

Beaver County District Attorney
Citizen Police Advisory Review Board

Introduction

The Beaver County Citizens-Police Advisory Review Board (Advisory Review Board) began in 1988 under then District Attorney Theresa Ferris-Dukovich.

The Advisory Review Board has remained in place with varying levels of engagement over the years. Under current District Attorney David Lozier, the Operating Rules and Bylaws have been formalized to provide structure for its operation and function.

Established as a voluntary citizens advisory entity, it reviews, where there is a potential for criminal conduct, police officer complaints including the appropriate municipality's investigations. The Advisory Review Board may take testimony from citizens and police officers recognizing appropriate Due Process rights.

The Board is Advisory in that it reviews complaints filed against officers and advises the department or municipality whether action should be taken or if criminal charges should be considered by the District Attorney.

Please read the Advisory Review Board Operating Rules and By Laws on this website if you have any questions on what the Board may review and how a review is conducted.

Our Operating Rules and By Laws require that complaints first be brought to the attention of either the police chief or the municipality. Over the past 7 years, most complaints have been resolved at that level. We also had a several complaints which raised actual criminal matters and resulted in criminal charges filed against the officer.

The Advisory Review Board reviews the "middle ground" cases. Those complaints which cannot be resolved at the municipal level and have not yet been determined to raise criminal allegations.

To begin a complaint against an officer, the citizen should bring the matter before the police chief or the municipal Mayor, borough council or board of supervisors. If the matter cannot be resolved to everyone's satisfaction, the citizen may complete the Application for a Meeting of the Advisory Review Board on this web site and submit that form and any relevant documents or statements to District Attorney. The DA will either ask for more information, refer the matter to the Advisory Review Board to consider, or will authorize criminal charges.

Please note, again, that participation by the citizen, the officer and the municipal police department in the Advisory Review Board is voluntary. No Pennsylvania statute requires participation and no statute gives the County, the Courts or the DA jurisdiction to compel participation.