

Public Safety Review Board
Minutes of Meeting
February 15, 2017

Present: Crawford, Crummins, Kinslow, Martino, Palermo, Parrinello, Price
Guest: Mark Fischer
Absent: Aquina, Curry

1. Approval of Minutes The minutes of the meeting of January 17, 2017, were approved.
2. Armed Response Reports: Department of Public Safety Chief Mark Fischer presented four armed response reports completed in February. Summaries of those reports are below:
 - **02/08/17 – Facilities requested a DPS escort to an apartment at Whipple Park to check the apartment for damage after profane and aggressive e-mails from tenant’s husband were received that caused a facilities employee to fear that the individual may be in possession of a gun.**
 - **02/13/17 – DPS responded to Chase Bank/Todd Union for Panic/Hold-up alarm, which is supposed to be activated when there is a robbery in progress. Bank robbers are typically armed. The alarm occurred at approximately 7 p.m. The alarm may have been activated by a vendor employee who was on location accessing the ATM.**
 - **02/14/17 – A DPS officer observed foot prints in the snow outside an open window of an apartment at Whipple Park. The officer believed the footprints could indicate a burglary in progress. No intruder was found in the premises.**
 - **02/14/2017 – DPS responded to the River Campus for report of a student who had just been robbed at gunpoint on the pedestrian bridge. Suspects exited the foot bridge on the River Campus side, on foot and onto campus. RPD also responded. The two suspects were eventually apprehended. A Grad student recovered the gun on campus which was identified as a CO2 pellet pistol.**

There was neither use nor unholstering of any weapon during these incidents.

The PSRB discussed the reports and some members believed that, in all but the last instance, the armed response was not consistent with the approved policy, which requires a report of a weapon or the threat of one in order to justify an armed response. Chief Fischer agreed to re-communicate the policy to armed officers. There was discussion of the possible need to revise the policy to provide for armed response to any bank alarms (which typically indicate a robbery in progress).

Training Failures: There was follow-up discussion of the consequences of an officer failing the firearms training. Chief Fischer explained that a failure requires the officer to re-complete the entire firearm training regimen, although this would not be allowed multiple times. As of the meeting date, three officers had failed firearm training. Only one is planning to go through it again; the others have returned to non-armed duty. NYS and UR standards require 80% proficiency to pass the training course, but all UR DPS officers who have completed the training have generally achieved a proficiency rate in the range of 83% to 98%.

3. Body Cameras There was a discussion of the possibility of obtaining body cameras for armed DPS officers. The question was raised whether body cameras in the hospital create a HIPAA violation. It was pointed out that the taking of photo/video is not a violation; rather, the issue is whether the footage is disclosed to third parties. Chief Fischer described some issues with RPD's experience, including quality of film footage, larger-than-expected demand for storage of video and legal issues delaying release of footage to public. Chief Fischer will continue to benchmark with other institutions having academic medical centers, although preliminary data indicates that body cameras are not widely used in these settings. It was also pointed out that, especially in the medical center, there is currently wide coverage by stationary security cameras, indicating a lesser need for body cameras in that setting.
4. Medical Center incidents: Chief Fischer described two incidents in which weapons found their way into the Operating Room and a Psych unit. Search protocols are being revised to prevent further such incidents.
5. Information distributed: Request was made to distribute to the PSRB (1) outline of Fair and Impartial Policing training provided to DPS officers; and (2) medical center committee's report on the advisability of using metal detectors at the Emergency Department.