

WFP

Working Families Party Hartford City Council

AN OVERVIEW ON WHAT'S MISSING: **On the Mayor's Proposed Changes to the** **Civilian Police review Board** **(City of Hartford)**

1. Extend Citizen Complaints List - (pg. 3 & 4 of Ordinance)

PROBLEM:

- There are other complaints that are NOT listed below that occur frequently.

FIX:

- ADD police dishonesty, police misleading the public & racial profiling (among other items to the list).

Currently list of complaints entails:

- 1) Slow or poor service; 2) Discourteous Attitude; 3) Profane Language; 4) Improper Handling of citizen's property
- 5) False arrest improper detention; 6) Violation of code of conduct; 7) Excessive use of force
- 8) Civil rights violation; 9) Illegal search and seizure; 10) Failure to provide medical attention
- 11) Harassment; 12) Use of racial or ethnic slurs; 13) Crime committed by police; 14) Abuse of authority
- 15) Retaliation for filing a complaint

2. Membership Composition - (pg. 1 & 2 of Ordinance)

- There are 9 Regular Voting Members
- 2 Alternative Voting Members
- Mayor appoints 8 members
- 1 is appointed by the City of Hartford Office of Human Relations
- Mayor will consider recommendations from community orgs soliciting membership appointments

PROBLEM:

- The current process for selecting CPRB members is an internal one.
- The Mayor ultimately decides.

FIX:

- Nomination process should be an open process via citizen nominations and not solely through the Mayor receiving nominations.
- RESTRUCTURE interviews during the selection process so it's made available to the community.

3. Police Chief Designates

- 2 HPD Officers are to act as non-voting members of the CPRB to advise on policies, training and procedures. - (pg. 2 of Ordinance)

PROBLEM:

- Why are policies only known and spoken about between the CPRB and HPD?
- Currently, if a community member wants to see HPD policies they must make a formal request through F.O.I.

FIX:

- HPD Policies should be placed online for the community to see. This was something that was promised by Chief Thody and has yet to be fulfilled.
- Placing HPD policies online eliminates the "need" for HPD to be involved in *advising* the CPRB

4. Process of filling CPRB member vacancies - (pg. 3 of Ordinance)

- It takes 45 Days to fill that vacancy shall a member be removed.

PROBLEM:

- Why so long? In past years, the time frame to fill vacancies has caused a backlog for CPRB members.

FIX:

- Shorten the process to refill a CPRB member vacancy to ensure there is transitional consistency of the CPRB.

5. **Filing Complaints to Community Agencies**
 - Complaints can be filed with a community agency

PROBLEM:

- No one knows where they can file a complaint with a community agency

FIX:

- Information on how to File a complaint with CPRB at a community agency NEEDS to be placed online.
- The HPD pamphlet of “How to File a Complaint” also must indicate where one can file.

6. **Officers Repeatedly Subject of Complaint - (pg. 6 of Ordinance)**

PROBLEM:

- Cases where officers are repeatedly subject to complaint is not public information.

FIX:

- These cases NEED to be made public online; as well as Excessive Use of Force Data needs to be made public.

7. **In the event that HPD Chief accepts CPRB recommendations of sustained cases, Chief will notify changes in writing. - (pg. 6 of Ordinance)**

PROBLEM:

- There is NO time limit as to when the Chief has to notify the CPRB of the reprimands enacted. Thus, reprimands can take a year or more to be carried out.

FIX:

- SET A TIME LIMIT for when the Chief has to notify the CPRB on reprimands as well as enacting the reprimands on the officer(s) at fault.

8. **If the HPD Chief is "NOT OK" with results from CPRB investigations, THEN there is a 3 member panel to make the final call. - (pg. 7 of Ordinance)**

PROBLEM:

- The Chief gets to both select the 3rd member of that panel, as well as be a member of that panel. The qualifications for the panel are set by the Chief, CPRB President and the Hartford Police Union.

FIX:

- Why is the police union deciding a role in this? The police union nor Chief should be able to decide or be a part of this 3 person panel. This should be a community decision.

9. **Policy Change Recommendations - (pg. 7 of Ordinance)**

- CPRB can make policy change recommendations to the Mayor

PROBLEM:

- This does NOT include City Council. Recommendations can only go to the Mayor as of right now. Therefore, the City Council nor the community will know what policy recommendations are expressed by CPRB.

FIX:

- Policy change recommendations NEED to go to *both* the Mayor and to City Council.