



INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA
Website: www.cityofinglewood.org



**Citizen Police Oversight Commission (CPOC)
Meeting
August 10, 2011
City Council Chambers, Ninth Floor, City Hall
Minutes**

Members Present:

Chairperson Pro Tem Alex Padilla
Commissioner Alicia Smith
Commissioner Woody Hollier
Commissioner Paul Smith
Commissioner Wayne Spencer
Commissioner Sergio Hernandez
Commissioner Adrienne Sears
Commissioner Rita Hall

Members Absent:

Commissioner Kofi Nartey (unexcused)
Commissioner Gilbert Mathieu (excused)
Commissioner Maria Smietan (excused)

Staff Present:

Mr. Michael D. Falkow, Assistant City Manager
Ken Campos, Chief Assistant City Attorney
Mrs. Kathy Ares-Givens, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Pro Tem Padilla at 6:57 p.m. A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Alicia Smith.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Commissioner Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Roy Fisher commented on the CPOC making the right decisions. He also commented that he hopes that the commissioners would be able to view reports and do their due diligence. He further commented that the commissioners act as an individual and not look to the Mayor and Council for guidance and that the CPOC would do what is right for the City of Inglewood.

Mr. Willie Agee commented that he was happy to see the commissioners. He further commented that the CPOC has been struggling due to the lack of power. He stated that there are strong and powerful people on the CPOC and that the CPOC represents the City of Inglewood and the members that appointed them to the CPOC.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Alicia Smith that the minutes of the December 8, 2010, meeting be approved. The motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

Presentations and Elections of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

It was moved by Commissioner Spencer and seconded by Commissioner Hall that the agenda item "Presentations and Elections of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson" be tabled. The motion carried.

COMMISSION ADVISOR REPORTS

Mr. Falkow thanked the Commissioners for their service. Mr. Falkow advised the CPOC of the newly elected officials Mayor, James T. Butts, Jr., and Councilman Michael Stevens, and the new City Manager, Mr. Artie Fields. Mr. Falkow reported that there are seven (7) executive vacancies and three (3) Interim Directors.

Mr. Falkow reported that at the beginning of the Fiscal Year the City had a \$17.6 million structural deficit. The City implemented a workforce reduction program that resulted in the elimination of 80 part-time and permanent part-time employees, 16 full time employees, 34 employees voluntarily separated through a two-year retirement incentive, and 32 vacancies were eliminated from the budget.

Mr. Falkow advised the CPOC of the closure of the District 2 Fire Station. He stated that all six labor groups agreed to a 10% reduction in salary, and as a result City Hall is closed every Friday. The police department furlough is different since the police department cannot be closed. The police management unit agreed to eliminate overtime for lieutenants. Mr. Falkow stated that the City sold a piece of land for \$5.8 million providing one-time revenue.

Mr. Falkow reported on the Blue Ribbon Committee. The Blue Ribbon Committee was implemented by the act of the City Council a year ago. The committee was created to evaluate the structure of the oversight committee. The structure of the current CPOC does not provide a mechanism for the CPOC to recommend discipline.

The City Council understood that the ordinance that was created limited the effectiveness of the CPOC, and as a result the Blue Ribbon Committee was created. The Committee consists of one member selected by the Mayor and Council Members and two members selected from the existing CPOC.

The purpose of the Blue Ribbon Committee is to investigate various models of police oversight committees and bring recommendations to the City Council to possibly explore changes that may need to be made.

Chairperson Pro Tem Padilla requested that staff place on the CPOC agenda a discussion item regarding reimbursement for CPOC members attending the NACOLE Conference. He also requested that a Special Citizen Police Oversight Commission Meeting be scheduled for Wednesday, August 17, 2011, at 6:30 p.m.

Commissioner Hall asked to be excused from the Special Citizen Police Oversight Meeting. She will be attending a conference and unable to attend the special meeting.

The Citizen Police Oversight Commission recessed at 7:38 p.m. and reconvened at 7:49 p.m.

Mr. Falkow introduced Mr. Artie Fields, City Manager, to the CPOC.

Mr. Fields stated that he appreciates and understands the hard job of the CPOC, and if he can be of assistance to let him know.

Discussion and Direction Regarding Methodology for Case Review

Mr. Falkow discussed the process for reviewing cases. He stated that the reviewing of cases is one of the prime responsibilities of the CPOC. He further stated that originally the CPOC received the police complaint files and later the disposition. The Commissioners requested from the Chief of Police investigation reports so the CPOC would have the ability to ask questions and give recommendations.

The Chief of Police was willing to change the process and provide the CPOC with cases two months before the deadline to allow the CPOC the opportunity to provide valuable input. The reports were provided to the CPOC for review, however, due to the large size of the report the CPOC was unable to review all reports in closed session. A request was submitted to the Chief of Police to provide the CPOC with the files prior to the meeting; however, the request was denied by the Chief of Police.

Mr. Falkow stated that perhaps the CPOC could revisit the request to provide a CD to the CPOC prior to the meeting to review.

Mr. Falkow stated that the CPOC is behind in reviewing its cases. He suggested that CPOC discuss whether or not they would like to review old or current cases.

Commissioner Spencer suggested that the CPOC move forward and review new cases. Chairperson Pro Tem Padilla suggested that that the CPOC begin reviewing cases effective August 2011. The Commissioners concurred.

Chairperson Pro Tem Padilla discussed how the CPOC wishes to review cases such as use of force and officer involved shooting. He stated that a subcommittee could be created to review certain cases.

Commissioner Hall suggested that commissioners review all cases.

Chairperson Pro Tem Padilla asked if the police department had a bail schedule for disciplinary cases.

Mr. Ken Campos stated that the Inglewood Police Department does not have a bail schedule. The Chief of Police has considered it but because of the complexity of cases that are being received, the Inglewood Police Department has not gone to a bail schedule. The Chief of Police has stated that she is opposed to a bail schedule.

Chairperson Pro Tem Padilla requested a year-to-date summary of the internal affairs investigations that are taking place and a break down of the nature of those investigations.

Chairperson Pro Tem Padilla requested a bullet point history of the officer that is involved in the cases be provided to the CPOC.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT OUT

No closed session report out.

STAFF REMARKS

Mr. Falkow welcomed everyone and stated that he was very enlightened and excited. He stated that four years ago he received the assignment as a co-lateral duty and grew to enjoy the friendships that were created and looks forward to doing the same with the new commissioners. Mr. Falkow further stated that he is available to the CPOC to answer questions at any time.

Mrs. Ares-Givens commented that she is excited to serve and be a part of the CPOC. She stated if she can be of assistance, please contact her in the Administrative Office.

COMMISSION MEMBERS REMARKS

Commissioner Spencer stated that it was nice to meet everyone.

Commissioner Hollier stated that he will be having surgery but is optimistic he will be in attendance at next week's meeting.

Commissioner Paul Smith stated that he looks forward to working with everybody, and he is very excited.

Chairperson Pro Tem Padilla requested a phone directory and identification cards for the CPOC.

Commissioner Alicia Smith stated that with the CPOC getting passed the past and moving forward with the experience, knowledge, and youth that is on the CPOC, she looks forward to being a part of the CPOC.

Commissioner Sears stated that she is really happy to welcome the new commissioners. She further stated that Commissioners Spencer, Hall, and she have dedicated seven years to the CPOC. She is excited that the CPOC is moving in a positive way. She thanked Mr. Falkow, Mrs. Ares, and Mr. Campos, for their service and attendance.

Commissioner Sergio Hernandez thanked everyone for their commitment. He stated that he has a lot to learn but will learn fast and is excited.

Commissioner Hall thanked staff, and she stated that she is optimistic and energized by the new commissioners and looks forward to working collaboratively.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.