

Public Questions and Answers:

The ACRB values citizen input, feedback, and comments. We make every attempt to address citizens' questions in order to continue the community dialogue on the ACRB's work and the accountability of Atlanta police and corrections officers. If you have a question, please do not hesitate to contact the ACRB or attend one of our monthly board meetings. See a complete listing of board meetings on the Home page.

August 2016 Board Meeting

I. Response to Public Comment Question

Citizen Comment: Dr. Hud asked a question about how the ACRB evolved in the area of human relations training, cultural intelligence, and mental health evaluations, and how does the ACRB prepare officers for the policing dynamic. Further, Dr. Hud wanted to know what parts do the areas of human relations training, cultural intelligence, and mental health evaluations play in the preparation and selection of those officers who are selected for the APD. Dr. Hud expressed to the board concerns on whether law enforcement should be a part of the board and for ACRB to share some thoughts regarding this matter.

ACRB Response: The ACRB believes that human relations training, cultural intelligence, and mental health evaluations could assist with better relationships between citizens and officers. The ACRB has always had interests in those areas. With the recent changes to the ACRB ordinance, the agency will be able to make recommendations supported by agency data in those areas.

Currently, the ACRB has only provided informational sessions to the Atlanta Police Academy. We hope to expand our involvement with the APD training academy. As the question relates to officer selection, the ACRB is not involved in that process.

The question of law enforcement serving on the ACRB is raised from time to time. The ACRB ordinance requires that the President of Atlanta City Council appoint a person with law enforcement experience. The ACRB consists of 13 board members, which means that an individual board member has less than 1/10 of the voting power on the board. Second, the board actually benefits from robust discussions that involve many perspectives, including the law enforcement perspective. The ACRB has been fortunate to have retired police officers serve on the board that have been willing to share their opinions and thoughts on ACRB complaints by providing their insight on policing and specific penalties that mirror the APD's Standard Operating Procedures.

