



INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA
Website: www.cityofinglewood.org

**Citizen Police Oversight Commission
Meeting
June 10, 2009
City Council Chambers, Ninth Floor, City Hall
Minutes**

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Commissioner Cleveland Brown (unexcused)
Commissioner Donald Nicholson (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 6:36 p.m. A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Spencer.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Commissioner Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Robert Cantin commented on an incident which occurred on January 29, 2009, involving an Inglewood Unified School District Police Officer.

Ms. Leslie Cooper of Families for Community Safety read a list of demands to the Commission that was presented to the City Council from Families for Community Safety and requested the support of the Commission.

Mr. Stewart Bailey commented on the police shooting that occurred on Osage Avenue.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Mathieu and seconded by Commissioner Bowles that the minutes of the May 13, 2009 meeting be approved. The motion was carried.

COMMISSION ADVISOR REPORTS

Mr. Falkow reported back to the commission regarding a question that was posed by Commissioner Nicholson concerning the capability of the Commission to hold a meeting with less than a quorum. Mr. Falkow stated that the City Attorney's Office had advised him that Robert's Rules of Order may allow, however, the Ralph M. Brown Act does not, therefore the Commission can only conduct business when there is a majority of its members present at a properly noticed meeting, which requires a minimum of six (6) members.

Chairperson Sears inquired about training for the Commissioners. Mr. Falkow stated that the City Attorney's Office indicated that they would be happy to conduct any training class.

Mr. Falkow advised the Commission that he had spoken with the Chief of Police regarding the Commission participating in the Community Police Academy. Mr. Falkow stated that the Chief would be happy to consider creating a condensed type of course for the Commissioners.

Chairperson Sears inquired about the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) Training.

Mr. Falkow commented that there are monies in the Citizen Police Oversight Commission's budget for training. Mr. Falkow also commented that the training would have to be conducted on site. Therefore, a trainer would have to be brought to Inglewood.

Chairperson Sears directed staff to schedule the NACOLE training.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Police Shooting-Chairperson Sears

Chairperson Sears advised the Commission that she had received a call from Lt. McBride in regard to the police shooting on Osage Avenue and was given preliminary information. She also stated that in the event a police shooting occurs that the Commission be notified by Ms. Ares.

Mr. Falkow stated that type of information may not necessarily be given to Ms. Ares. However, the information would be given to him, therefore he would contact the Commissioners regarding officer involved shootings.

Chairperson Sears advised the Commission that she attended the Chief's press conference and the family's press conference. She also advised the Commission that she attended a candlelight vigil for the sole purpose of distributing citizen complaint forms per the family's request.

Chairperson Sears encouraged the Commission to go on ride-alongs with the Police and Fire Departments. She advised the Commission that the Fire Department has made it clear that they have their own observations about the Police Department, and that the Commission may be interested in what they see on a ride-along with the Fire Department versus the Police Department.

CLOSED SESSION

The Citizen Police Oversight Commission recessed for closed session at 7:12 p.m. and reconvened at 9:16 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT OUT

Mr. Falkow reported that no action was taken.

STAFF REMARKS

Mr. Falkow welcomed Commissioner Kaplan to the Commission.

COMMISSION MEMBERS REMARKS

Commissioner Kaplan suggested that the Commission keep in contact with the organization, Families for Community Safety.

Commissioner Mathieu suggested that a courtesy letter be sent to the Inglewood Unified School District regarding Mr. Cantin's complaint. He also suggested that a letter be sent to the Chief of Police recommending that complaint forms be available upon request.

Commissioner Bowles commented that the meeting was informative.

Commissioner Hall commented that Police Officers working at the front desk need to know that anyone requesting a complaint form should be provided with one without any questions being asked. She also commented that the Commission needs to streamline and be timely in order to accomplish more. She stated that cellular phones need to be off or on vibrate.

Commissioner Spencer commented that the meeting was energetic. He also commented that he believes that the Commission's dialogue is too extensive and that questions tend to be repeated by Commissioners. Commissioner Spencer stated that he is glad to serve.

Commissioner Nartey commented that the meeting was productive. He also commented that in an effort to move forward in evaluating cases that a list of recommendations that the Commission can make to the Chief of Police would be helpful.

Commissioner Brown-Price recommended that the Outreach Ad Hoc Committee meet with the Families for Community Safety to explore some of their suggestions. She also recommended that the item be placed on the next agenda. Commissioner Brown-Price stated that she appreciates the public's attendance. She also stated that she concurs that a letter be sent to the Inglewood Unified School District acknowledging Mr. Cantin's attendance at the Citizen Police Oversight Commission Meeting.

Chairperson Sears thanked the Chief of Police for sending representatives from the Internal Affairs Division to brief the Commission about the police shooting that took place on Osage Avenue.

Chairperson Sears requested that a letter be sent to the Chief of Police requesting that complaint forms be made available in public venues.

Chairperson Sears directed staff to send a letter to the Inglewood Unified School District notifying them that Mr. Cantin appeared before the Citizen Police Oversight Commission regarding a complaint.

Chairperson Sears recommended that the Outreach Ad Hoc Committee meet with Families for Community Safety.

Chairperson Sears called for a Special Citizen Police Oversight Commission Meeting for June 17, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9: 30 p.m.