

CITIZENS' REVIEW BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

August 1, 2013 through August 1, 2014

History of the Board, Charge, Meetings and Attendance

The Citizens' Review Board came into existence in September, 1997. The Board reviews appeals from the outcome of citizen complaints to the Police Department concerning use of force, unbecoming conduct, arrest, and search and seizure involving a sworn police officer. In addition, the disposition of the review of any discharge of a firearm by an officer, which results in the death or injury of a person, may be appealed to the Board. The Board also serves in an advisory role to the Chief of Police, the City Manager, and the City Council. It is charged with making periodic reports to the Chief of Police, the City Manager, the City Council and the Community Relations Committee. The Board typically meets on the second and/or fourth Tuesday of the month when appeals are received. The Board has had seven meetings during this reporting year.

Current Membership

Currently, the 11 Board members are Mr. Alan Adler, Mr. Jason Baker, Mr. Lance Berger, Ms. Victoria Corwin, Mr. Clarence Darnell, Ms. Sandra Donaghy, Ms. Thereasa Halsey, Ms. Robbie Harrison, Mr. Harvey Katowitz (Vice-Chair), Ms. Carolyn Millen, and Mr. Gregory West (Chair). Ms. Brigit Taylor resigned in May 2014 and Mr. Darnell was appointed to take her place in July 2014. All members met the attendance requirement for the year just ended.

Board Activity for this Period

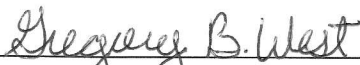
With input from the community, Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department, members of the Citizens' Review Board and the Charlotte Community Relations Committee, the governing ordinance of the Citizens' Review Board was amended by City Council on November 25, 2013. The amended ordinance provides that the Board hold hearings within forty-five (45) calendar days of a request from a citizen complainant. The initial hearings and the evidentiary fact-finding proceedings must be conducted pursuant to new Section 16-60 of the ordinance. The amended ordinance provides that the Board may hold additional evidentiary fact-finding proceedings upon a finding by a majority of Board members present that there is substantial evidence of error regarding the disposition of the disciplinary charges entered by the Chief of Police.

During this reporting period, the board considered three appeals, each in accordance with the amended ordinance. No evidentiary fact-finding proceedings were conducted during this reporting period. In each of the three appeals, the Board determined at the initial hearing that there was not substantial evidence of error regarding the disposition of the charges entered by the Chief.

Pursuant to Section 16-64 of the amended ordinance, the Board has been in discussions with the Charlotte Community Relations Committee regarding a communications/public relations policy in order to promote the Board's visibility and provide more educational information through the City's website. A plan will be reviewed in mid-August 2014. In addition, the Board also considered and amended their Rules and Procedures to incorporate the changes made to the governing ordinance as well as the new Code of Ethics for Board and Committee Members adopted by City Council on October 28, 2013.

Recommendations to Council

At the time of this report, the Board has no recommendations for City Council.



Gregory West
Chairman

cc: Chief Rodney Monroe
Ron Carlee, City Manager
Community Relations Committee