



INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA
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**Citizen Police Oversight Commission (CPOC)
Special Meeting
November 9, 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 Judy Bowles
Commissioner Alan Kaplan
Commissioner Gilbert Mathieu
Commissioner Rita Hall

Members Absent:

Commissioner Wayne Spencer (excused)
Commissioner Donald Nicholson (unexcused)

Staff Present:

Mr. Michael D. Falkow, Deputy City Administrator/CIO
Ms. Kathy Ares, Recording Secretary
Jacqueline Seabrooks, Chief of Police
Marie DiBernardo, Police Lieutenant

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sears at 6:44 p.m. A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chairperson Brown-Price.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Commissioner Nartey.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Juanita commented on the number of individuals that would serve on the Blue Ribbon Committee and clarification of whether two individuals had already been appointed to serve on the Committee by the Mayor and City Council.

Mr. Roy Fisher expressed his concern about the community not hearing from the Citizen Police Oversight Commission.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Mathieu and seconded by Vice Chairperson Brown-Price that the minutes of the September 30, 2009, meeting be approved. The motion carried.

COMMISSION ADVISOR REPORTS

Mr. Falkow announced that the Police and Fire 4th Annual Appreciation luncheon is scheduled for November 19, 2009, at 12:00 p.m., at the Proud Bird Restaurant. Commissioners interested in attending may contact staff.

Mr. Falkow reported that a very successful H1N1 pod was held at Hollywood Park on October 30, and October 31, 2009. He further reported that 4,350 vaccines were delivered, and that the City may possibly facilitate two additional pods on November 20 and November 21, 2009, pending approval by City Council. City Council is scheduled to take action on the matter at its November 10, 2009, meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **Inglewood Police Department Investigative Process**

Chief Seabrooks discussed the upcoming changes that will take place at the beginning of the year with respect to the Inglewood Police Department Investigative Process. Chief Seabrooks gave a brief outline on how the investigative process works now and how she anticipates the investigative process will work in the future.

Chief Seabrooks explained that the way the investigative process works at present is that an external complaint comes to the police department, which is sent to the Chief's Office and then assigned to the Internal Affairs Division. The preliminary intake information is obtained, and it is determined whether the complaint will be investigated by Internal Affairs, or if it will be referred to the Bureau or Office where the officer is employed or assigned for further investigation. The investigation is conducted, and a document is prepared and sent to the Commanding Officer for a recommendation for discipline. The recommendation for discipline is then sent to the Chief of Police for final approval authority.

Commissioner Hall arrived at 7:00 p.m.

Chief Seabrooks advised the Citizen Police Oversight Commission that she is suggesting that Internal Affairs will handle all investigative aspects of dealing with complaints instead of having the investigations handled in different offices in an effort to streamline the process and to ensure a level of consistency and accountability for the cases. A package would be compiled with statements and would be sent to the CPOC for review and comment. An additional package would also be sent to the officer's commander to make a recommendation on the discipline. This enables the CPOC time to review and make a recommendation based on the Commission's review. If the Commission has questions or requests additional investigative work be conducted, the CPOC can make a request to the Chief of Police. The request would be evaluated and incorporated appropriately in the package with the return findings to the CPOC. Chief Seabrooks advised the CPOC that the police department is implementing a technology solution that will allow the police department to better track data and investigations.

Chief Seabrooks advised the Commission that complaint forms are more accessible and available at the Library, Police Community Centers, the Police Department, and on the Internet. She also stated that the public is not limited in filling out a complaint on the designated complaint form. Complaints may be lodged on regular paper and sent to the Chief of Police or members of the public may contact the Internal Affairs Office.

Chief Seabrooks advised the Commission that the police department conducted a "Gift for Guns" program at Century Village. The police department had 301 \$100 gift cards available for the program. The police department received 154 guns in exchange for gift cards. She stated that the remaining gift cards will be given at the next "Gift for Guns" program.

Commissioner Kaplan stated that he participated in the "Gift for Guns" program and the officers were extremely professional.

Chairperson Sears asked Chief Seabrooks if she would be willing to have discussions with the Commission regarding what she thinks would be the most important needs of the civilian oversight in regards to the Blue Ribbon Committee.

Chief Seabrooks stated that it would be more valuable for the Commission to hear from the Union Board Chairs.

- *N.A.C.O.L.E. Conference*

Chairperson Sears stated that she attended the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) Conference. The conference was held from October 31-November 3, 2009 in Austin, Texas.

Chairperson Sears explained that NACOLE is a body made up of different civilian oversight entities throughout the country. She stated that at the conference discussions took place regarding the various models of civilian oversight that are commonly found in the United States:

1. Investigative Model
2. Monitoring Model
3. Auditor Model

Chairperson Sears stated that the Investigative Model has its own Investigator who investigates allegations of police misconduct. She also stated that some investigative bodies have the power by Ordinance to investigate internally and externally generated cases or allegations of police misconduct.

The Monitoring Model has monitors who work in the police department and who are present at police interviews. The monitor has the authority to ask questions of the police officers and witnesses during police interviews.

The Auditor Model is similar to the Monitor Model. The auditor reviews all documents pertaining to the investigation.

Chairperson Sears recommended that the CPOC adopt NACOLE's Code of Ethics at next month's CPOC meeting.

Chairperson Sears stated that the CPOC is on NACOLE's website. She stated that the NACOLE newsletter is available for the Commission's review.

Chairperson Sears stated that in an effort to expose various commission models to the CPOC, the City of San Diego will attend next month's CPOC meeting and give a presentation. She also stated that the Office of the Inspector General for LAPD will attend the CPOC's January 2010 meeting.

- ***Blue Ribbon Committee***

Mr. Falkow stated that on November 3, 2009, the City Council received a staff report and resolution from the City Administrator requesting that the City Council adopt a resolution to establish a Blue Ribbon Committee to research and provide recommendations to restructure the CPOC. The Blue Ribbon Committee will consist of seven members. Two members would be appointed by the CPOC, and five members would be appointed by the Mayor and City Council.

The Blue Ribbon Committee will be governed by the same rules that govern public meetings. The Blue Ribbon Committee will not be subject to the Ralph Brown Act but will be conducted using Robert's Rules of Order.

The Blue Ribbon Committee will hold public meetings and there will be no closed session. The intent of the Blue Ribbon Committee is to work separate from the CPOC. The two members of the CPOC that would be appointed to serve on the Committee would report to the CPOC. Commissioners of the Citizen Police Oversight Commission may attend the Blue Ribbon Committee as a member of the public.

The Blue Ribbon Committee will be comprised of residents of the City of Inglewood. Mr. Falkow advised the Commission that there will be a Special Advisor to the Blue Ribbon Committee.

Chairperson Sears asked Mr. Falkow to provide clarification regarding whether two members have already been appointed to the Blue Ribbon Committee.

Mr. Falkow stated that there were discussions at the November 3, 2009, City Council Meeting wherein the Council Members were unsure about a possible action relating to the October 28, 2009, City Council Meeting wherein two members of the public were discussed as possible appointees to serve on the Blue Ribbon Committee.

Mr. Falkow stated that he watched the City Council meeting and does not recall a motion, second, or a vote to appoint two members of the public to the Blue Ribbon Committee. Mr. Falkow stated that the Council Members asked Mr. Wanamaker to report back to the City Council at the next City Council Meeting as to what actually transpired at the City Council Meeting.

Commissioner Nartey stated that he was present at the City Council Meeting and discussions took place, however, no action was taken to appoint members of the public to the Blue Ribbon Committee.

ACTION ITEM

- *Selection of Blue Ribbon Committee*

Mr. Falkow gave the criteria for candidacy to serve on the Blue Ribbon Committee.

The following Commissioners expressed interest in serving on the Blue Ribbon Committee:

- Chairperson Sears
- Vice Chairperson Brown-Price
- Commissioner Nartey
- Commissioner Kaplan

Vice Chairperson Brown-Price withdrew her candidacy.

Chairperson Sears and Commissioners Nartey and Kaplan each gave brief presentations regarding their respective levels of interest in serving on the Blue Ribbon Committee.

Mr. Falkow announced that each Commissioner may vote for two Commissioners to serve on the Blue Ribbon Committee, or they can choose not to vote at all.

The vote was as follows:

Chairperson Sears: Chairperson Sears, Commissioner Nartey, Commissioner Bowles, Commissioner Kaplan and Commissioner Hall (5 votes)

Commissioner Nartey: Commissioner Nartey, Chairperson Sears, Vice Chairperson Brown-Price, Commissioner Mathieu, Commissioner Stewart, and Commissioner Hall (6 votes)

Commissioner Kaplan: Commissioner Kaplan, Vice Chairperson Brown-Price, Commissioner Bowles, Commissioner Mathieu, and Commissioner Stewart (5 votes)

Staff announced that Commissioner Nartey was selected by the CPOC to represent the Commission on the Blue Ribbon Committee.

Staff announced that a runoff will take place for Chairperson Sears and Commissioner Kaplan.

Commissioner Kaplan withdrew his candidacy.

Staff announced that Chairperson Sears and Commissioner Nartey will be recommended to the Mayor and City Council to participate in the Blue Ribbon Committee.

CLOSED SESSION

The Citizen Police Oversight Commission recessed for Closed Session at 8:28 p.m., and reconvened at 9:11 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT OUT

Mr. Falkow stated that Closed Session was held and no action was taken.

STAFF REMARKS

There were no staff remarks.

COMMISSION MEMBERS REMARKS

Commissioner Stewart stated that he was glad to be back.

Commissioner Hall stated that the meeting was good.

Commissioner Bowles stated that the meeting was good.

Commissioner Kaplan stated that he was very encouraged and that the meeting was good.

Vice Chairperson Brown-Price stated that she is encouraged about the streamlining of the Inglewood Police Department investigative process.

Chairperson Sears thanked the Commissioners and the Chief of Police for their attendance. Chairperson Sears stated that she would like to invite the Chief of Police to attend a CPOC Closed Session meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.