

INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA

Website: www.cityofinglewood.org

Citizen Police Oversight Commission Meeting April 8, 2009 City Council Chambers, Ninth Floor, City Hall Minutes

Members Present:

Chairperson Adrianne Sears Vice Chairperson Joy Brown-Price Commissioner Kofi N. Nartey Commissioner Wayne Spencer Commissioner Judy Bowles Commissioner Gilbert Mathieu

Members Absent:

Commissioner David P. Stewart (excused) Commissioner Cleveland Brown (unexcused) Commissioner Donald Nicholson (excused) Commissioner Rita Hall (excused)

Staff Present:

Mr. Michael Falkow, Deputy City Administrator/CIO Ms. Kathy Ares, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sears at 6:55 p.m. A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Nartey.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Commissioner Brown-Price.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Robert Cantin, Block Club Captain of West 64th Street commented on an incident that occurred on January 29, 2009, which he alleges police abuse of a minor and is uncertain if the incident involved Inglewood police officers or Inglewood Unified School District police officers.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Brown-Price and seconded by Commissioner Mathieu that the minutes of the February 11, 2009 meeting be approved. The motion was carried by a majority with one abstention from Commissioner Nartey.

COMMISSION ADVISOR REPORTS

There were no commission advisor reports.

Citizen Police Oversight Commission Minutes of April 8, 2009 Page 2 of 5

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Due to the lateness of the hour Chairperson Sears suggested that the discussion items that Chief Seabrooks will be discussing be moved up on the agenda.

1. Investigation by the Department of Justice

Chief Seabrooks advised the Commission that several weeks ago the Inglewood Police Department received notification from the United States Department of Justice that they would be opening an inquiry on a pattern and practices investigation to examine Inglewood Police Department's policies and practices.

Chief Seabrooks commented that the investigation may last between 18 months to 2 years. Chief Seabrooks explained the process of the investigation. The first step is a document review, the U.S. Department of Justice will request from the Inglewood Police Department a comprehensive request for documents. The documents may entail the organization's policies and procedures as they exist now, any recent amendments to the Inglewood Police Department's policies and procedures, any training that the organization has gone through, the field training officers program, hiring standards and practices, promotion process and disciplinary records.

The reviewing of the documents will take approximately 2-3 months. On site investigators will take a look at how business is conducted. The investigators are made up of law enforcement professionals and civil rights attorneys. The investigators will go on ride alongs; they will talk to members of the community, the Citizen Police Oversight Commission, and others in municipal administration to get a clear picture of what happens in the Inglewood Police Department. They will also look to see what the Inglewood Police Department has been doing in the last 18 months and what other measures have been implemented under interim Chief Davis and former Chief Banks to see where the organization has progressed over time. The U.S. Department of Justice finding can come in several forms:

- 1. A Letter of No Issue the U.S. Department of Justice has come into the organization and has found no problems in the organization.
- 2. A Letter of Recommendations a document that make a series of recommendations for improvements.
- 3. Stipulated Agreement an agreement that comes when the organization has only been moderately cooperative with the U.S. Department of Justice investigation.
- 4. Consent Decree-recommendations that were made to the organization from the U.S. Department of Justice and has not been adhered to therefore a judge had to impose an order.

Chief Seabrooks stated that the Inglewood Police Department intent is to fully cooperate with the U.S. Department of Justice.

Citizen Police Oversight Commission Minutes of April 8, 2009 Page 3 of 5

Commissioner Nartey asked Chief Seabrooks what prompted the initial investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Chief Seabrooks stated that several things can prompt an investigation such as a series of complaints received over time; repeatedly requests by political entities or individuals, a request of the independent city or the U.S. Department of Justice will identify a long trend pattern of behavior and will engage on their own.

Chief Seabrooks also stated that in the case of the City of Inglewood there were repeatedly concerns from 2002 to present.

2. Revised Case Reporting Procedures

Chief Seabrooks stated that Commissioner Mathieu had requested that the Inglewood Police Department provide more information regarding case dispositions. Chief Seabrooks also stated that originally the police department was providing to the Commission closure documents that indicated when the case had been received and the nature of the allegation. There was no factual synopsis. Chief Seabrooks advised the commission that the new format is similar to a complaint document but has more factual information.

3. Disposition Status of Citizen Complaints.

Chief Seabrooks advised the Commission that the complaint packages that will be reviewed tonight during closed session will consist of several cases that have been disposition out and a 3-year spreadsheet of all external generated complaints that the police department has received and processed. The spreadsheet includes: when the complaint was received by the police department, the date it was assigned out for investigation, the involved officers, name of the complainant, the nature of the complaint, and the outcome of the case. Chief Seabrooks advised the Commission that all of the 2007 cases are closed and the dispositions are attached. Some cases are both open and closed for 2008. The 2009 cases are open. Chief Seabrooks also advised the commission that they would continue to receive closure documents and would receive quarterly spreadsheet updates.

Chairperson Sears asked where does the Commission fall in the disciplinary process when the recommended discipline has already been imposed?

Chief Seabrooks stated that it is her understanding that the Commission is behind in their workload. She suggested in order for the Commission to have meaningful input the Commission may wish to review the new cases first and whatever commentary that needs to be communicated on the new cases can be communicated with her because the case would still be open. She also suggested that the Commission work their way back or decide whether the commission wishes to continue to review the old cases since they have already been decided and focus more on the open cases so the Commission's input may be meaningful.

Commissioner Brown-Price asked Chief Seabrooks if the Citizen Police Oversight Commission is referenced on the police department's website and if not could they be.

Citizen Police Oversight Commission Minutes of April 8, 2009 Page 4 of 5

Chief Seabrooks stated that the Citizen Police Oversight Commission is on the city's website however, a link can be created on the police's web page that would take the viewers directly to the city's website.

CITIZEN POLICE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Chairperson Sears shared with the Commission that she and Mr. Falkow gave a presentation at the Community Police Academy on March 18, 2009. The presentation consisted of a power point presentation that gave an overview of the Citizen Police Oversight Commission. Chairperson Sears distributed handouts to the commission.

Chairperson Sears stated that on the police department's website the citizen complaint process does not mention the Citizen Police Oversight Commission in its investigation process. Chairperson Sears asked Chief Seabrooks if there could be some reference on documents regarding external general complaints being forwarded to the Citizen Police Oversight Commission. Chairperson Sears stated that she believes that the Commission should be on the police department's documents that explains the investigation process.

Chief Seabrooks explained that the Commission is not part of the investigative process they are part of the adjudication process. Chief Seabrooks encouraged the commission to create brochures and pamphlets that shows that the Commission is a stand alone entity that provides oversight.

Chairperson Sears also stated that she and Mr. Falkow were invited to Councilwoman Dunlap's Town Hall meeting to explain the Commission's duties, why the Commission was created, the scope of duties, and the desires and needs of the Commission. Chairperson Sears shared at the town hall meeting the following needs and desires that the Commission has agreed upon:

- Hire an Independent Legal Counsel
- Hire a Permanent Executive Director
- Formal Training for Commissioners
- Grant the Citizen Police Oversight Commission the ability to receive and review internally generated cases
- Grant the Citizen Police Oversight Commission the ability to provide recommendations that are considered during the final dispositions of cases.

Chairperson Sears stated that Councilwoman Dunlap is in full support of the Commission's desires and needs. Chairperson Sears also stated that the Commission will seek the support of the other City Council members.

Chairperson Sears invited Commissioner Nartey into closed session to meet commissioners and provide him with history and background of the Commission. Chairperson Sears stated that Commissioner Nartey would not be participating in closed session.

Citizen Police Oversight Commission Minutes of April 8, 2009 Page 5 of 5

CLOSED SESSION

The Citizen Police Oversight Commission recessed for closed session at 8:21 p.m. and reconvened at 9:11 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT OUT

Mr. Falkow reported that due to a lack of a quorum no closed session items were reviewed.

STAFF REMARKS

There were no staff remarks.

COMMISSION MEMBERS REMARKS

Commissioner Bowles welcomed Commissioner Nartey to the Citizen Police Oversight Commission and thanked staff for their work and Chief Seabrooks for enlightening the Commission.

Commissioner Spencer welcomed Commissioner Nartey to the Citizen Police Oversight Commission.

Commissioner Nartey thanked the Commission for their warm welcome and commented that he looks forward to serving on the Commission and providing meaning contribution.

Commissioner Brown-Price welcomed Commissioner Nartey to the Citizen Police Oversight Commission. She commented that it was good to have Chief Searbrooks at the meeting and looks forward to her attending more meetings. Commissioner Brown-Price also commented that the meeting was informative and productive. She also thanked Mr. Cantin for his comments.

Chairperson Sears welcomed Commissioner Nartey to the Citizen Police Oversight Commission. Chairperson Sears thanked Chief Seabrooks for explaining the United States Department of Justice process of investigation and the revised case reporting procedures.

Chairperson Sears commented that she is of the opinion that the Citizen Police Oversight Commission should call a special meeting within 48-72 hours after the release of the Office of the Independent Review's Report to issue a public response. She also commented that she has extended an invitation to Mr. Gennaco of the Office of the Independent Review to address the Commission after the release of the Office of Independent Review's report to explain his findings and recommendations. Chairperson Sears stated that the Commission will publish their own response regarding the report.

Chairperson Sears requested that staff place on the next agenda "How the Commission address correspondence" and "Creation of an ad hoc committee to review the Citizen Police Commission Ordinance."

Chairperson Sears closed the meeting in memory of Deputy Kenny Garner of the Los Angeles Police Department.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.