



Civilian Review Panel
Action Minutes (Approved for Distribution)
(full audio recording of meeting available on Town website)
May 12, 2022 Meeting

Minutes of the Town of Westport Civilian Review Panel was held on Thursday, May 12, 2022 in the Town Hall Auditorium, Westport Town Hall, 110 Myrtle Avenue, Westport, Ct.

In attendance: Panel Members Harold Bailey (Chair), Andrea Moore, Candace Savin, Mike Guthman (late arrival), Teri Fabi; Additional attendees Deputy Police Chief David Farrell and Deputy Police Chief David Wolf, EMS Deputy Director Marc Hartog, Assistant Town Attorney Eileen Flug and members of the public.

Meeting called to order at 9:10 a.m. by the Chair.

Minutes of April 28, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved.

- 1) Public Commentary on Non-agenda Items – no action taken.
- 2) The panel unanimously voted to elect Harold Bailey as Chair.
- 3) Response from Atty. Flug re: Whether CRP members can ask questions during complaint investigation interviews
 - E. Flug stated that it would be legal for members of this panel to actively participate in such investigations. T.Fabi raised the issue of a conflict of interest in proceeding in that manner; that is, how can the CRP conduct an objective review of an investigation in which they themselves have participated. E. Flug stated that while the panel may put the issue to a vote, she believes that it would be preferable for the CRP members to not speak during investigations.
- 4) Review/Discussion of Brief description of the CRP's involvement in the Complaint review process (for website)
 - Version of the "What We Do" text jointly agreed by M. Guthman, E. Flug and D. Farrell. Unanimously approved by Panel for addition to the CRP website. As part of the discussion, A. Moore suggested as the current Police Civilian Complaint Form be linked to the CRP website. M. Guthman suggested development and review of a CRP Civilian Complaint Form. Panel agreed to review potential CRP Complaint Form at next meeting.
- 5) Research by H. Bailey on CRP Training Session by Elliot Spector:
 - The session is six hours in length (possibly to be followed by a second six-hour session). It must be conducted in person. It may not be recorded. Funding through the Office of the First Selectwoman's Office has been approved.
 - Dates to be considered for the week of June 22. H. Bailey will solicit availability via Doodle.

The Civilian Review Panel went into Executive Session for discussion concerning the performance of a public officer as follows:

- 6) Review Civilian Complaint Incident file number 2021-018809, regarding Officer Edward Batlin dated December 20, 2021

Following Executive Session:

- 7) The Civilian Review Panel Resolved that the CRP has reviewed Civilian Complaint Incident file number 2021-018809 with Deputy Chief Farrell and found the process to be in accord with departmental processes and completed in a timely manner; the investigation to be thorough and exhaustive; and the outcome to be fair and appropriate. We await the decision of the Chief of Police on final resolution. Upon a motion by Andrea Moore, seconded by Candice Savin, the resolution was adopted unanimously.
- 8) Planning and Discussion – No further discussion.
- 9) Adjournment- The panel unanimously voted to adjourn

Submitted by Teri Fabi