

ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW BOARD

WHEREAS, section 5-136 of the Code of Ordinances requires the Civilian Police Review Board to prepare an annual report which includes a brief summary of the disposition of the complaints reviewed and policy recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Civilian Police Review Board made several recommendations, two of which require amendments to the Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the Town Manager supports the recommendations presented by the Civilian Police Review Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WEST HARTFORD THAT:

Section One. *Section 5-132 of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as follows.*

§ 5-132 Duties; scope of authority; standard of review.

- A. The Police Chief shall promptly refer to the Civilian Police Review Board the completed internal investigation of any complaint received by the Police Department. Any matter so referred shall be placed on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Civilian Police Review Board.
- B. In evaluating such completed investigation, the Civilian Police Review Board may review a copy of the complaint and any public records or files relevant to such completed investigation. For the purpose of this section, “public records or files” shall have the same meaning as set forth in chapter 14 of the General Statutes, as amended from time to time.
- C. Following such review, the Civilian Police Review Board shall recommend by majority vote to either sustain or remand such completed internal affairs investigation. In the event the Civilian Police Review Board recommends remand, the Civilian Police Review Board shall [may] make findings as to the thoroughness, outcome [completeness], accuracy, and objectivity of the investigation.
- D. The Civilian Police Review Board shall recommend to sustain or remand within 60 days after a referred complaint first appears on an agenda. The failure of the Civilian Police Review Board to act thereon shall be considered as a recommendation to sustain.
- E. Any recommendation made by the Civilian Police Review Board under this section shall be advisory only. Any final decision of discipline shall be made by the Police Chief.

- F. In the event the Civilian Police Review Board remands the completed internal investigation report, and the Police Chief disagrees with its findings, the Police Chief shall provide the Civilian Police Review Board the basis for such disagreement.

(LEDWITH)
January 9, 2024

ADOPTED BY THE WEST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING ON
JANUARY 23, 2024