



INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA
Website: www.cityofinglewood.org

**CITIZEN POLICE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
MEETING
June 13, 2007
City Council Chambers, 9th Floor, City Hall
Minutes**

Members Present:

**Chairperson Adrienne Sears
Commissioner Cleveland Brown
Commissioner Joy Brown-Price
Commissioner Wayne Spencer
Commissioner Judy A. Bowles
Commissioner Gerald Thompson**

Members Absent:

**Vice Chairperson David P. Stewart
Commissioner Nannette Marchand
Commissioner Donald Nicholson
Commissioner Ozell Butler
Commissioner Rita Hall**

Staff Present

Ms. Kathy Ares, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Sears called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Spencer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Thompson gave the invocation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Charles Allen Anderson inquired about the police-officer involved shooting that took place a couple weeks ago. Mr. Allen commented that he was not sure of the investigation process, but recently learned that the commission does not have investigation authority.

Chairperson Sears stated that she was informed that the commission would not review the case, because it is an officer-involved shooting and the ordinance does not afford the commission the opportunity to review cases involving shootings.

Commissioner Brown-Price inquired why the commission would not be able to review those types of cases. Commissioner Brown-Price commented that she was under the impression that the Commission would review any cases that were considered alleged misconduct.

Chairperson Sears commented that she had spoken with the Chief of Police and was told that the commission does not have the expertise to oversee and monitor officer-involved shootings.

Chairperson Sears read a portion of the ordinance that states “the commission has the authority to receive allegations of misconduct. A copy of any complaint against the Police Department or any employee of the department shall be conveyed by the Commission to the Chief of Police or his designee, within 24 hours.”

Chairperson Sears commented that the ordinance refers to “complaints” therefore, the city attorney could interpret the language and say that it precludes the commission from reviewing officer-involved shootings. Chairperson Sears expressed the need to have an executive director and an independent counsel.

Chairperson Sears stated that several Inglewood commissioners had attended the City of Long Beach Police Commission Closed Session Meeting. *The Inglewood Commission noted that the Long Beach Commission had a resource/specialist present to assist and contribute information regarding logistical and specialized issues. She also expressed that if it is determined that the Inglewood Citizen Police Oversight Commission does not currently have the experience/expertise necessary to review cases of officer involved shootings, that the Citizen Police Oversight Commission acquire such a resource/specialist.* ~~In the closed session, a specialist was present to answer specific questions. Chairperson Sears expressed further that Inglewood’s commission should have those types of resources available.~~

Mr. Anderson expressed concerns on the lack of authority the commission holds. Mr. Anderson commented that most cities have community policing and oversights and are given more power. He informed the commission of a website that would provide information on how to obtain more power.

Chairperson Sears encouraged Mr. Anderson to get a copy of the Ordinance that describes the commission’s authority limitation.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chairperson Sears requested an edit to the May 30, 2007 minutes: on page 1, under “Approval of the Minutes” in paragraph 2, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Hall.

Commissioner Brown requested that the minutes reflect that he was excused from the meeting by staff, due to the fact that his mandatory background check had yet not been completed.

Commissioner Brown-Price requested an edit on page 3, last sentence. It will be changed to read, “a sergeant of arms be selected at the start of each meeting.”

It was moved by Commissioner Spencer and seconded by Commissioner Brown-Price that the minutes of the May 30, 2007 meeting be approved with corrections.

The Motion carried.

COMMISSION ADVISOR REPORTS

There were no commission advisor reports.

DISCUSSION ITEM

To discuss the formulation of an Ad Hoc Committee to plan a Citizen Police Oversight Commission Town Hall Meeting.

It was recommended by Chairperson Sears that the item be tabled and placed on the next agenda.

CLOSED SESSION

The Citizen Police Oversight Commission recessed for closed session at 7:39 p.m.

Closed session adjourned at 9:19 p.m. The public session reconvened in the City Council Chambers at 9:30 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT OUT

Staff reported that five (5) complaints were reviewed; four (4) complaints were referred to the police department for further investigation, and one (1) complaint was considered "no further investigation required."

STAFF REMARKS

There were no staff remarks.

COMMISSION MEMBERS REMARKS

Commissioner Brown-Price welcomed Commissioner Brown to the commission and commented that she was happy that the commission was moving forward. She also expressed concern about the commission's inability to review officer-involved shootings, and the desire to have the Chief of Police attending an upcoming commission meeting.

Commissioner Bowles welcomed Commissioner Brown to the Commission and expressed the need to invite the Chief of Police to a closed session meeting so questions and concerns could be addressed.

Commissioner Thompson welcomed Commissioner Brown to the Commission. Commissioner Thompson commented that the lack of power is a concern affecting the community at large. He also commented on having a town hall meeting to inform the public of the commission's role, and the importance of police officers being held accountable.

Commissioner Spencer welcomed Commissioner Brown. Commissioner Spencer commented that a lot of questions were asked during closed session and that ride-alongs may be a working tool for the commission. He also suggested that while reviewing the website given by Mr. Anderson, perhaps the commission could research grant information *and creative funding sources* ~~that would help create a budget.~~

Commissioner Brown commented that he appreciates the welcome from the commission. He also expressed disappointment with the commission's lack of power and he commented on taking heed to the guest's comments.

Chairperson Sears welcomed Commissioner Brown and commented that she was happy to hear from the guest. She also commented about putting a strategic plan in place to create a budget. Chairperson Sears requested staff schedule a closed session meeting with the Chief of Police.

Chairperson Sears requested a hands-on handcuff demonstration. She also requested that commissioners complete their ride-alongs by July 31, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

(Corrections are additions are italicized; deletions are strikeouts)