



INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA  
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**Citizen Police Oversight Commission (CPOC)  
Meeting  
January 13, 2010  
City Council Chambers, Ninth Floor, City Hall  
Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Chairperson Adrienne Sears  
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:**

Vice Chairperson Joy Brown-Price (unexcused)  
Commissioner Donald Nicholson (excused)

**Staff Present:**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sears at 6:31 p.m. A quorum was present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Kaplan.

**INVOCATION**

The invocation was given by Commissioner Hall.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

It was moved by Commissioner Mathieu and seconded by Commissioner Hall that the minutes of the November 9, 2009, and December 9, 2009, meetings be approved. The motion carried.

**COMMISSION ADVISOR REPORTS**

Mr. Falkow wished everyone a happy new year. Mr. Falkow advised the Commission that Lt. Marie DiBernardo of the Internal Affairs Division would be sharing information on behalf of Chief Seabrooks.

Mr. Falkow stated that staff had disseminated a copy of a complaint that was received from Ms. Gwendolyn Carter. Ms. Carter indicated that she wanted her complaint to be distributed to the members of the Citizen Police Oversight Commission. Mr. Falkow advised the Commission that

he had received an e-mail from Ms. Carter stating that she was unable to attend the CPOC meeting. Mr. Falkow also stated that he had discussed briefly with Ms. Carter the role of the CPOC and had invited her to attend a CPOC meeting.

Lt. DiBernardo advised the Commissioners of the changes in regards to the complaint process. Lt. DiBernardo stated that the way that the complaint process operates currently is that once she receives the initial complaint, the memo from the watch commander, any photographs, and/or call history that goes along with the complaint is sent to Ms. Ares.

Lt. DiBernardo stated that the revised complaint process will be that the completed cases will be sent to Ms. Ares at the same time the captain receives his/her copy. The Commission will have an opportunity to review and give recommendations to the Chief of Police.

Lt. DiBernardo stated that the Chief of Police does not give the captains a month to make their recommendations, so the Commissioners may have to hold its meetings more than once a month in order to review cases.

Lt. DiBernardo advised the Commissioners that a format would be provided to them regarding how the CPOC's recommendations should be submitted to the Chief of Police.

Lt. DiBernardo informed the Commissioners that whatever the CPOC writes is discoverable. She advised the Commissioners that Internal Affairs attends weekly pitchess motions and that the judge reads the files and will have access to what the Chief of Police and Commissioners write. Lt. DiBernardo also stated that because the CPOC will be writing a document, it is possible that the Commissioners may be called into court at different times for a disposition if there are lawsuits.

Lt. DiBernardo stated that the Chief of Police was unable to attend the CPOC meeting. Lt. DiBernardo also stated that the Chief of Police would be happy to attend a future meeting to speak about the complaint process revisions.

Lt. DiBernardo informed the CPOC that the complaint that Ms. Carter filed is being investigated by Internal Affairs.

Commissioner Kaplan asked Lt. DiBernardo if she could respond to the Los Angeles Times article.

Lt. DiBernardo stated the Chief of Police has crafted a response to the Department of Justice. She also stated that the Chief of Police has sent a press release responding to the article from the Los Angeles Times stating that the police department is working with the Department of Justice to make improvements. Lt. DiBernardo advised the CPOC that some of the changes have already been incorporated and that the police department takes the Department of Justice's recommendations very seriously.

Chairperson Sears recommended that the Chief of Police be invited to the next CPOC meeting to elaborate on the revised complaint process and discuss the Department of Justice document.

Commissioner Mathieu requested that copies of the Department of Justice report be made available to the CPOC (hard copies were provided to each Commissioner by staff).

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Presentations and Elections of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson**

Election ballots were distributed with the following candidate names preprinted:

##### **Chairperson**

Gilbert Mathieu  
David P. Stewart

##### **Vice Chairperson**

David P. Stewart

Chairperson Sears opened the floor to nominations for the office of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Commissioner Spencer asked Commissioner Kaplan if he was interested in running for office. Commissioner Kaplan stated no.

Commissioner Hall nominated Chairperson Adrienne Sears for Chairperson. Chairperson Sears accepted the nomination.

Mr. Falkow asked the Commissioners to write in Chairperson Sears' name on the election ballot.

Commissioner Mathieu withdrew his candidacy for the office of Chairperson.

Commissioner Spencer asked Commissioner Mathieu if he was interested in running for the office of Vice Chairperson.

Commissioner Mathieu stated yes.

Mr. Falkow asked that the Commissioners to write in Commissioner Mathieu's name on the election ballot.

Chairperson Sears nominated Commissioner Kofi Nartey for Chairperson. Commissioner Nartey declined the nomination.

Commissioner Hall nominated Commissioner Kofi Nartey for Vice Chairperson. Commissioner Nartey declined the nomination.

Chairperson Sears nominated Commissioner Alan Kaplan for Vice Chairperson. Commissioner Alan Kaplan accepted the nomination.

Mr. Falkow asked that the Commissioners write in Commissioner Alan Kaplan's name on the election ballot.

Chairperson Sears asked Commissioner Nartey would he accept the nomination for Chairperson. Commissioner Nartey stated that he has given much thought to the positions, and the reason he is declining is that he does not have the time that the positions requires.

It was moved by Commissioner Spencer and seconded by Commissioner Hall that the nominations be closed.

Commissioner Mathieu withdrew his candidacy for Vice Chairperson.

The motion was carried that the nominations be closed.

The Commissioners voted for Chairperson as follows:

**Chairperson Sears:** Chairperson Sears; Commissioners Nartey, Spencer, Bowles, Kaplan, and Hall (6 votes)

**Commissioner Stewart:** Commissioners Stewart and Mathieu (2 votes)

The Commissioners voted for Vice Chairperson as follows:

**Commissioner Stewart:** Commissioners Stewart, Bowles, and Kaplan (3 votes)

**Commissioner Kaplan:** Chairperson Sears; Commissioners Nartey, Spencer, Mathieu, and Hall (5 votes)

Staff announced the following result of the election:

Chairperson: Chairperson Adrienne Sears  
Vice Chairperson: Commissioner Alan Kaplan

Chairperson Sears commented on the role of Chairperson and thanked the CPOC for its confidence.

Vice Chairperson Kaplan thanked the CPOC for its vote of confidence.

Commissioner Bowles congratulated Chairperson Sears and Vice Chairperson Kaplan on their positions.

Chairperson Sears read a portion of the Department of Justice report.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

The Citizen Police Oversight Commission recessed for closed session at 7:24 p.m., and reconvened at 8:06 p.m.

*Commissioner Stewart left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.*

**CLOSED SESSION REPORT OUT**

Mr. Falkow stated that Closed Session was held and directions were given to staff.

**STAFF REMARKS**

Mr. Falkow announced that Mayor Dorn selected Bill Sanders to serve on the Blue Ribbon Committee. He also announced that Councilman Tabor selected Tony Muhammad to serve on the Blue Ribbon Committee. Mr. Falkow advised the Commission that staff is awaiting Councilwoman Dunlap's appointment.

Mr. Falkow advised the Commissioners that he will be away from City Hall attending a FEMA training course in Emmetsburg, Maryland from February 7 through February 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Falkow also advised the Commissioners that he will be out of the office the following week on personal leave.

Mr. Falkow informed the Commissioners that Ms. Ares will be away from City Hall the week of February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Mr. Falkow stated that if the CPOC wishes to hold its regularly scheduled meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup>, he would make arrangements for a representative from the City Administrator's Office to be in attendance. Otherwise, a special meeting could be held.

Chairperson Sears asked if the Commissioners were available to attend a special CPOC meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Falkow stated that staff would tentatively schedule a special CPOC meeting for February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Chairperson Sears asked Mr. Falkow to invite the Chief of Police to the next CPOC meeting.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS REMARKS**

Commissioner Spencer congratulated Chairperson Sears and Vice Chairperson Kaplan on their positions. He commented that this year, the CPOC should have elected officials remove members that attend meetings at their convenience and that have [unexcused] absences.

Commissioner Hall congratulated Chairperson Sears and Vice Chairperson Kaplan on their positions.

Commissioner Bowles thanked Commissioners and staff.

Commissioner Mathieu congratulated Chairperson Sears and Vice Chairperson Kaplan on their positions.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.