

University of Rochester
Public Safety Review Board
Minutes of Meeting
November 26, 2018

Present: Eldred Chimowitz
Holly Crawford
Rick Crummins
Jamal Holtz (for Beatriz Gil Gonzales)
Tony Kinslow
Elizabeth Palermo
Kathy Parrinello
Francis Price

Absent: Christopher Acquina
Beatriz Gil Gonzales

Guests: Joshua Dubler
Kristin Doughty
Mark Fischer
Richard Feldman

1. Presentation by Mr. Dubler and Ms. Doughty

University of Rochester faculty members Joshua Dubler and Kristin Doughty gave a presentation regarding the recent DPS proposal to add armed officers to posts on the River Campus and at the Eastman School of Music. The presentation, as described in the attached slides presented to the Board, was also previously given to the Faculty Senate.

Following the presentation there were questions for the presenters and a discussion. One PSRB member pointed out that the PSRB has not made a decision and wants to continue receiving data. This will come from the work of an ad hoc committee (see below) and from continuing feedback from meetings including Chief Fischer and various groups. There was general agreement that many feel passionately about this issue from many perspectives, but it is important that all who commit to studying the issue do so objectively and try to put aside their own biases.

The Board briefly discussed next steps, which include primarily the formation of an ad hoc committee of faculty, staff, community member(s) and students to conduct an objective review of the available evidence both for and against the proposal. It is hoped that the ad hoc committee will not be a forum for advocacy but rather a place where the issue and the available evidence for arming or not can be objectively studied and discussed.

There was also discussion about the method by which the proposal had been communicated to the campus community and suggestions made for future communications about this and other issues.

It was noted that in general, staff in Strong Memorial Hospital are very satisfied with the presence of armed officers.

President Feldman is in the process of constituting the ad hoc committee, which is expected to deliver one or more reports to the PSRB well before the end of the Spring semester, and may give interim reports on its progress to the PSRB before then.

2. DPS Update

a). *Firearm Unholstering Updates.* Mr. Fischer described the two incidents of firearm unholsterings since the last meeting.

One involved a disruptive patient at Strong Memorial Hospital. This person, known to have been disruptive and to have had a dangerous weapon in the past, became aggressive toward DPS officers, threatened to kill them, and withdrew an object from his pocket that appeared to be a weapon. Aware of the previous experience with this individual, one of the officers unholstered his firearm. The officer then determined that the object was a pen, and so re-holstered his weapon and took the patient into custody.

The second incident involved a report that a person in the Brooks Crossing parking lot had displayed a weapon to a person waiting in a car for his girlfriend to exit the residence hall. Dispatch officers observed the weapon live via security video. The first armed officer on the scene came from patrol on Mt. Hope Avenue within about 4 minutes. RPD responded 2 minutes later. The individual was arrested and the weapon was seized – and turned out to be a replica firearm.

b). *Request for One-Time Armed Special Event Coverage At Memorial Art Gallery*

Staff at MAG recently requested armed DPS coverage for an event sponsored by the Jewish Federation, in light of the recent violence at the Pittsburgh Tree of Life synagogue. RPD was originally asked for security but promised only “drive by” support. University leadership approved the MAG request.

c). *Increased Requests for Metal Detection at Events*

There has been an increase in requests by performers scheduled to appear at campus venues for there to be metal detectors at entrances screening for weapons. Mr. Fischer said this issue is being studied.

3. Administrative Items

a) *Posting of Minutes of October Meeting*

The PSRB acknowledged that the minutes of the October 2, 2018 meeting had been posted in draft but would be deemed approved if no changes were submitted within the next business day.

b) Posting of Future Minutes

The PSRB agreed to follow a practice reportedly used by the Faculty Senate, to post minutes in draft form subject to approval by the PSRB at the following meeting. This should increase the transparency of the PSRB's activities.