

# Safe Coalition Recommendations for Citizen's Review Board

## 3. Police oversight

- **(Problem)** Charlotte finally made Subpoena power part of its 2019 Legislative agenda with the support of then CMPD Chief Kerr Putney. As we start planning for the city's 2021 Legislative Agenda, CMPD states that they are not in favor of subpoena power (per WCNC). **(2)**
  1. How will not having support for subpoena power by CMPD impact the city's ability to lobby for it?
  2. The local bill that Charlotte submitted to the NC General Assembly for subpoena power did not have support from the Republican members of the Mecklenburg Delegation.
- **(Action Step)** City of Charlotte has to obtain support from CMPD Chief Johnny Jennings, the local to Fraternal Order of Police, and Republican State Senator Rob Bryan to successfully win Subpoena Power for the Charlotte Citizens Review Board—if the continued strategy is to achieve that through a local bill.
- **(Problem)** Our community has pushed for over a decade to empower the Charlotte Citizens Review Board with the ability to subpoena witnesses, investigate cases brought before them, and make binding decisions on the cases that they hear.

Unlike most cities in NC, Charlotte has an existing Civil Service Board that makes decisions on an officer's discipline. How do we reconcile the problem that the CRB hears appeals from the public but does not have the ability to discipline, and the CSB has the power to discipline, along with subpoena and investigative powers, but does not hear cases brought by the public.

**(Action Step)** We propose that the ordinances governing both the CRB and CSB be amended to allow complaints that are sustained by the CRB, and refused any further action by either the City Manager or CMPD Police Chief, to be referred to the Civil Service Board. In this scenario, the CRB acts as a Grand Jury and the CSB hears their sustained cases as a trial jury.

- **(Problem)** There are very few complaints taken to the Charlotte Citizens Review Board by Charlotte residents. In 2015, Charlotte City Council recognized this as a problem and committed to raising public awareness of the board’s existence though advertisements and referrals.

<b>Board</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Complaints</b>	<b>Request for Appeals</b>
<b>Charlotte CRB</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Charlotte CRB</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Charlotte CRB</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Charlotte CRB</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>?</b>

**Per Charlotte Observer**

- **(Action Step)** We request that Charlotte City Council, with the help of the Charlotte Community Relations Committee, revisit its marketing plan for the CRB and update its outreach efforts
- **(Problem)** In 2017, Charlotte City Council adopted changes that we championed on the interview & selection process for members of the Charlotte Citizens Review Board and Civil Service Board. One change was that the Charlotte Community Relations Committee could interview candidates to ensure the diversity of the boards. We have not been able to ascertain if this process has been implemented or ever used.

**Charlotte Ordinances Sec. 16-56 (a1)**

***Candidates for the board may be interviewed by a panel comprised of a representative from the community relations committee, the citizens review board, and the city manager's office to assess core characteristics necessary to serve on the board. Such panels shall provide their assessments to the relevant appointing authority. (3)***

- **(Action Step)** SAFE Coalition NC would like an update from the city on how many interviews have been performed in the selection of CRB and CSB members since the ordinance change in 2017.

