

University of Rochester
Public Safety Review Board
Minutes of Meeting
May 16, 2017

Present: Price, Crawford, Kinslow, Parrinello Palermo, Curry, Aquina, Crummins

Absent: Martino

1. Discussion concluded regarding the proposal to add a community member to the PSRB. The PSRB will not recommend adding such a member at this time. Although there had been a suggestion raised at earlier meetings that a community board could be created that would address a broader range of University issues, the PSRB agreed that recommending the creation of such a board is beyond its mission and purview. The consensus is that Chairman Price should report back to President Seligman about the discussion and, in his capacity as a University trustee, may discuss the suggestion for a University-wide community board.
2. Public Safety Chief Mark Fischer presented the issue of armed supervisory response to calls regarding life safety events. There have been recent incidents of calls regarding river campus and Eastman students in distress (e.g. drug overdose) in which an armed supervisor was the closest officer available but could not respond because current policy forbids armed response if there is no weapon involved. The question was asked whether supervisors could stow their weapons before responding and Chief Fischer answered that would not be feasible or appropriate. Chief Fischer recommended amending DPS policy to expressly allow armed supervisors to respond to calls involving imminent threats to health and safety. There followed discussion about the increased risk of firearm use on campus and also the need to weigh that risk against the potential for harm to students from overdoses, suicides, etc. The importance of training was stressed and Chief Fischer explained that supervisors go through the same training as other armed officers; although training will remain a high priority going forward. He also promised to provide the PSRB with information about the background and law enforcement experience of the supervisors at issue. The PSRB agreed to recommend the change in policy as requested.
3. Chief Fischer also reported further on the matter of the Collegetown Garage that was raised at the April meeting. Although the garage was not initially on the URMCM map presented to the Faculty Senate and others, that was in part due to an error in cropping the image for the presentation. It also is the case that, over time, more URMCM offices have moved to Collegetown, and parking in the University's half of the garage is increasingly by staff in those offices – making it essentially part of URMCM property as the SMH garage is. It was recognized that over time, circumstances change and the armed coverage needs to change accordingly. It is impractical for Public Safety to distinguish between parts of the garage from which calls originate (ie., University vs public parking).
4. The PSRB approved a plan to familiarize armed Public Safety officers assigned to URMCM with new buildings on the river campus, such as Wegmans Hall. These officers may be required to respond to an incident on campus and should have some knowledge of the

new structures before a crisis occurs. The plan is to familiarize the officers with the space during the summer, when there is little activity on campus.

5. Chief Fischer updated the PSRB on implementation. That has generally gone well with no significant incidents. An audit of compliance with weapon storage policy is ongoing, with very positive findings.
6. Discussion concluded about body cameras. Overall there was consensus that no recommendation will be made to acquire and implement use of body cameras at this time. The benefits and risks of their use among law enforcement generally are not fully understood and developed. There are substantial cost, storage and confidentiality issues and the benefits are difficult to identify. Especially in the medical center, but also on campus, there are abundant security cameras in operation, which capture many interactions between Public Safety and others; therefore, there is not a clear need for an additional source of video footage. The PSRB will remain open to reviewing the issue and may choose to revisit it periodically in the future as new information becomes available from universities, medical centers/hospitals, and law enforcement agencies generally.