

For Immediate Release

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BUFFALO POLICE ADVISORY BOARD CALLS FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO MAY 10th, 2020 BUFFALO POLICE DEPARTMENT INCIDENT

On May 10, 2020, a young man was held down by Buffalo Police Officers while repeatedly being hit in the face by one of these officers (video footage of the incident is available on the Buffalo Police Advisory Board Facebook page). The Buffalo Police Advisory Board (BPAB) first calls on the Buffalo Police Department (BPD), as well as Buffalo Common Council, to fully investigate this incident. The BPAB recommends that the Buffalo Police Department remove the involved officers from patrol while an investigation takes place.

The BPAB additionally calls on the BPD to further preventive policing practices by improving the Use of Force policy, de-escalation training, and transparency regarding these practices and policies. Specifically, the BPAB recommends that the BPD incorporate five additional components into department Use of Force Policy based on national best practice models and not currently included in BPD policy:

- Require de-escalation prior to use of force,
- Require a warning before shooting,
- Require another present officer to intervene,
- Mandate a comprehensive report of other police officers' actions or arrests that included use of force and,
- Ban chokeholds or strangle holds.

The BPAB has previously made recommendations to the Buffalo Common Council Police Oversight Committee regarding the need for increased use of Community Policing practices.

Background:

The PAB is an independent advisory committee created by the Buffalo Common Council to focus on policing and community-police relations in the City of Buffalo. The PAB engages community residents and makes recommendations to the Common Council and Buffalo Police Department about how policing policy and community-police relationships can be improved. Over the past 3 years, the PAB has issued reports and testified to the Common Council on issues including the police body-worn camera policy, police officer performance evaluations, community policing, officer trainings, and the police union contract.