

University of Rochester  
Public Safety Review Board  
Minutes of Meeting  
March 6, 2019

**Present:** Francis Price  
Robert Bones  
Eldred Chimowitz (partial meeting)  
Rick Crummins  
Holly Crawford  
Chris Frigassi  
Tony Kinslow  
Elizabeth Palermo  
Beatriz Gil Gonzalez (partial meeting)

**Absent:** Kathy Parrinello  
Matthew Burns

**Guest:** Alexander Pavlicin (Student Assoc.)  
Jerry Pickering

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1. Administrative Items

The Board welcomed as new members Christopher Frigassi, (URMC medical resident), Robert Bones, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs (ESM) and Matthew Burns, Dean of Students in the College (who was traveling on business and could not attend).

The Board approved the meeting minutes for February 6, 2018.

2. Arming Proposal at Brighton Health Clinic

The Board discussed a proposal (attached) by DPS to add an armed post to the Brighton Health Center (BHC). The BHC is located in leased space on West Henrietta Road and houses several programs of the Department of Psychiatry, including Strong Ties and Strong Recovery. Currently, unarmed officers are stationed inside the building and in the parking lot.

Due to an increasing number of threats of gun violence, seizures of edged weapons, fights, and other events threatening patient and staff safety, staff have reported feeling increasingly unsafe in the BHC environment. Specifically, between September 2016 and December 2018 there have been 220 Mental Hygiene Arrests, 50 confiscated weapons and at least 10 specific threats of violence (e.g. to “shoot the place up.”). Patient volume is increasing, and there are plans for a new pharmacy that will dispense controlled substances, making it a potential criminal target. There was very recently a fistfight in

the parking lot, and Brighton Police took 8 minutes to respond. DPS perceives this as too long to wait when there is an ongoing confrontation between persons who could have weapons.

Medical Center leadership requested DPS to arm the officer assigned to the parking lot vehicle patrol. The parking lot is viewed as being an especially dangerous space. The particular officer assigned to the lot is one who has long worked at the BHC and in whom the staffs have confidence.

Although not present for the meeting, Ms. Parrinello requested a PSRB member to report to the Board that the proposal has full support of Medical Center leadership. One member present observed that the proposal is within the bounds of the original arming program at the Medical Center and is seen as justifiable in ways similar to the original request to arm officers in the Emergency Department because of the volatility of that location.

Another member asked about the possibility of managing with non-firearm methods and for an update on the status of training. Mr. Pickering noted that an aggressive training program continues for DPS officers, including anti-bias training, de-escalation, crisis intervention and emergency response. DPS is now even training officers from other local law enforcement agencies in these areas. Although these efforts have been successful, the primary motive for this proposal is to respond to significant staff concerns about safety.

The Board unanimously recommended to President Feldman that he approve the proposal.

### 3. Ad Hoc Committee Update.

Ms. Crawford provided a summary, on behalf of Mr. Fischer (who could not be present), regarding his meeting with the Public Safety Proposal Advisory Committee (PSPAC) on February 22. He was asked a wide range of questions regarding policy, training, jurisdiction, deployment of officers, use of force in other agencies and on other campuses. At a subcommittee meeting held March 1, DPS Training Captain Brock heard feedback about improving the DPS website to make more visible information about training, and a method for readers to provide comments, complaints or compliments and to complete a survey. Feedback was provided to DPS that the training is very good and should be highlighted on the DPS website.

### 4. DPS Community Engagement.

Ms. Crawford reported that Mr. Fischer attended a “coffee with the Chief” event in Wilson Commons on February 21. It was well attended, by one estimate, by over 200 students. Another event is scheduled for March.

An “intersectional” event sponsored by the student organization *Committee for Political Engagement* was held recently. Several DPS officers attended along with Ms. Crawford. Ms. Crawford noted the event was well organized and had participation from across the institution and the community. There were many questions concerning safety and training that were asked of the officers. Discussion at the meeting also centered about ways to increase interactions between students and DPS officers, which many students perceive as lacking. Students want more of these opportunities, as they help build trust.

Student representatives also went recently to speak to new DPS recruits. This was a very helpful session that enabled lots of conversation and Q&A between students and DPS officers. The new recruits were perceived as very interested in getting to know students and to convey their interest in student safety. This kind of opportunity helps “humanize” DPS for students. This was a well-received event, with students appreciating the opportunity to interact directly with officers in a non-threatening setting. It was noted these types of student activities could be expanded to include ESM students.