

DULUTH CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The monthly Citizen Review Board meeting was held Tuesday, June 24, 2025. The following people were present:

Eric Franklin	President
Marsha Lue	Human Rights Officer
Todd Maas	Board Member
Mel Holshouser-Derosier	Board Member
Bobbie Underthun	Board Member/Recorder
Chief Ceynowa	Duluth Police Department
Lt. Steve Ring	Duluth Police Department
Betty Greene	Citizen
Kathleen Spencer	Citizen

1. Call to Order and introductions: The meeting was called to order at 1730 p.m. by President Franklin.

2. Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2025 meeting was made by board member Maas, and seconded by board member Holshouser-Derosier.

3. Public Comments:

* Citizen Greene had a question re: 25CO-53 (citizen complaint about officer refusing to ID self). Citizen Greene asked how common it is for an officer not to activate their body worn camera for interactions? Lt. Ring stated the officer was walking back to their vehicle, so the camera did not get activated. Citizen Greene stated more details would be helpful. President Franklin asked if there was a DPD policy as to when the camera would be deactivated? It was stated, the citizen within the complaint is pro-community with the police department, and this person tries to help with bridging gap between the public and policing. This citizen felt a different approach could have been taken. There was not enough evidence to support the accuracy. President Franklin asked, where is the line to deactivate the camera? Lt. Ring stated, it is very common to deactivate when the officer walks back to the vehicle. Cameras capture 30 seconds of video, but no audio, and run on a loop. When the camera does become active, then audio is added in.

* Citizen Green also asked about 25CO-48 (citizen complaint about an officer racial profiling). Citizen Greene stated the racial profiling is not addressed in the complaint, and therefore feels incomplete. Lt. Ring stated the body worn camera was reviewed, vehicle description matched the call. The person in the vehicle was hostile from the start of interaction, and was live streaming. The officer disengaged in the interaction, there were no racial undertones. President Franklin asked how long the interaction was. Lt. Ring stated, there were less than 5 minutes of dialogue, and this was not the person that was being looked for. The officer acted professionally, identified themselves, and the person in the car was hostile.

When the complaint investigator spoke with the person in the vehicle, it was learned this person was a former CSO.

4. Police Liaison Report: Lt. Ring mentioned the department is in the midst of their hiring process and are letting people apply early. There are a number of recruitment strategies being used, such as:

- trap shooting with high school students. Several current officers were there with their kids too.
- Grandma's Marathon check ins
- number of CSO has increased to 15 in an effort to keep them close to the department, and this is proving successful.

Board member Maas asked about the current FTO, and how many out on their own yet? As you recall from May

* 3 new officers were hired for the off season.

* One was a lateral hire from Burnsville, MN, and is doing well at training.

Lt. Ring stated the thought process is around training, and a lot of psychoanalytic work is done before putting people on a certain crew. This allows the officer a better chance at success.

President Franklin asked if there were any updates with the encampments? Chief Ceynowa stated, these fall under Life Safety now. The fire department is also looking at hiring 2 unhoused coordinators. There have not been many complaints, and as long as the encampments don't become too large, then the department can work around them. Panhandling remains an issue.

5. Other Business: none

6. Announcements and Community Correspondence: The board was made aware that Blair Powless, the board's vice president, had decided to step down. It was also mentioned that board member Chenoa Williams had also resigned from the review board. Board member Holshouser-Derosier nominated board member Maas to be the new vice president. Board member Underthun seconded the motion. It was decided to table this and take a vote at the July 22, 2025 meeting.

A moment of silence was taken to recognize representative Emerita Melissa Hortman, and her husband John, who were fatally shot. Senator John Hoffman, and his wife Yvette, were also shot in a related attack but were expected to survive. President Franklin stated, this seemed weird and not Minnesotan. Disagreements happen in politics, but be kind. Lt. Ring stated there was a police conference, as people did not know this happened, but lives were saved, and no officers were harmed by planning ahead.

7. Additional Public Comments: Citizen Spencer stated she felt creeped out by the planes flying over loudly in preparation for the upcoming air show.

8. Board Member Questions: Citizen Greene asked if there was a process with recruiting people to these boards, or if it was done by mayoral appointment? Human Rights Officer Lue stated she is working on this. We can ask people who are interested in local government, and invite people to meetings

9. Adjourn: A motion to adjourn the meeting at 1818 p.m. by President Franklin, and seconded by board member Holshouser-Derosier.