

INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA

Website: www.cityofinglewood.org

Citizen Police Oversight Commission Meeting May 13, 2009 City Council Chambers, Ninth Floor, City Hall Minutes

Members Present:

Chairperson Adrianne Sears
Vice Chairperson Joy Brown-Price
Commissioner David P. Stewart
Commissioner Kofi N. Nartey
Commissioner Wayne Spencer
Commissioner Judy Bowles
Commissioner Donald Nicholson
Commissioner Alan Kaplan
Commissioner Gilbert Mathieu
Commissioner Rita Hall

Members Absent:

Commissioner Cleveland Brown (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 6:33 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 Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Ethel Austin commented that she is a recent graduate of the Community Police Academy. She suggested that in addition to the Citizen Police Oversight Commission agenda being posted on the first floor that it also is posted on the City's webpage and that graduates of the Community Police Academy are mailed a copy of the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Brown-Price and seconded by Commissioner Spencer that the minutes of the April 8, 2009 meeting be approved. The motion was carried by a majority with one abstention from Commissioner Hall.

Citizen Police Oversight Commission Minutes of May 13, 2009 Page 2 of 6

COMMISSION ADVISOR REPORTS

Mr. Falkow commended the Commission for starting the meeting on time. He welcomed Commissioner Nartey on his second meeting and extended a warm welcome to Commissioner Kaplan, the newest Commissioner representing District 4.

Mr. Falkow advised the Commission that the Public Safety Day/Police Department Open House scheduled for May 16, 2009, has been canceled due to concerns on the expenditures associated with the budget. He stated that it is highly likely that there will be a Disaster Preparedness Fair that will be held at the Forum on June 27, 2009. The City is in the process of determining whether or not they will be a co-sponsor.

Mr. Falkow also advised the Commission that the Assistant City Administrator for Administrative Services position was not filled and as a result the City Administrator has requested that Mr. Falkow to remain in that capacity. The City will be recruiting for the position. Mr. Falkow stated that the City will be interviewing for the position of Library Director.

Mr. Falkow informed the Commission that his office is now located in the basement.

Commissioner Mathieu arrived at 6:42 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Citizen Police Oversight Commission Attendance

Chairperson Sears stated that Commissioner Spencer requested that the above item be placed on the Citizen Police Oversight Commission agenda for discussion. Chairperson Sears gave the floor to Commissioner Spencer.

Commissioner Spencer stated that a number of commissioners have been consistently absent for months and also have been late to the meeting and it gives the impression of the Commission as being unprofessional. He also stated that meetings have been canceled due to a lack of a quorum, and in order to get things accomplished, everyone needs to be in attendance.

Commissioner Spencer urged the Commission from this point on to be committed and dedicated to the Citizen Police Oversight Commission.

Commissioner Stewart stated that the Commission should maximize and manage the time that is available. He commented on his frustration and the extended amount of time that the Commissioners are in open session.

Vice Chairperson Brown-Price stated that it is important that the Commission hear each other so that the commission can come to the best consensus, or if necessary, come to a vote. She also stated that sometimes this may result in the Commission being in open session late.

Citizen Police Oversight Commission Minutes of May 13, 2009 Page 3 of 6

Commissioner Mathieu stated that if the Commission would review the minutes, there are not a lot of meetings that have been canceled due to a lack of a quorum. Commissioner Mathieu suggested that the Commission consider changing the meeting time from 6:30 p.m. to 6:45p.m. or 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Bowles stated that Commissioners are sometimes tardy due to traffic.

Commissioner Nicholson stated that the misconception is that a quorum has to be the majority. He stated that a quorum is the number of members present. He also stated that the Commission can decide what number is a quorum. He stated that the issue is if the Commission can conduct business with 5 Commissioners. He also stated that Robert's Rules of Order states that the number for a quorum can be changed, and that the Commission can set the number for the quorum.

Mr. Falkow stated that in addition to Robert's Rules of Order, the Commission has to follow the State of California Ralph M. Brown Act. Mr. Falkow also stated that the concept of having a majority in order to conduct business may be different than what constitutes a quorum. Mr. Falkow advised the Commission that he would check with Legal and advise the Chairperson. If it is something that can be changed, the item would have to be brought back as an action item so the Commission could vote on the item.

Mr. Falkow advised the Commission that he will find out if the meeting time can be changed. If yes, he will advise the Chairperson, and the item would be placed on the agenda as an action item so that the Commission could vote on the item.

Commissioner Nartey stated that he believes that the majority quorum is necessary. He commented on the usage of Commissioner's time and that he sees the Commission as an opportunity to make a contribution.

Chairperson Sears commented on the level of commitment and professionalism that must be brought to the Commission. She encouraged Commissioners to be on time so that the meeting can start on time.

Commissioner Hall commented that she was pleased that Commissioners were seated at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Falkow stated that the Commission is substantially behind in Closed Session and that the Commission needs to address the matter.

Chairperson Sears commented that the Commission is behind in Closed Session, and because of the dispositions that were received, the Commission's work has tripled.

Commissioner Spencer thanked the Commission for its great dialogue.

Citizen Police Oversight Commission Minutes of May 13, 2009 Page 4 of 6

2. Citizen Police Oversight Commission Training

Mr. Falkow advised the Commission that he had participated in the Community Police Academy and that he highly recommends that the Citizen Police Oversight Commission enroll in the Academy. He stated that there have been discussions with Community Affairs and the Chief of Police regarding creating an accelerated special class specifically for the Commission.

Mr. Falkow stated that he has spoken with the City Attorney, and he would be happy to create any type of course for the Commission such as Robert's Rules of Order or the Ralph M. Brown Act.

Mr. Falkow also stated that training is a worth while endeavor, and he is supportive and willing to discuss with the City Administrator any aspect of training to better the Commission in their capacity.

Chairperson Sears stated that there are new Commissioners who have served on the Commission for a year and have not yet received formal training. Chairperson Sears also stated that training is mandatory.

Chairperson Sears stated that there have been discussions with Mr. Falkow about receiving training from NACOLE.

Chairperson Sears stated that commissioners need to be retrained.

The majority of the Commission agreed to participate in the Community Police Academy. Chairperson Sears requested that Mr. Falkow advise that the Commission is interested in participating in the Community Police Academy.

ACTION ITEM

Procedures for Citizen Police Oversight Commission Correspondence

Chairperson Sears expressed the need to be able to respond to pressing issues in writing immediately and not wait until thirty days to do so.

It was moved by Commissioner Spencer and seconded by Commissioner Stewart that any correspondence that needs to be sent out be done with the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson in conference with each other on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Nicholson requested for clarification on the motion. He asked if the motion is for written or spoken correspondence.

Commissioner Spencer stated that it would be for written correspondence.

Commissioner Stewart withdrew his second to the motion.

Citizen Police Oversight Commission Minutes of May 13, 2009 Page 5 of 6

Commissioner Spencer modified his motion and moved that with constraints, if situations are required immediately, the Chairperson in consultation with the Vice Chairperson be allowed to send out written correspondence with the Chairperson's signature without consulting the body. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stewart.

Commissioner Hall stated that it could be problematic in the future for the Commission if the wrong letter is sent out and is viewed as the entire body. Commissioner Hall also stated if something needs to be addressed, the Chairperson has the authority to call a special meeting so the Commission can see what is being presented and that there is consensus from the body.

Commissioner Mathieu commented that he agrees with Commissioner Hall.

Commissioner Spencer withdrew his motion.

CLOSED SESSION

The Citizen Police Oversight Commission recessed for closed session at 7:46 p.m. and reconvened at 9:41 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT OUT

Mr. Falkow reported that directions were given to staff, and that there was no specific information regarding closed session.

STAFF REMARKS

There were no staff remarks.

COMMISSION MEMBERS REMARKS

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

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

Commissioner Hall welcomed Commissioners Nartey and Kaplan to the Citizen Police Oversight Commission.

Commissioner Bowles welcomed Commissioner Kaplan to the Citizen Police Oversight Commission.

Commissioner Mathieu welcomed Commissioner Kaplan to the Citizen Police Oversight Commission and commented that he was happy that the vacancy is being filled.

Commissioner Kaplan commented that it was a pleasure meeting the Commission and that he looks forward to participating.

Citizen Police Oversight Commission Minutes of May 13, 2009 Page 6 of 6

Vice Chairperson Brown-Price welcomed Commissioner Kaplan to the Citizen Police Oversight Commission.

Chairperson Sears welcomed Commissioner Kaplan to the Citizen Police Oversight Commission. Chairperson Sears thanked the Commissioners for arriving on time. Chairperson Sears announced a Special Citizen Police Oversight Commission Meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.