

History of the CCRB

The concept of community review of complaints against the police department is not new in Springfield. Attempts to establish a community review process to oversee complaints against the police and use of force incidents began 30 years ago.

In 1995, following issues over the Springfield Police Department investigation of a police shooting, concerned community leaders and members of the Springfield Human Relations Commission conducted a study of civilian review models and presented their report.

In 2006, the SPD was involved in allegations of excessive use of force made by members of the Pastor's Council. At that time, a recommendation was made to implement a civilian review process for complaints of misconduct against officers.

A Community Complaint Review Board, made up of community leaders of integrity and with diverse backgrounds, was created and sworn in on October 10, 2007.

The Purpose

To educate the community about the complaint reporting process.

To help increase trust and confidence in the complaint investigation process.

To empower an independent citizen group to assure the public that complaints against SPD officers are investigated: thoroughly, completely and fairly.

To recommend any policy changes in SPD that promotes fair and humane policing.

Community Compliant Review Board

Denise Jordan

Community Oversight Coordinator

Edgar Alejandro, Chair

Terry Aberdale

Rev. Amos Bailey

Carol Lewis-Caulton

Corrine Durham

Robert Jackson

Atty. Steve Reilly

Miguel Soto

Hector Santos

Locations to Pick Up Citizen Compliment & Complaint Forms

Complaints can be filed on actions by any Police Department Employee

During normal business hours, forms can be obtained at the following locations and filed at the Springfield Police Department:

City Hall: 36 Court Street 413.787.6100

Indian Orchard Citizens Council: 117 Main Street 413.543.3172

New North Citizens Council: 2383 Main Street 413.747.0090

South End Community Center: 507 Main Street 413.732.5105

Springfield Police Dept., IIU: 130 Maple Street #235 413.787.6383

Urban League: 765 State Street 413.739.7211

Springfield Police Department: 130 Pearl Street 413.787.6310

City of Springfield, Massachusetts

Domenic J. Sarno, Mayor



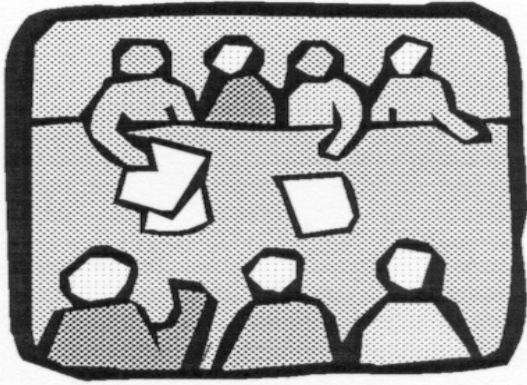
Community Complaint Review Board

Enhancing Community Review
of the Springfield Police Department



Springfield City Hall
36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

Phone: 413.787.6100
Fax: 413.787.6104



Thresholds for cases to be reviewed by the Community Complaint Review Board

The Board has authority to review all civilian complaints involving allegations of improper use-of-force or violations of Departmental rules and regulations where a suspect was physically struck or wrestled to the ground in the process of arrest the board will also review cases where the officers used their baton, pepper spray or their firearm.

Public Outreach and Communication

To help increase public access to the complaint process, the CCRB will make presentations to community groups, schools, community organizations, and religious groups.

The presentations will focus on teaching the public how and when to file a complaint, and familiarize the public with the complaint filing process.

Review Process

The role of the CCRB is to provide professional oversight of Springfield Police Department's Internal Investigation Unit helping to assure the community that all investigations are thorough and fair.

Internal Investigation

Once the complaint is received, it is investigated by the Springfield Police Department's Internal Investigation Unit (IIU). The unit also investigates use of force reports. All reports are reviewed through the standard investigative process.

Pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement contractual requirements, complaint investigations and dispositions must be completed within 90 days.

Complaints where a suspect was physically struck or wrestled to the ground in the process of arrest or cases where the officers used their baton, pepper spray or their firearm will be forwarded to the CCRB for review.

Community Complaint Review Board

- **Role and Activities of CCRB**

The board shall not conduct its own investigations; rather it will review the investigations and recommendations already completed by IIU. This review will focus on the question, "was this investigation complete and balanced?" The members of the board will have the authority to send a case back to IIU for additional investigation and forward to the Police Commissioner a recommendation on the validity of the complaint.

The CCRB recommendations shall be advisory only.

The CCRB must have unfettered access to all investigative files and departmental information pertinent to review of the incident including tapes, transcripts, notes, and witness statements.

- **Timing of Review and Meetings**

Due to the time constraints placed on the process by the 90 day rule, CCRB review groups shall be made up of three (3) board members rotating among the nine (9) members as assigned by the chair. These subgroups will meet as necessary to review new cases.

CCRB must complete all reviews and forward final recommendations to the Police Commissioner within 14 days from the time they receive the investigation reports from IIU.

The membership of the board should be of staggered terms initially to allow for fresh ideas, while maintaining some institutional history about Board activities.

Outcomes and Reporting:

- If the CCRB is unsatisfied with the completeness or accuracy of the IIU investigation, the complaints or use-of-force incidents will be returned to the IIU for additional investigation.

The Board will not recommend discipline. That function remains the responsibility of the Police Commissioner.

On a quarterly basis, all members of the board will meet to review SPD Policy and Procedures, and recommendations for improvements. A quorum for the full Board meeting will be five members.

The CCRB will provide regular, at least annual, public reports on the integrity of the department's complaint and use-of-force investigations.

The CCRB shall not have subpoena power.