



City of Cambridge Police Department

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Cambridge, MA – Today City Manager Robert Healy and Police Commissioner Robert Haas announced the twelve members of the Cambridge Review Committee. Healy and Haas have committed to form an independent Committee to help identify lessons learned from the arrest of Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. on July 16th and this announcement set in place the individuals charged with that mission.

“This is a historic opportunity for the city to emerge as a stronger community,” said City Manager Robert Healy. “After a thorough review of possible candidates and conferring with the Commissioner, I am pleased to appoint this diverse and expert group of individuals.”

Members from Cambridge and across the United States have diverse professional backgrounds and bring years of experience in their respective fields from law enforcement, diversity, community relations and conflict resolution.

“It’s a important step forward that such a reputable and professional group of individuals have committed to develop some recommendations that the City can use as guidance in the future,” said Commissioner Haas. “They have graciously agreed to provide us with an independent assessment of lessons learned from the July 16th incident.”

The Committee will meet to address:

- What are the “lessons learned” that are unique to the City of Cambridge?
- What Departmental training should be addressed including identifying key elements in training curriculum, potential instructors and recommendations for ongoing training?
- How does the Cambridge Police Department take this event and use it as an opportunity to modify its operational procedures; obtain a better appreciation of the complexities associated with policing in a very complex social setting; gaining a much deeper appreciation of interactive social skills, and so on?
- How do race, class, and interpersonal conflict have an impact on engaging with the public and how can training of Police Officers incorporate these issues?
- Are there opportunities for the city as a whole to learn and grow from this experience?
- What can other communities and police departments learn from this experience in Cambridge?

“Most cities want to turn the corner and move on,” said Chuck Wexler, executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum and chairman of the Committee. “Cambridge wants to take away something meaningful from this process that can be helpful for the city and the nation.”

The Committee will have its first meeting in early October and begin to discuss their mission and goals.

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