

Civilian Police Review Board - Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2026 (5-7 PM)

Room 209, Portland City Hall, 389 Congress Street

The September 23, 2026 Civilian Police Review Board meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by CPRB Chair, Joey Brunelle.

Those present at the meeting included CPRB members Walter Biha, TJ Boisclair, Diane Herrmann, Chiara Liberatore (arrival at 5:07 PM), Austin Sims (via Google Meet), non-voting members Joey Brunelle (Chair) and Rachel Schlein (Vice Chair), Corporation Counsel Associate Rachel Millette and Neighborhood Prosecutor Richard Bianculli (Community Liaison). Board members Emily Finley and Ryan Schmitz were absent.

Chair Brunelle asked the board members if they would like to nominate a chair and vice chair of the CPRB after Mr. Brunelle and Ms. Schlein had served their temporary 3-month term as chair and vice chair.

Following discussion, TJ Boisclair nominated Diane Herrmann as Vice Vice Chair. The nomination passed unanimously (4/0, Finley, Liberatore, and Schmitz absent).

Diane Herrmann nominated Rachel Schlein as Vice Chair. The nomination passed unanimously (4/0, Finley, Liberatore, and Schmitz absent).

TJ Boisclair nominated Joey Brunelle as Chair. The nomination passed unanimously (4/0, Finley, Liberatore, and Schmitz absent).

Mr. Boisclair made a motion to approve the September 9, 2026 CPRB Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Ms. Herrmann. The motion passed unanimously (4/0, Finley, Liberatore, and Schmitz absent).

Ms. Liberatore arrived at 5:07 PM.

Chair Joey Brunelle and Vice Chair Schlein presented a review of the draft CPRB Training Procedures. Chair Brunelle indicated that the initial draft had its origins within the Police Citizen Review Subcommittee (PCRS). Vice Chair Schlein presented an overview of required training including public records, meeting laws, civilian oversight concepts, meeting procedure, training provided by police staff, SOPs, and police ride-alongs. Ongoing training is recommended but not required. Record keeping will be used to ensure compliance.

Attorney Millette stressed that any training procedures, including requirements, would have to be approved by the City Council before they can be enforced.

Chair Brunelle also noted that he and Vice Chair Schlein had discussed the tracking of unexcused absences to ensure a quorum for the board.

Ms. Liberatore inquired as to the various Portland Police Department trainings that are offered and those present discussed the availability of a virtual training simulation as well as ride-alongs. Attorney Bianculli mentioned that a Verbal Judo training seminar may also be made available to board members as well as written information regarding deescalation training from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. Mr. Bianculli also noted that it would be beneficial to present a future board members for those present at optional trainings and seminars to bring back materials, including video of a presentation, back to the board to be shared with present and future members. Mr. Brunelle stressed that it will be important to keep track of the various trainings received by members of the board on a spreadsheet. Ms. Millette indicated that we should be able to share most of the board information and tracking sheets on the Google drive.

Board members discussed various edits including annual review, adding deescalation training to the list of approved trainings, and moving the document forward to be approved by City Council as amended.

Mr. Boisclair made a motion to approve the CPRB Training Procedures (as amended) and submit the same to the City Council for approval. Seconded by Mr. Sims. The motion passed unanimously (5/0, Finley and Schmitz absent).

There was no public comment.

Ms. Schlein discussed the draft of the IA Case Review spreadsheet with the board and Attorney Bianculli indicated that he would share that document with the board.

Mr. Brunelle discussed the upcoming October 28 event with Boston's Office of Police Accountability and Transparency. Mr. Brunelle and Ms. Schlein are interested in attending. Members discussed inquiring as to how other boards receive complaints, conduct training, and review cases.

Ms. Herrmann made a motion to go into executive session to discuss IA Case numbers 2025-014 and 2026-001 pursuant to 1 M.R.S. 405 (6)(f). The motion was seconded by Mr. Boisclair. The motion passed unanimously (5/0, Finley and Schmitz absent).

Upon return from executive session, the board discussed voting as to whether due process standards were met under the IA investigation for IA Case 2025-014 and IA Case 2026-001 and whether each standard (timely, fair, thorough, objective) should be reviewed separately or under one vote for all standards. Board members agreed to vote on each standard separately.

Mr. Boisclair made a motion to find that the investigation of IA Case 2025-014 was thorough. The motion was seconded by Ms. Herrmann. The motion passed unanimously (5/0, Finley and Schmitz absent).

Mr. Boisclair made a motion to find that the investigation of IA Case 2025-014 was timely. The motion was seconded by Ms. Herrmann. The motion passed unanimously (5/0, Finley and Schmitz absent).

Mr. Boisclair made a motion to find that the investigation of IA Case 2025-014 was objective. The motion was seconded by Ms. Herrmann. The motion passed unanimously (5/0, Finley and Schmitz absent).

Mr. Boisclair made a motion to find that the investigation of IA Case 2025-014 was fair. The motion was seconded by Ms. Herrmann. The motion passed unanimously (5/0, Finley and Schmitz absent).

Mr. Biha made a motion to find that the investigation of IA Case 2026-001 was thorough. The motion was seconded by Mr. Boisclair. The motion passed unanimously (5/0, Finley and Schmitz absent).

Mr. Biha made a motion to find that the investigation of IA Case 2026-001 was timely. The motion was seconded by Mr. Boisclair. The motion passed unanimously (5/0, Finley and Schmitz absent).

Mr. Biha made a motion to find that the investigation of IA Case 2026-001 was fair. The motion was seconded by Ms. Herrmann. The motion passed unanimously (5/0, Finley and Schmitz absent).

Mr. Biha made a find to declare that the investigation of IA Case 2026-001 was objective. The motion was seconded by Ms. Herrmann. The motion passed unanimously (5/0, Finley and Schmitz absent).

Mr. Burnelle reiterated the upcoming meeting dates and discussed the notion that the board would review two more cases at the October 14 meeting. The subcommittee will be meeting in two weeks to begin their work. The subcommittee confirmed that they would provide an update at the October 27 meeting.

Ms. Schlein noted that it will be important to clarify the Community Liaison role over the next two meetings. She also discussed the notion of notifying the complainant once the CPRB review of the IA case has been completed. Ms. Schlein indicated that she will review training expectations at the next meeting as well as defining the guidelines and criteria for IA Case Review (fair, timely, thorough, objective).

Mr. Sims volunteered to present the next case (2026-002) and Mr. Boisclair would present the following case (2026-003).

Ms. Herrmann made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Mr. Boisclair. The motion passed unanimously (5/0, Finley and Schmitz absent). The meeting ended at 6:43 PM.