



Equity and Civil Rights

Join the Civilian Review Board

What is the Civilian Review Board?

The Civilian Review Board (CRB) of Baltimore City was established by Subtitle 16 of Article 1 of the Code of Local Laws of Baltimore City. The CRB serves as an independent agency in the city through which members of the public can issue a complaint against officers of various law enforcement agencies. The CRB takes complaints that allege the use of excessive force, abusive language, harassment, false arrest, and false imprisonment. The law enforcement agencies that the CRB handles complaints for are the Baltimore City Police Department, the Baltimore City School Police, the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office, the Baltimore Environmental Police, the Police Force of the Baltimore City Community College, and the Police Force of Morgan State University. The CRB also reviews Police Department Procedures and makes recommendations to the Commissioner.

Why join the Civilian Review Board?

The CRB is an opportunity for community members to play a critical role in the oversight and reform of policing in Baltimore City. In addition to reviewing individual cases, CRB members may take an active role in serving as community liaisons and keeping abreast of events and issues in the City that impact civilian oversight, including the Consent Decree. Civilian oversight is an evolving process, with recent events across the country emphasizing the need for civilian input, making the CRB's work more important than ever.

Who is on the Civilian Review Board?

The CRB is composed of:

- i. One member of the public from each of the nine police districts in Baltimore City, appointed by the Mayor, subject to the advice and consent of the City Council. (<https://www.baltimorepolice.org/districts/find-my-district>)
- ii. One representative of the Fraternal Order of Police;
- iii. One representative of the Vanguard Justice Society;
- iv. The Commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department (or the Commissioner's designee);
- v. One representative of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Maryland; and
- vi. One representative of the Baltimore City Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

What do Civilian Review Board Members do?

- Serve as the community liaison between the police district represented and the CRB;
- Review all complaints alleging police misconduct as described in Subtitle 16 of Article 1 of the Baltimore City Code;
- Authorize independent investigations, simultaneously with the Internal Investigative Division, for each complaint it deems appropriate and report its findings to the Internal Investigative Division;
- Issue subpoenas to compel the attendance and testimony of a witnesses;
- Make recommendations to the head of the appropriate law enforcement agency for one of the following actions:
 - Sustain the complaint and recommend the appropriate disciplinary action against the police officer;
 - Not sustain the complaint;
 - Exonerate the police officer;
 - Find that the complaint is unfounded; or
 - Require further investigation by the Internal Investigative Division.

How is the Civilian Review Board supported?

The CRB is housed within the Baltimore City Office of Equity & Civil Rights (OECR). OECR is a City agency devoted to upholding the federal and local civil rights laws with the overarching mission to carry out activities to eliminate discrimination and protect individuals' civil rights. OECR staff provide logistical and programmatic support for CRB members and also undertake independent investigations into the allegations of misconduct as authorized by the CRB.

MEMBERSHIP

The term of a public member of the CRB is three years. The CRB meets as often as necessary to perform its functions and duties, at a minimum of at least once a month. When possible, at least four meetings a year are held in locations rotated throughout different police districts in the City. Currently, the CRB meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

CRB members are unpaid volunteers. Each member of the CRB shall receive mandatory, extensive training on the issues of abusive language, false arrest, false imprisonment, harassment, and excessive force. Public members may not be current employees of a municipal, county, state, or federal law enforcement agency. Each member must be a resident of Baltimore City and reside in the police district they represent.

APPLY

To apply to serve on the CRB, please submit the following information: **Your name, contact information, a copy of your résumé, and a written explanation as to why you would like to serve on the Civilian Review Board.** This information can be submitted via email to CRB@Baltimorecity.gov or mailed to: 7 E. Redwood Street, 9th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202.