

# Columbia Citizens

**Community participation is critical to the board's success. Thus, CPRB meetings are generally open to the public, and citizens are encouraged to attend meetings as well as provide suggestions during the public comment portion of the meetings. The CPRB also strives to be involved in community outreach in order to strengthen the relationship between the community and CPD. CPRB welcomes any suggestions for outreach opportunities and would love to speak about the board to interested citizen groups.**

*It is in the interest of the citizens of Columbia that the investigation of complaints concerning misconduct by officers towards citizens be both thorough and impartial. Accordingly, all inquiries are conducted fairly and independently, and in a manner that instills confidence in both the citizens and the police department.*



## Board Philosophy

**Today's citizens expect both sensitivity and accountability from law enforcement. Citizen review boards represent an opportunity for building a positive police-community relationship. Our Citizens Police Review Board (CPRB) enables an open dialogue between both the City of Columbia Police Department (CPD) and the citizens of Columbia for the benefit of everyone. CPRB works to promote awareness of our citizens' rights and the responsibilities regarding police conduct.**



## Citizens Police Review Board



**City of  
Columbia,  
Missouri**



## Who We Are

The Citizens Police Review Board was established in 2009 in order to provide an external and independent process for review of actual or perceived police misconduct thereby increasing police accountability to the community and community trust in police.

The Board consists of eight Columbia residents of varied backgrounds who are registered voters, selected by the City Council. The ninth member, with the same qualifications, is an appointee from the City's Human Rights Commission. All Members serve without compensation.



## The Process

A citizen who believes that either a Columbia Police Officer or a Community Service Aide has engaged in misconduct, as defined by ordinance, may file a complaint with either the Police Department or City Clerk. (Forms are available at the Police Department and on the City's website under Police Department.) "Misconduct," is defined by ordinance as "any violation of federal law, state law, city ordinance, city regulation or police department policy, guideline, directive, rule, regulation or order in effect at the time of the incident." (Art. III, & 21-45.) If a citizen is unsure whether misconduct has occurred, it is better to file a complaint. For complaints involving non-criminal conduct, the complaint may be referred to a mediator for resolution.

After the police advise the citizen that the complaint has been received, the Internal Affairs Department of the CPD will then review the complaint and conduct further investigation, if deemed warranted, and the Chief of Police will make a decision and advise both the citizen and the officer of that decision.

If either the citizen or the officer involved disagree with the Chief's decision, either party may appeal to the Citizens Police Review Board by filing a written notice with the City Clerk, within 21 days after receiving notice of the Chief's decision.

The CPRB will examine the case and render its decision to the Chief who can then accept or reject the Board's decision. Should the citizen or officer disagree with the CPRB and/or the Chief of Police's decisions, they may appeal the case to the City Manager.

Should a citizen require assistance in processing a complaint, the CPRB has advocates available. Please contact the CPRB through City Hall at 573.874.7223. Further information on the CPRB and the CPD's complaint process is available at [www.CoMo.gov](http://www.CoMo.gov).