

City of Rochester Board of Ethics – December 7, 2021

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm by Board Chair Carl Steinbrenner. This meeting was held via video conference in response to a NYS law passed September 1, 2020 allowing public meetings to be held virtually.

Members present:

Doug Escher
Kevin Graham
James Patterson
Hon. Loretta Scott
Carl Steinbrenner
Timothy Weir

Members Not Present:

Mia Cannon

Non-Members Present:

Patrick Beath, Acting Corporation Counsel

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of Minutes for the November 16, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

Pending Business:

- The board continued its review of complaint C21-2 which alleges conflict of interest violations against members of the Police Accountability Board (PAB) relating to their attendance at a post-election gathering during which “anti-police chants” were captured on video and posted to twitter and facebook accounts.

Acting Corporation Counsel Beath reviewed a memo to the board dated 12/6/2021 which provided legal guidance on referring this complaint to the proper oversight body. The board agreed that since the complaint did not relate to any provision of the City’s Code of Ethics and did not allege any violations of the New York General Municipal Law, the complaint should be referred to the Rochester City Council, which is the appointing authority for the Police Accountability Members (PAB) identified in the complaint and to

the PAB which is the appointing authority for the PAB Executive Director. The board in attendance unanimously voted to not accept this complaint for consideration and to make the appropriate referral to City Council and the PAB. The Chair also requested that Secretary Weir notify the complainant of the board's decision regarding this matter.

The board also discussed the need to revise the City's Code of Ethics and agreed to establish a subcommittee to begin focusing on this effort in January 2022. Secretary Weir will canvass the board for volunteers interested in participating in this project.

Chair Steinbrenner recognized board member Hon. Loretta Scott for her years of service on the board noting this would be her final meeting before retiring from City service at year end.

New Business: None

Adjournment:

- The Chair's motion to adjourn at 6:55 pm was unanimously approved.

Next Scheduled Meeting: January 11, 2022; 6:30pm
Via Video Conference