city issued email for board correspondence. President Franklin will inquire about this.
- Councilor Tara Swenson is the public safety chair and occasionally will come to meetings.

11. **Adjourn:**1830