



# DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

CITY OF SYRACUSE, MAYOR BEN WALSH

Kenton T. Buckner  
Chief of Police

August 14, 2020

Joseph L. Cecile  
First Deputy Chief

Ranette Releford  
Administrator

Derek McGork  
Deputy Chief

Citizen Review Board  
201 E. Washington Street, Suite #705  
Syracuse, NY 13202

Richard F. Shoff, Jr.  
Deputy Chief

Richard H. Trudell  
Deputy Chief

Dear Ms. Releford:

I am writing in response to Mayor Walsh's Executive Order: Syracuse Police Reform effective June 19, 2020 to make you aware of our commitment to fulfill Item #12.

The Syracuse Police Department {SPD} affirms our commitment to ensure the flow of documents and information as embodied in Local Law No. 11.

The SPD further commits to making no final decision on discipline of an officer(s) until the Chief of Police has received the results of both the Office of Professional Standards investigation and the CRB recommendations of the same complaint.

In addition, the Chief of Police will provide the CRB a letter of explanation if the decided discipline falls to a level lower than is recommended by the CRB.

As you are aware, Corporation Counsel and CRB's outside counsel are currently discussing ways in which the timelines in the ordinance could be adjusted to reflect pragmatic operational realities. Those discussions reflect the parties' consensus, based on past experience, that additional time is sometimes required to allow both sides to complete a thorough and effective investigation. The parties also understand, however, that any proposed revisions will not permit delays which prevent discipline from being imposed within the eighteen month deadline provided for in the New York Civil Service Law. Indeed, it is our belief that such revisions will actually serve to speed-up investigations by increasing efficiency. Ultimately, any changes to the ordinance would need to be presented and approved by the Common Council, but I am hopeful that SPD and the CRB will agree on a process that works for all the stakeholders. The SPD commits to being compliant with any revisions going forward.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Buckner", is written over a horizontal line.

Kenton Buckner  
Chief of Police

KTB/mb-f

Department of Police  
511 S. State Street  
Syracuse, NY 13202

O. 315.442.5250

[www.syracusepolice.org](http://www.syracusepolice.org)