

DULUTH CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The monthly Citizen Review Board meeting was held Tuesday, July 22, 2025. The following people were present:

Marsha Lue	Human Rights Officer
Todd Maas	Board Member
Leah Hansen	Board Member
Mel Holshouser-Derosier	Board Member
Bobbie Underthun	Board Member/Recorder
Lt. Steve Ring	Duluth Police Department
Lt. Joel Olejnicak	Duluth Police Department (taking over for Lt. Ring)
Betty Greene	Citizen
Kathleen Spencer	Citizen

1. Call to Order and introductions: The meeting was called to order at 1732 PM by board member Maas.

2. Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2025 meeting was made by board member Holshouser-Derosier, and seconded by board member Hansen.

3. Public Comments:

* Citizen Greene wanted to note the incorrect spelling of her name in the notes under public comments, second paragraph, first sentence from June. The “e” had been left off her last name in error, spelled correctly in the remaining minutes.

4. Police Liaison Report

* Board member Hansen noticed several complaints involved racial profiling. She asked how we decide if the incidents are racially charged? Also asked what the process is for finding this, and if the DPD is reviewing something that we may not see?

* Lt. Ring reported that some complaints received indicate the complainant felt treated differently based on race. The complaints that involve use of force, and racial profiling were heavily investigated. This month’s investigations did not present a pattern or connectivity.

* Board member Hansen asked if the process is different based on an all “white” panel -vs- a “blended” panel?

* Lt. Ring reported this is currently no panel in place. The department does their best to investigate all complaints seriously, and hold accountability. There is special care given here.

* Board member Maas stated, there is assumption that every complaint is confidential, and investigated thoroughly.

* Lt. Ring reported complaints received over time contain some of the same names, but there can be mental health issues involved with multiple allegations. The department has to look at each complaint individually.

* Lt. Ring noted background interviews for the new hires are happening. All but one is moving forward, and they are now in psychological testing.

* Lt. Ring reported he has been in his current position for 3 years, would like to end career in patrol. He notes that Lt. Olejnicak taught the use of force training for CRB members, and brings a lot to the table with his knowledge and experience.

* Lt. Olejnicak introduced himself. He currently holds 26 years of experience with DPD, noting half of his career was on patrol and the other half working in professional standards training. He is currently the director of the program at Fond-du-Lac, and notes the classes are full. He reports they are pushing students to a Spring semester start. He reports he is somewhat familiar with the Citizen Review Board, and has a good understand of how it works. His business card was given to each person in attendance, and he said he is always willing to have discussions on use of force.

* Board member Maas asked how summer events went?

* Lt. Ring reported Fourth Fest needed all hands-on deck, and went well. Hairball concert was a little more wild. The Trampled By Turtles concert had a different crowd. Tall Ships Festival was good with only one medical emergency involving trips/falls. Reggae Fest was a good crowd.

*Upcoming events: National Night Out: 8/5/25 from 5-9 pm.

Kids, Cops, and Cars: 8/13/25 from 11-2 pm at Bayfront Park

Operation K-9: 8/14/25 from 4:30-8:00 pm at Wessman Arena

Charity Softball event: 8/21/25 at 5:00 pm Wade Stadium

PRIDE Festival: 8/30/25 11:00-7:00 pm Bayfront Park

5. Other Business: none

6. Announcements and Community Correspondence: none.

7. Additional Public Comments: Citizen Spencer provided the definition of “Semite” and reported this is really against anything that is against this group of people. Noted those in attendance can look it up and do their own research.

8. Board Member Questions: Lt. Olejnicak teaches his class on Tuesdays so the board is aware for the purpose of future meeting dates.

9. Adjourn: A motion to adjourn the meeting by board member Holshouser-DeRosier, and seconded by board member Underthun. Regrettably, this recorder failed to note the time of adjournment.