

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE STOPPED BY THE POLICE

If you were stopped by the police in your car, on the street or in your home, remain calm. If you feel the police acted in an inappropriate manner, contact us immediately **after** your encounter with the police. Do not try to address the issue at the time of the incident.

**CONTACT PRAB
IMMEDIATELY**

617-349-6155

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS CALL
THE POLICE REVIEW AND ADVISORY BOARD
617-349-6155
online at www.CAMBRIDGEMA.GOV/PRAB**

Each case is reviewed and investigated by the Board staff. Although the staff member is responsible for doing the investigation, he or she makes no decisions on the merits of any complaint. The Board alone decides on the merit of each complaint. Once a complaint is filed and a preliminary investigation is done, the Board orders a full investigation or dismisses the complaint. After a full investigation is completed, the Board may dismiss the complaint, mediate, or order a hearing. Following a hearing, the Board will render a final decision. If the Board finds a violation, it will make a recommendation to the City Manager as to what action(s) should be taken.

**CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
POLICE REVIEW & ADVISORY BOARD
51 INMAN STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139**



COMMUNITY GUIDE



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www.cambridgema.gov/prab

WHAT IS PRAB

CAMBRIDGE POLICE REVIEW AND ADVISORY BOARD

The Police Review and Advisory Board (PRAB) was created by city ordinance to provide timely, fair, and impartial investigations of complaints brought by individuals against police officers. The Board acts as the representative of the community in reviewing policies, practices, and procedures of the police department.

WHY WAS PRAB CREATED?

The Police Review and Advisory Board was created to strengthen community police relations.

WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF PRAB?

The Police Review and Advisory Board consists of five Cambridge residents who are appointed by the City Manager and who are not City Employees.

SUBMITTING A COMPLAINT:

Complaints may be filed with the PRAB in person, by letter, email, or by telephone. In all cases you are required to provide a signed statement providing information about the allegations made.

DO I NEED A LAWYER?

No.

WHEN SHOULD I FILE A COMPLAINT?

Complaints must be filed within 60 days of an incident.

(The Board can vote to exempt this limitation)

TYPES OF COMPLAINTS

You can file a complaint if you feel an officer acted in any of the following way:

EXCESSIVE FORCE

DISCOURTEOUS OR DEMEANING LANGUAGE

IMPROPER STOP, ARREST, SEARCH AND SEIZURE

INADEQUATE INVESTIGATION OR IMPROPER POLICE REPORTS

DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, CREED, ANCESTRY, AGE, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, SEX, RELIGION, DISABILITY, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN OR ANY OTHER CRITERIA DEFINED IN FEDERAL AND STATE GUIDELINES.

HARASSMENT

IMPROPER POLICE PROCEDURES

HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT

If you feel your rights were violated, file a complaint by filling out the information below. Fax, bring in, email, or phone in your complaint. Complaint forms are also online at www.cambridgema.gov/prab

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Witness: _____

Officers Name/Badge/Car# _____

(If not given, Document time, date and location)

Time _____ Date _____

Location: _____

Street _____

Intersection: _____

Landmark, ie. Train station, Bank, Store, Bar _____

Description of incident: _____

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CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139
617-349-6155 FAX: 617-349-4766
TTY/TDD 617-492-0235
WWW.CAMBRIDGEMA.GOV/PRAB

The Board holds public meetings once a month