Richmond CIVILIAN Review BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 21, 2026, 6:30 P.M. City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room

Members Present
Angela Fontain, Chair, virtually
Shawn Singleton, Co-Chair
David Poole
Jannie Hawkins, Secretary
Rafaella Sale
Evan Feinman, virtually
Alicia Brown

Others Present
Joseph Lowery, Civilian Review Board Manager
Jon Bridges, Director, Richmond Police Department
Dr. William Pelfrey

Public Attendance
One (1) citizen attended in person
One (1) citizen attended virtually

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:30 PM.

Approval of Agenda
The Chair called for any additions, deletions, or amendments to the agenda. No changes were proposed.
- A motion was made by Rafaella and seconded by Alicia to approve the agenda.
- Action: Motion passed unanimously

Approval of Minutes
The Chair asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the September 16th meeting minutes. No changes were proposed.
- A motion was made by Alicia and seconded by Jannie to approve the minutes.
- Action: Motion passed unanimously.

CRB Manager Report
A. ***New Board member status***
The current applicant has been cleared to serve on the CRB. No conflicts with his previous SCOP position. The applicant must complete the oath and training before participating in Board duties.

B. ***Case Updates***
- The verbal abuse case is tentatively scheduled for 10/22/2026 at 1:00 PM at RPD Headquarters.
- The death-in-custody case that took place at the cemetery is pending. Members will be informed when Doodle Poll sign-up is available.

C. ***Continuing Education***
Richmond CRB is a member of the National Association of Civilian Oversight Law Enforcement. The CRB manager will be sending out optional continuing education webinars for members to participate in. Members are encouraged to participate. The cost will be covered by the CRB budget.

D. ***Annual Report***
The CRB's first-year report will be presented to the Organizational Development Committee on November 2, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the second-floor meeting room at City Hall. Angela will present the report using a PowerPoint presentation. Board members are encouraged to attend.

E. ***Widening CRB Scope***
Discussion of the potential challenges associated with expanding the scope of cases reviewed by the CRB, particularly the difficulty of securing sufficient member participation for case reviews. Potential solutions included offering both morning and afternoon review times, establishing a consistent monthly review schedule, and encouraging all CRB members to participate through a rotating schedule.

Case Review Report
Update on the January 17, 2026, GRTC officer-involved shooting.
The subcommittee, consisting of David, Rafaella, and Jannie, reviewed the incident and agreed with the findings of the Richmond Police Department's Internal Affairs Division.

Although the body-worn camera footage was unclear due to the distance between the officers and the suspect, footage from the GRTC building's security camera and the account of the person who was shot at supported the conclusion that the suspect posed an active threat. The subcommittee agreed that the officers' use of deadly force was justified under the circumstances.

Members also discussed the dark object observed by the officers and whether it was reasonable to believe it was a firearm before officers discharged their firearms. The members agreed with the Internal Affairs Division that, because the suspect had already fired at a person, the officers had reason to believe the suspect was armed and posed an imminent threat. The subcommittee further discussed whether the suspect had fired randomly or directly at the officers. Members concluded that this distinction did not change their assessment that the officers acted in accordance with RPD protocols.

The discussion also emphasized the importance of limiting personal identifying information about victims and suspects in public reports, keeping the focus on the actions and behaviors relevant to the incident.

SOP Subcommittee
Evan provided the update that the SOP recommendations will be available later in the week and that 15-30 minutes should be set aside at the next meeting to discuss the recommendations

Election of Officers
The election will take place at the January 20, 2027, meeting. The Vice Chairperson is expected to assume the role of Chairperson. Members may volunteer for the Vice Chairperson or Secretary positions or submit recommendations to the CRB Manager for consideration. Angela emphasized that members should not feel obligated to continue serving in their current leadership roles if they prefer to step aside.

Public Comment
No comments were offered.

Open Discussion
No further topics were identified

Next Meeting
November 18, 2026, 6:30 pm at the Broad Rock Library

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 PM.