



MINUTES OF A QUARTERLY MEETING

APPROVED

CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW BOARD

DATE: Wednesday, December 17, 2025

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

PLACE: Urbana City Council Chambers
Urbana City Building
400 South Vine Street
Urbana, Illinois 61801

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tony Allegretti, Chair; Peggy Patten; Renae Nicholson; Jane McClintock; Melissa Stratton

ABSENT: Katrina Kindle

ALSO PRESENT: Carla Boyd, Human Rights and Equity Officer
Tom Unzicker, Human Rights Specialist

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Tony Allegretti called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. The Recording Secretary took roll and a quorum was present.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Allegretti asked if there were any changes or additions to the minutes. There were none and the Board approved the agenda by acclamation.

C. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

1. Jane McClintock

Ms. McClintock introduced herself as having been born in Urbana and having lived most of her life here. She expressed her excitement and hopes the Board brings awareness to the public and understanding between the Police Department and community.

2. Melissa Stratton

Ms. Stratton also conveyed her excitement and happiness to be part of the Board. She wanted to be more involved in the community and feels the CPRB is an important part of the community.

Mr. Allegretti welcomed the new members to the Board. He suggested a review of the governing ordinance of the Board, as well as the procedures manual.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes of October 22, 2025

Mr. Allegretti asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes of the October meeting. Renee Nicholson pointed to a line in the draft that indicated Katrina Kindle seconding a motion, but Ms. Kindle had not attended. Ms. Nicholson, in fact, had seconded the motion. With the correction noted, the Board approved October's amended minutes by affirmation.

E. PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. TASER Use Review

Mr. Allegretti introduced Deputy Chief Police Mike Cervantes and Lieutenant Cortez Gardner.

Lt. Gardner further introduced himself. He is the new liaison from UPD to the Board. The lieutenant had been among the first six officers in the department to carry a TASER beginning in 2015. Since then, he has become the instructor in charge. Over the years, he himself has been tased three times.

Lt. Gardner then presented a video of an incident involving a TASER discharge from February 2021. He reported on the two types of TASERS displayed in the video. The department later discontinued use of the X2 version. TASER 7 remains in use today, preferred because of its effectiveness, especially through clothing. During the event, the discharge occurred from the X2; the police displayed TASER 7 but did not discharge it.

Discussion occurred between the Board members and Lt. Gardner and Deputy Chief Cervantes about the video and the circumstances leading up to the TASER discharge:

- Peggy Patten emphasized the perspective she gained viewing hours of video inside the portal, which showed multiple angles of de-escalation efforts tried prior to the discharge
- Ms. Patten hopes for an increase in the number of specialized personnel trained to respond to mental health concerns
- Ms. McClintock raised questions about the role and response of police at the hospital while waiting for the hospital's staff to begin to assess and respond to the situation
- Lt. Gardner mentioned that the incident took place during the time of Covid
- Mr. Allegretti voiced his concern about how much in advance an announcement warning, "TASER", happens. He believes a consistent, early warning must occur to more fully invite compliance and to protect the City from potential liability.
- Ms. Stratton spoke about how the person subject to being tased might already feel fear after their release from a mental health facility
- Ms. McClintock expressed her view that the announcement of a second TASER when displayed turned out to be more effective than the one fired. She emphasized the need for the "TASER" announcement to gain compliance, as well as to not shoot a fellow officer.

Deputy Chief Cervantes provided some background on TASER training and usage, particularly for the new members of the Board:

- Officers strive for "time and distance" during situations, which serves to provide safety
- The officer needed to act quickly in the case shown as the aggressive individual was actively a threat to others without available time or distance
- Officers must make decisions "in the moment" based on "the totality of circumstances"
- Sometimes just a display of a TASER is effective, but when someone is actively attacking someone else, officers must respond quickly

- Officers strive to de-escalate tense situations and there are examples on video of such efforts that sometimes take a long time
- The Board will benefit as Lt. Gardner takes on the role of liaison because of his experience as the Trainer in the usage of TASERS for UPD

Additional discussion touched on other topics concerning TASERS usage, tactics and procedures:

- Lt. Gardner explained how officers follow through when they realize a TASER has not made effective contact
- Mr. Allegretti expressed interest in having more discussions at future CPRB meetings
- Ms. McClintock wants to ensure all Board Members have easy access to the TASER policies for review
- Ms. Patten thanked the liaisons for their presentation and the opportunity for the Board and public to review TASER discharges, as well as the data UPD shares about TASER displays

2. 2026 Schedule of CPRB Meetings – Review

The Board reviewed the schedule of meetings, which occur bi-monthly during even-numbered months, on the third Wednesday, at 5:30 p.m., with a planned adjustment each December for the holidays. The Board agreed to maintain the current schedule by a voice vote.

3. Annual Report

The skeleton draft of a report in the portal covers the years since the last report in 2019. Mr. Allegretti cautioned Members to avoid messages using the live draft document. Communicate with only one other member at a time to comply with the Open Meetings Act.

Ms. Boyd encouraged each Member to download the document, add comments, and then forward your updated document to her. She then merges all comments into the original draft.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Draft Ordinance on Surveillance Technology Before the City Council

Mr. Allegretti explained that he helped draft an amendment currently under consideration by City Council. Part of any change could potentially see CPRB taking on an added role involving technology used by the Police Department:

- Mr. Allegretti made comparison to CPRB's role in the review of TASER usage
- He welcomes the use of this venue for public comment both as the amendment undergoes consideration and if it passes
- Ms. Stratton, Ms. Nicholson, and Ms. McClintock verbalized their support for the draft and the additional responsibility the Board could potentially add to its mission
- Ms. Patten noted the Board currently hears appeals of complaints; hearing complaints would require a change to the ordinance.
- Ms. Boyd explained the draft as written gives all city surveillance from every department to CPRB, not only surveillance using technology the police use. Additionally, she cautioned that a significant change to the Board's workload should receive thorough consideration.

Since a vote on the CBRB's views had not been on this meeting's agenda, further discussion led Board Members to plan to summarize its views about the ordinance amendment at the next meeting. Then a vote on a statement to send to City Council could occur. Individual members might send a draft statement to the office to add to the Member packet prior to the next meeting.

H. OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. Boyd shared her monthly report. Highlights included:

- Status of complaints
- No new Freedom of Information requests
- She attended the 2025 "NAACP Freedom Fund" event on Saturday, October 25, 2025. Chief Boone, of the Urbana Police Department, received special recognition.
- She volunteered to ring the bell of the Salvation Army at the Urbana Walmart on Monday, December 15th. She and her ringing partner, Deputy Chief Mikalik, braved frigid temperatures for more than an hour.
- Board Member McClintock volunteered to meet after the holidays to review the CPRB Portal and work to update it
- She invited everyone to attend the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration event at the Krannert Center on Sunday, January 18, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Board Follow Up:

- Ms. McClintock asked for flyers to promote the MLK event, and Ms. Boyd promised to provide them when she receives them
- Mr. Allegretti clarified that there are no pending appeals

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. This Board has one vacancy.
2. Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.
3. Ms. Patten reported on the ongoing meetings of the Alternative Response Task Force, conducted by the consultant, Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP). Their next meeting is Thursday, January 29, 2026, from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. at the Independent Media Center (IMC) in Urbana.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Allegretti thanked everyone and wished everyone happy holidays as he called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Nicholson so moved. Ms. McClintock seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas D. Unzicker

Recording Secretary