

**To:** Commissioner Matt Joseph and Co-Chair Brandon McClain  
**From:** Jacob Davis, Senior Civil Rights Investigator  
**Date:** July 21, 2020  
**Re:** Citizen Review Board Models

### **Toledo Civilian Police Review Board**

Toledo Civilian Police Review Board gives anyone a fair and impartial appeal process for complaints of police misconduct or allegations in which a person is dissatisfied with the findings of the Toledo Police internal investigations

The Toledo Civilian Police Review Board may act in an advisory capacity to the Toledo Police Chief on various issues such as policies and procedures.

The Toledo Civilian Police Review Board is empowered to conduct investigations and hold public hearings that include any written or oral statements volunteered by the complainant, residents, or officers involved, as well as recordings of witnesses, made by the police.

- Internal Investigation is completed by Department of Internal Affairs
- Appeal filed within 14 days
- Civilian Review Board meets once per month
- 13 members of the board (district appointments are 1 year terms (max of 3 terms); all others have two year terms (max of 2 terms)
  - 1 Member selected from each of six city council districts
  - 1 Member from N.A.A.C.P
  - 1 Member from Hispanic community
  - 1 Member must be a practicing attorney
  - 1 Member must have a “background” in human relations
  - 3 Members must have background in law enforcement but not active P.D. members
- The board cannot mandate discipline, rather they report findings to the city safety director.
- The Toledo Blade reports the Board is being revived after “languishing” for years. Volunteers have been unhappy with the Board’s lack of power (including lack of subpoena power)

### **Grand Rapids Police Civilian Appeal Board**

- 200k people
- 35% minority population
- 9 Member Board – The Mayor appoints 3 members; the City Commission appoints the other 6 members.
- The Board has access to confidential information from the initial investigation
- No subpoena power for new witnesses or collecting new documents, rather the Board must only look at evidence from initial investigation
- Can remand to Labor Relations Board for additional investigation

- Despite not being granted subpoena power, the final disposition is by the Board
- After Board's final disposition, the City Manager determines discipline.

They are working on their Board as well and proposing sweeping changes (including Subpoena power and a "Civilian Chief of Staff" paid for by the police budget):

<https://www.fox17online.com/news/local-news/grand-rapids/city-of-grand-rapids-outlines-progress-on-police-reform-efforts>.

### **Syracuse Citizen Review Board**

- 142k people
- 45% minority population
- 11 Member Board
- The Board hears appeals in 3-person panels
- The Board has subpoena and investigative powers to interview witnesses and collect new documents
- However, the Board only makes "findings and recommendations" to Chief and Legal Counsel.
- The Board does not have disciplinary authority, but rather, they "recommend" discipline to the Chief of Police and Legal Counsel.
  - It does not appear that the recommendation has to be followed