THE ACRB 2020 ARTS & ESSAY CONTEST
ENDS MARCH 20, 2020

Art
Two Categories
• City of Atlanta Students (Elementary)
• Special Category Open to All

Draw, Color, Paint
Colors abound. Images inspire.
The visual expressions of past contestants have depicted the full range of emotions and perspectives of the contestants.
The art work has moved many who have seen them and sparked conversations that remind us of the complex relationship that communities can have with police.

Spoken Word
Two Categories
• City of Atlanta Students (High School)
• Special Categories Open to All

Poetic warriors
Our newest addition to the ACRB creative expression contest is spoken word. We are excited to offer the opportunity for poetic warriors to lay truths down in this contest.
Rhythmic oral expressions have its roots in love and protest.

Essay
Two Categories
• City of Atlanta Students (Middle & High School)
• Special Category Open to All

Written Words
Community storytellers, reporters, observers
Our essay contestants have displayed their community consciousness and hopes for their communities. Their words shed light on their concerns and worries about officers and provide expressions of gratitude for officers who have touched them personally.

Descriptive, Captivating, Eye Opening:

Share The Love & The Vision

City of Atlanta Students
Elementary: Art Entries only (1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners)
Middle School: Essay entries only (1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners)
High School: Essay entries (1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners)
High School: Spoken Word (1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners)

Special Categories
Art Entries (1st, 2nd place winners)
Essay entries (1st, 2nd place winners)
Spoken Word (1st, 2nd place winners)

#AEC2020 Share the vision

#ACRBcontest
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS & BE HEARD!

The View of the Executive Director Lee Reid

It is painfully clear to me, after seven years in this position, that one cannot rely only on institutional collaboration to get things done when it comes to bringing attention to civilian oversight of local law enforcement. Far too many of our well-established institutions that could be of assistance are so stuck in their past glory that they find it difficult to change the way they do things. This if-it-ain’t-broke-don’t-fix-it attitude makes it difficult for such groups to share their resources or work with other like-minded groups that function differently on behalf of our citizens. We get more things done at ACRB by relying on ourselves and thinking outside the box. For example, we are among the first civilian oversight agencies to be issued mobile units to ensure a quick response to a citizen complaint and inform neighborhoods about our programs and services. Our ACRB ARTS & ESSAY CONTEST fosters better relations between police and law enforcement. It runs through March 20, 2020. (Go to acrb.gov for details.) We facilitated a meeting between the Atlanta Police Department and the Fraser Center, on behalf of those with developmental disabilities, to discuss ways to avoid misreading someone who might act and sound differently if approached by law enforcement. We reach parents of our youngest citizens through our mascot Captain Integrity who urges kids to always tell the truth to someone they trust if they encounter police misconduct. Our Police Interaction Quiz was highly acclaimed by City Council President Felicia A. Moore and others for ensuring that our citizens are aware of their rights and the ACRB. Our KNOW YOUR RIGHTS TRAINING WORKSHOPS will come to you. No group is too big or too small. Contact us at 404 865 8622. If you have ideas, no matter how unusual, we would love to hear from you.

BRINGING ATTENTION TO POLICE INTERACTION WITH THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

ACRB brought to the table members of the Atlanta Police Department, those with developmental disabilities and The Frazer Center, one of the city’s preeminent non-profit educational institutions that helps them live normal lives. Rocià Terry, the center’s adult program coordinator, said many of their adults drive, work, socialize and take public transportation. Yet they also must cope with the effects of autism, personality disorders and various developmental disabilities that can often be misinterpreted if they become excited, saddened, confused, distracted or angered. To the untrained eye, their actions may appear unusual or confrontational. As ACRB works with Frazer Center to custom-design a KNOW YOUR RIGHTS TRAINING WORKSHOP for the developmentally disabled, the agency also facilitated the meeting. (Continued on page 3)
(Continued from page 2)

The verbal exchanges were frank, direct and revealing. “Some of our participants love you guys,” Ms. Terry told the APD representatives, “…some of the participants have anxiety with cops,” she said. “And, you know, it’s understandable,” Officer Tresa Norwood replied, “…a lot of that comes either from personal experience or…social media and TV. A lot of the stuff they see is what they think or what they believe. So now this has become their perception of all police. So we try to dispel that or we try to break that and get them to understand that, hey, you like basketball? I can play basketball with you too, or whatever it is. So that’s why we say if you’re having an event and you want police out, just ask. We’ll be more than happy to come out because I enjoy interacting with the community. There is no need for any of the participants or anybody to have a grudge against me or have a dislike for me and you don’t even know my name.”

ACRB Executive Director Lee Reid wanted to know, “As officers on the street dealing with the disabled and other individuals who are experiencing challenges, what would…you want for us to impart to others?” Officer Donald McKinnon responded, “I probably would say communication. The more information, the better. I was someone didn’t have ID or anything on them, if they could have something saying ‘if they’re detained’ or ‘encounter police.’” “A card?” Mr. Reid asked. “Who to contact. Right. Have contact information, who that officer can get in contact with to give them something to follow up on,” Officer McKinnon added. “A bracelet or something,” Officer Norwood suggested, “Or something so that the officer knows, you know, what the deal is.”

Two of Frazer Center’s participants had questions for the APD. Kim wanted to know about police procedure during a hostage situation. Patrick shared a dispute with the manager of a group home who threatens to arrest him and under what conditions could he be arrested. The officers responded in specific detail.

“As far as ACRB is concerned, we’ve learned some things,” said ACRB Project Manager Myola Smith. “We will need to become more familiar with APD’s de-escalation program and research similar programs in other cities to see what is working or not working for them. We hope to have another follow-up meeting with the Frazer Center and APD to share what we have found and determine next steps that hopefully will lead to recommendations and eventually policy changes when it comes to how police interact with the developmentally disabled.”

"Some of our participants love you guys...But some of the participants have anxiety with cops...and, you know, it's understandable..."

Rocia Terry, Adult Program Coordinator, Fraser Center
PROFILE: BOARD MEMBER GERMAINE AUSTIN

Atlanta Citizen Review Board welcomes Germaine A. Austin, one of the newest members of the ACRB. He was sworn into office by City Clerk Foris Webb on Tuesday, November 26, 2019. "Happy to be here...When Gate City Bar Association asked me to lead in this capacity, I was very, very happy to do so only because I've always been a servant of the people, and I view this work as very important not only to our city, but the people who live here," said Mr. Austin. Originally from Guyana, South America, Mr. Austin was born into a military family that traveled a lot in Europe and the US. A corporate attorney at Hawkins, Parnell & Young, Mr. Austin serves on boards of the Southern Center for Human Rights and the Gate City Bar Association. He started an organization of law students that focuses on civil and human rights and equality issues. "While I do appreciate the work that our men and women in uniform do everyday, I believe it's very important work, I think there always has to be a line of accountability and (not only) for that work, but generally anyone, just to make sure that it maintains the trust of our citizens in our law enforcement and department of corrections, and that we are all living in a sound and happy environment."

PROFILE: BOARD MEMBER MICHAEL TURNER

Michael Turner was appointed January 21, 2020 to a three year term on the ACRB. He has served Morehouse College for more than ten years. his first appointment was as a Program Coordinator for the Office of Health Professions. He has been able to advance his career at Morehouse through numerous roles within the Office of Student Services, including Residence Director, Area Coordinator, Assistant Dean for Residential Education, Senior Associate Dean for Residential Education and Acting Dean of the College for Residential Education and Director of Housing. In 2019, Dr. Turner was appointed as the Director of Student Relations and Ombudsman, a role which allows him to support student success through advocacy. Mr. Turner said "My initial goals are to listen and learn first, then understand how I can make a particular specific contribution to the Board through the development of initiatives and experiences that will add to and enhance the services that are rendered by the Board." Immediately after being sworn in by City Clerk Foris Webb, Dr. Turner said his initial thoughts were that of appreciation and of service, adding that he was "ready to offer a fair, equitable and thoughtful input and contribution to the Board that will support the citizens of Atlanta as well as the officers who assume such an important responsibility each day."
2020 Board Members
Cecilia Houston-Torrence, Chair
Tamara Orange, Vice Chair
Tracee McDaniel, Secretary
Sherry B. Williams
Michael Hopkins
Gloria Hawkins-Wynn
Trudy Boyce
Keith Hasson
James Hardy
Germaine Austin
Michael Turner

Staff
Samuel Lee Reid II
Executive Director
Sheena Robertson
Investigation Manager
Brian Fleming
Investigator, Senior
Tonya Richardson
Investigator, Senior
Ronald Jackson
Investigator, Senior
Myola Smith
Project Manager
Charles Curry
Outreach Specialist
Madison Trice
Administrative Assistant Senior
Adrienne Gillis
Administrative Assistant Senior

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AND BE HEARD!

The keyword in the Atlanta Citizen Review Board is CITIZEN. The agency is only as effective as the level of Citizen involvement. This is why ACRB urges all Citizens to regularly monitor, question and support its work. This is why ACRB urges all Citizens to know where your elected officials stand on civilian oversight of police and corrections. This is why it is so important for Citizens to be registered and vote. This is why Citizens need to join and be active in community groups. Get involved in Neighborhood Planning Units (NPUs). Attend Public Safety meetings, Atlanta City Council meetings and KNOW YOUR RIGHTS Training Workshops. Become a member of the ACRB Board. Currently there are two vacancies. Contact ACRB for details. Fill the chambers to capacity when Council votes to fund issues that matter to Citizens like you. Thank you, Citizens of Atlanta, for your continued support.

A YOUR STORY TESTIMONIAL UPDATE

On April 28, 2015, after considering the findings of an ACRB investigator, the ACRB voted to sustain an excessive force complaint filed by a citizen against Sgt. Thomas Apple of the APD. The citizen, who wishes to remain anonymous, alleged that Apple choked him while at the Zone 6 Precinct. Although the Board called for a seven day suspension and training on APD’s restraint techniques, then-Chief George Turner did not act on ACRB’s decision and recommended penalties. Armed with the agency’s detailed incident report and the Board’s vote In his favor, the citizen sued the APD, Sgt. Apple and Zone 6 among others. The process took four years, but in 2019, he won a $4,000 settlement. Given the type of violation of APD standard operating procedures (SOPs), the citizen says he could have held out for a much higher payout. But he explained, “It was not about the money, but to get the city to admit they were wrong for what they did.” Although it took years, the citizen did walk away vindicated, satisfied with the outcome and feeling that he did indeed obtain justice by filing a complaint with the ACRB.

A FRESH MILLENNIAL PERSPECTIVE TO THE ACRB

ACRB welcomes and thanks Adrienne Gillis and Madison Trice, the newest additions to the ACRB staff. Everyone on the staff who has appreciated their energy and hard work agree that their millennial perspectives have brought a fresh and new dimension to the operation of the agency. Their talents, skills and abilities have invigorated the ACRB, according to Project Manager Myola Smith. “They have enhanced our social media outreach. That’s an era they grow up in. They know it better.” Outreach Administrative Assistant Senior Madison Trice joined the Atlanta Citizen Review Board (ACRB) staff on October 17, 2019. She graduated from Clark Atlanta University on May 20, 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice." As her first job since graduation, "It’s a great learning experience. As a millennial, I bring new and fresh ideas. It’s a great foundation for my future endeavors." As Administrative Assistant Senior, Adrienne Gillis says "It’s a great job, I love my job and it’s a great opportunity to learn and to grow. It’s a way of helping people and spreading awareness about their rights and what they should do while encountering police."
FOLLOW US! To stay connected

ATLANTACITIZENREVIEWBOARD

ATLCRB

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ATLANTACITIZENREVIEWBOARD