



THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR DOMENIC J. SARNO

HOME OF THE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Sarno Announces New Chair of Community Police Hearing Board and First Quarter Report is Released

Springfield, MA- Mayor Domenic J. Sarno announced today that Attorney Hector Zavala has been appointed Chair of the Community Police Hearing Board (CPHB) and a report covering the first quarter of 2016 has been issued to the public.

Mayor Sarno commented, "I am grateful that Attorney Zavala has agreed to assume the role of Chair, and very pleased that we can appoint another distinguished Attorney of the caliber and experience of Hector Zavala. His knowledge and experience as both a prosecutor and a victim witness advocate provides him with a deep understanding of the issues considered by the CPHB and will prove crucial as we embrace the challenges and opportunities we have in front of us."

Attorney Zavala stated, "I'm honored to serve as Chair for the CPHB for the City of Springfield. Being born and raised in Springfield, I feel a strong connection to the city and its citizens, and my service on this board will only make that stronger. The community should know that their voice is present and is being heard when addressing the complaints that this board reviews."

An opening on the CPHB occurred as a result of the former Chair, Attorney George Bourguignon, being appointed to serve on Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) to replace outgoing ZBA Chair Attorney Brenda Doherty. The CPHB is made of a group of citizens appointed by the Mayor with a broad range of experience from throughout the community. These residents review citizens' complaints to help assure the Police Department is fairly and thoroughly investigating all complaints. The CPHB also recommends

to the Police Commissioner, based on the allegations in the complaint, whether disciplinary charges should be issued. Where charges are issued, the CPHB acts as Hearing Officer under Civil Service laws and determines whether just cause exists to impose discipline based on the evidence presented. The Police Commissioner retains authority as appointing Authority under Civil Service laws whether to impose discipline, and what discipline to impose.

A report covering complaints of police misconduct received each year, whether received from citizens or generated internally, has been provided since the CPHB was created by Executive Order of the Mayor in February, 2010. On March 3, 2016, Mayor Sarno announced revisions to the Executive Order, effective April 1, 2016. In order to assist the CPHB by improving the database used to track matters involving citizens' complaints through the Springfield Police Department Crime Analysis Unit and reported to the public through the City Clerk's office and the City's website on a quarterly basis.

A copy of the most recent data available has been posted online at the City's website for the City Clerk's office. The changes are still in the process of being implemented, with CPHB members receiving additional training, and additional reporting information to be uploaded as it becomes available.

The statistics for the first quarter of 2016 shows a total of 16 complaints received for the period from January 1, 2016 through March 31, 2016; 12 from citizens and 4 generated internally. As a result of those complaints, a total of 43 different charges were generated from citizen complaints and 9 charges generated internally. A total of 25 charges from those complaints are still pending, and 27 have been disposed of. One charge was sustained and resulted in a written reprimand. The balance was not sustained.

The current members of the CPHB, in addition to Chair Attorney Zavala include: Robert C. Jackson, Owner of a Security Business; Albert Trangese, Former Labor Union representative and retired Human Resource manager; Pastor Gail Hill, Former Police Officer; Richard Muise, Retired educator and IT consultant; Paul A. Phaneuf, Funeral Director and Business Owner; and Linda Caron, a Property Manager.

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