

Police Advisory Board Hasn't Had a Case Yet

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Rochester's Police Advisory Board has yet to handle a case. But it is doing an effective job, in the view of its executive director.

The board, created in March to make recommendations in cases of alleged police brutality, has received six complaints to date, and has rejected all as being outside its jurisdiction.

Said Ross J. Guglielmino, who resigned from the nine-member board to become its executive director:

"The efficacy of the program should not be measured by the number of complaints but by the absence of complaints."

Guglielmino maintained that the board serves as a sort of public safety valve, and that its mere existence has had a "preventive" effect. It is authorized to make findings only in cases involving undue or excessive use of force by policemen, but the executive director sends resumes of all complaints to the chief of police.

Guglielmino praised the new standards announced last month for prospective policemen.

The newly-required psychiatric examination and the investigation of a candidate's moral background should

"weed out at least the worst examples" of men who might be likely to abuse the authority of the badge, he said.

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HE SAID the board members are "pleased" with the operation so far, and termed Rochester "fortunate" to have such an outlet for the kind of pressures that build up continually in other cities in cases of alleged police brutality.

If the board disagrees with the police chief's resolution of cases of undue use of force by policemen, it can try to reconcile its views with those of the police chief, and if this fails, it can make public its findings.