

INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA

Website: www.cityofinglewood.org



Citizen Police Oversight Commission Special Meeting November 19, 2008 City Council Chambers, Ninth Floor, City Hall Minutes

Members Present:

Chairperson Adrianne Sears
Vice Chairperson Donald Nicholson
Commissioner Cleveland Brown
Commissioner Joy Brown-Price
Commissioner Judy A. Bowles
Commissioner Gilbert Mathieu

Members Absent:

Commissioner David P. Stewart Commissioner Wayne Spencer Commissioner Herman Boykin Commissioner Rita Hall

Staff Present:

Mr. Michael Falkow, Acting Assistant City Administrator Ms. Tunisia Johnson, Acting Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sears at 6:40 p.m. A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Brown.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Chairperson Sears.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chairperson Sears requested an edit to the October 8, 2008 minutes: Page 5, Paragraph 8, should read "Chairperson Sears stated that it is her understanding through her conversation with Ms. Mawusi Watson, Chief of Staff, that the City Administrator's office is in support of the meeting however, Chairperson Sears' concern would be security and safety issues."

It was moved by Commissioner Mathieu and seconded by Commissioner Brown that the minutes of the October 8, 2008 be approved as revised.

The Motion was carried.

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COMMISSION ADVISOR REPORTS

There were no commission advisor reports.

Chairperson Sears asked staff to find out the status of the appointment of Commissioner Boykin. Chairperson Sears requested that the Chief of Police attend a closed session to discuss the officer involved shooting that was briefly discussed at the October 8, 2008 meeting.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDNET REVIEW

Mr. Michael Gennaco gave a presentation on the Office of the Independent Review (OIR). He shared with the Commission his background and experience. Mr. Gennaco advised the commission that in 2001 (OIR) was created by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. The OIR is made up of a group of attorneys that are responsible for reviewing all allegations of misconduct involving Deputy Sheriffs of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and Civilian employees. All internal affairs investigations conducted by the Sheriff's Department are reviewed by OIR. The OIR participates in the investigation process to assure there is a thorough and fair investigation. The OIR has access to the investigators and works with them from the beginning of the investigation to come up with an investigation plan.

Mr. Gennaco shared with the Commission that when there is a deputy involved shooting in sheriff's territory the OIR is notified immediately and within an hour of the shooting an OIR attorney along with Mr. Gennaco is on the scene. The OIR's goal is to ensure that there is integrity in the investigation from the beginning. The OIR investigates officers involved shootings, deaths in jail, and deaths while in custody. Those incidents are investigated by the OIR along with the department.

Once the investigation is completed the OIR's role is to make recommendations on the outcome. The OIR will make a recommendation on every shooting to determine if policy was violated, whether or not there were training issues, supervisory issues, or equipment issues. The OIR will forward its recommendations to the decision maker and ultimately the department can decide what to do with the recommendations. The managerial discretion, supervisory authority, and discipline rest ultimately in the hands of the sheriff's department.

The Sheriff's Departments normally accept the OIR's recommendations. If recommendations are not accepted the public is informed. The OIR reports on every case that is reviewed and is placed on the OIR's website for the public to view.

Mr. Gennaco advised the Commission that the OIR was contacted by Inglewood's Chief of Police regarding OIR taking a look at the way in which the Inglewood Police Department investigates officer-involved shootings and coming up with recommendations on ways to improve that investigation protocol as well as the way in which shootings are reviewed administratively.

The Inglewood City Council met with OIR representatives and a contract was signed with the OIR to look at the way in which the Inglewood Police Department investigates its officer-involved shootings and come up with recommendations on improving those investigations.

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Mr. Gennaco answered questions from the commissioners.

Commissioner Mathieu asked that if a member of the public could be given the opportunity to speak.

Chairperson Sears granted the request.

Ms. Debbie Washington commented about an incident that took place October 22, 2008, which involved the Inglewood Police Department and her nephew.

Chairperson Sears resumed the discussion with Mr. Gennaco.

Chairperson Sears asked if it is correct that the City or the Chief of Police do not have to take OIR's recommendations.

Mr. Gennaco commented that hopefully the recommendations will be accepted, but ultimately it is up to the City and the Police Department to accept or reject the recommendations.

Chairperson Sears thanked Mr. Gennaco for the presentation.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Community-based CPOC Meetings

Chairperson Sears stated that the purpose of Mr. Gennaco's presentation was to speak to the commissioners and the commissioners have the opportunity to ask questions prior to them holding mobile community-based meetings.

ACTION ITEM

It was moved by Commissioner Mathieu and seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve creation of the CPOC Community Outreach committee.

The motion was carried.

CLOSED SESSION

The Citizen Police Oversight Commission recessed at 8:30 p.m. and reconvened at 9:03 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT OUT

Mr. Falkow reported that is was the Commission's desire to continue its closed session items to the next Citizen Police Oversight Commission Meeting that is held in the City Council Chambers.

STAFF REMARKS

Mr. Falkow wished the Commissioners a Happy Thanksgiving weekend. Mr. Falkow advised the Commission that elections are scheduled for the first meeting in January of 2009.

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COMMISSION MEMBERS REMARKS

Commissioner Brown wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He commented that the meeting was very informative.

Commissioner Brown-Price wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. She commented that the presentation by Mr. Gennaco was informative, and she feels good about the process.

Commissioner Bowles wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. She commented that the presentation that was given was good and a lot of questions were answered.

Commissioner Mathieu wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He thanked Chairperson Sears for allowing Ms. Washington the opportunity to speak.

Chairperson Sears wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. She commented that the community outreach committee was specifically created to provide information to the community and to receive community input and feedback. is created specifically for access to information. Chairperson Sears thanked the Commissioners for their participation. She also commented that the next Citizen Police Oversight Commission meeting will be a special meeting due to the change in venue and there will not be a closed session item on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

(Corrections and additions are italicized; deletions are strikeouts)