

INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA Website: www.cityofinglewood.org

CITIZEN POLICE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING

September 12, 2007 City Council Chambers, 9th Floor, City Hall Minutes

Members Present:

Chairperson Adrianne Sears
Commissioner Joy Brown-Price
Commissioner Nannette Marchand
Commissioner Wayne Spencer
Commissioner Donald Nicholson
Commissioner Ozell Butler
Commissioner Gerald Thompson
Commissioner Rita Hall

Members Absent:

Vice Chairperson David P. Stewart Commissioner Cleveland Brown Commissioner Judy Bowles

Staff Present

Mr. Jeff Muir, Acting City Administrator Ms. Kathy Ares, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Sears called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Nicholson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Butler gave the invocation.

Commissioner Joy Brown Price arrived at 6:38 p.m.

Chairperson Sears announced that she is pulling the agenda item-Appointments to Ad Hoc Committee from the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Bell advised the Commission that she was in attendance at the Citizen Police Oversight Commission Meeting on July 11, 2007. She further commented that she had shared with the commission that she had attempted to file a report with the Inglewood Police Department and that the desk officer on duty was discourteous and refused to take a report.

Ms. Bell also commented that she returned to the Inglewood Police Department the following day, and a report was taken.

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Ms. Bell stated that since then she has been involved in restraining order proceedings regarding the matter at the Inglewood court. She also stated that in the court transcripts it states that an incident report was filed with the City of Inglewood instead of a crime report.

Ms. Bell feels that instead of an incident report, a crime report should have been taken because she was battered. She is inquiring as to why a crime report was not filed by the Inglewood Police Department.

Chairperson Sears requested that Ms. Bell explain to the Commission how the incident first occurred since some of the commissioners were not in attendance at the July 11th meeting.

Ms. Bell commented that she was shoved by an Inglewood Unified School District employee and that when attempting to report the incident to the Inglewood Police Department the desk officer was rude, discourteous, and refused to take a report. She shared that an incident report was taken the following day by Sergeant Overly.

Chairperson Sears asked if she had filed a citizen police complaint with the commission.

Ms. Bell commented that she has not filed a complaint with the commission but would like to file a complaint.

Chairperson Sears advised Ms. Bell that the complaint form would be made available for her.

Commissioner Wayne Spencer arrived at 6:45 p.m.

Mr. Jerry Pinchinat of Westwood College introduced himself and advised the Commission that he was in attendance for his criminal justice class.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Spencer and seconded by Commissioner Brown-Price that the minutes of the July 11, 2007 meeting be approved.

The motion carried.

COMMISSION ADVISOR REPORTS

Mr. Muir advised the commission that he would not be present during closed session due to pressing city budget responsibilities. He further advised the commission that funding is being considered in the proposed budget for a part-time contract executive director.

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Mr. Muir announced that the new police chief will start October 1st, and that he would invite the new chief to a future commission meeting.

APPOINTMENTS TO AD HOC COMMITTEE

The item was pulled by Chairperson Sears.

CLOSED SESSION

The Citizen Police Oversight Commission recessed for closed session at 6:52 p.m.

Commissioner Thompson left at 8:37 p.m.

Closed session adjourned at 9:01 p.m. The public session reconvened in the City Council Chambers at 9:08 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT OUT

Staff reported that 11 complaints were reviewed; 3 complaints were referred to the police department for further investigation, 4 complaints were referred to the police department requesting additional information, and 4 complaints were considered "no further investigation required."

STAFF REMARKS

There were no staff remarks.

COMMISSION MEMBERS REMARKS

Commissioner Spencer commented on problems within the department regarding ethnicity and sexual orientation sensitivity and courtesy issues. Commissioner Spencer expressed the need for cultural sensitivity training for staff officers.

Commissioner Brown-Price concurred with Commissioner Spencer regarding the apparent need for cultural sensitivity training for officers.

Commissioner Hall commented that there has been an improvement in the writing of reports by officers. She also commented on the need to improve sensitivity to homosexuality and cultural related issues. She further commented that she is extremely positive that with the new incoming chief that positive change will be implemented.

Commissioner Nicholson commented on the importance of the commission remaining united and adhered to its goals.

Commissioner Butler commented on an incident which took place in his neighborhood, and expressed the need for additional training for police officers.

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Chairperson Sears commented on the need for cultural sensitivity and courtesy training. She also suggested a mentor program for new officers. She further commented that she looks forward to working with the new chief of police.

Chairperson Sears announced two proposed dates for a town hall meeting; Wednesday, October 24th from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. or Saturday, October 27th from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Chairperson Sears will distribute a proposed agenda at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.