

DULUTH CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MEETING: August 28th, 2024 Call to Order: 1735

Present board members: President Franklin, Bobbie Underthun, Todd Maas, Leah Hansen

Others in attendance: Lieutenant Steve Ring, Human Rights Office representative – Laura Laaksonen, Citizen Betty Greene

1. **Call to Order and introductions:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm.

2. **Public comments:** None.

3. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve – Underthun. Hansen – seconded.

4. **Police Liaison Report:**

- Discussion brought forth by Board Member Hansen about subjective language. Determining what is “rude” when speaking about a complainant. Lt. Ring explains that if staff are being subjected to name calling, etc. that the call can be disconnected.
- President Franklin asks for clarification on a speeding complaint that was “not sustained”. Lt. Ring advised that if officers are authorized to drive with lights and over speed limits to respond to calls, they can. Pres. Franklin asks if there is anything that clocks officers’ speeds. Lt. Ring advised they can go back and look at relative speed. Pres. Franklin asks if the complainant was interviewed – Lt. Ring advised they were and there is no way to bypass or deactivate the precise system recording. Pres. Franklin requested we come back to this complaint in the future. Lt. Ring will follow up on it, and advised the entire policy on driving is on the DPD website.
- Pres. Franklin brings up complaint 24c0-60 asked for clarifications on acronyms – BWC = body worn camera. Lt. Ring explains that the BWC didn’t match the report and the report was amended. This was because the officer perceived the situation differently. The officer could then be told to review BWC to make sure perceptions match. Used as a learning opportunity. Hansen asks if there is merit to having new officers first write a recollected report then BWC report and have that as part of the learning process? Lt. Ring advised that’s not how they are currently doing it. They review everything, write reports and say they reviewed BWC.
- Pres. Franklin asked from incident to report writing – what is the timeline – hours after? Days? Lt. Ring says it varies – if someone is in custody, they have to get the reports done right away. Discussion of professional standards took place – police are held to a standard that they get it accurate.
- Pres. Franklin asked if we could get an actual incident date v date of complaint. Lt. Ring advised we can look into it. Pres. Franklin also asked if there could be a

differentiation between who is complaining public vs internal. Some are confusing. Lt. Ring advised there are times that an internally generated complaint and he is the complainant.

- Discussion had about wanting to see more detail in the IA Pro spreadsheet that is generated. Lt. Ring advised again that a lot of the data is private/confidential – he looks over everything to make sure nothing is askew.
- Lt. Ring on subject of drone reports – finding a ton of success finding people, using for search warrants and keeping people safe. Hansen asked if they were dispatched to Proctor when the little boy went missing – Lt. Ring advised they were on the way.
- Discussions about post-Priley Circle encampment disbandment. Are there ripple effects? There is a belief out there that these ordinances came about to clear out any political action. Lt. Ring states we put an end to an unsafe environment. 180 calls for service, fights, urination, etc. Some removed unhoused got new camping equipment and went to a different spot, in a more scattered about Duluth fashion. When we clear out encampments, some are in the public eye and some aren't – it's not something they are criminalizing and the city provides a compassionate response, it gives the city tools to provide.
- Pres. Franklin brings up an incident on 6/19/24 where a man was arrested – mom of man arrested is worried about the handling. Mom was told she could look at the BWC footage. Lt. Ring advised he has tried to reach out to that person multiple times. Pres. Franklin advised that person doesn't feel comfortable to be there by herself. Lt. Ring stated the officers acted with a tremendous amount of patience and professionalism. Pres. Franklin says there needs to be closure, maybe the facilitated dialogue program could help here. Hopefully the end result is a better resolution and understanding. Human Rights – Laura – thinks the mother also contacted her office – Laura gathers the night was traumatic for her and there are a lot of people who call and when they see the BWC they get to see the facts.
- National Night Out was a success.
- Kids, Cops & Cars was a success – we tried to have a helicopter there but it went to a rescue.
- Nine new officers started Monday (8/26) and onboarding four CSOs – in this environment of hiring, we are holding our own. We get many local from FDLTCC. With every hiring we make gains. 3 lateral transfers from other agencies. Hansen asked what steps are taken at DPD to make sure there is no previous baggage. Lt. Ring advised there are personal visits to see records/personnel file and a background check. Another hiring process begins in November.

5. **Other Business:**

A). **Complaint Audit**

- Lt. Ring advised us to be cautious about this being an annual audit. Intake when complaint comes in it stays and is not purged. Discussion to having this last audit was years in the making. Hansen suggested looping in UMD Criminology? Lt. Ring advised the most valuable way would be people trained by CRB & DPD. Hansen then discussed having a double-blind study and only one person having a list of names. Lt. Ring advised once a complaint is generated it lands in the IA Pro system. Pres. Frankling suggests going back to the drawing board on some level

B) **Board Retreat:**

- Pres Franklin requests date gets narrowed down – Laura will send out ASAP

6. **Announcements and Community Correspondence:**

- Betty asked what role DC Morris is – Lt. Ring advised Deputy Chief
- Pres. Franklin asked for contact info for who works with the unhoused. Lt. Ring advised CORE TEAM = mental health side and Life Safety – works within the FD and deals with encampments.

7. **Additional Public Comments**

- NONE

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

- Hansen thanked everyone for being patient.

9. **Adjourn:** Pres Frankllin motion – Underthun 2nd – Adjourned 7:00pm

*Minutes taken by Underthun during meeting - 07/24/2024
Typed by DeRosier-Holshouser - 07/25/2024