



INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA
Website: www.cityofinglewood.org

CITIZEN POLICE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING
April 12, 2006
Community Room, First Floor, City Hall
Minutes

Members Present:

Chairperson Wayne Spencer
Vice Chairperson Adrienne Sears
Commissioner Joy Brown-Price
Commissioner Rita Hall
Commissioner Judy A. Bowles
Commissioner Donald Nicholson
Commissioner Gerald Thompson
Commissioner Curlee Ross

Members Absent:

Commissioner Ozell Butler
Commissioner David P. Stewart

Staff Present

Joseph T. Rouzan, Jr., City Administrator
Kevin Hawkins, Special Assistant to the City Administrator
Ronald Banks, Chief of Police
Percy Roberts, Captain
Mike McBride, Lieutenant
Katie Howe, Administrative Analyst
Kathy Ares, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Wayne Spencer called the meeting to order at 6:44 p.m. A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Hall led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Hall led the invocation.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chairperson Spencer requested that a motion be made to approve the minutes of the March 29, 2006 meeting.

Commissioner Ross moved that the minutes of the March 29, 2006 meeting be approved. Commissioner Bowles seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Rouzan introduced staff members Kevin Hawkins and Katie Howe to the Commission.

REMARKS

Chief Ronald Banks thanked the Commission for inviting him to attend the meeting. He commented that he is pleased that the Commission is reviewing police-related complaints.

Chief Banks informed the Commission that once complaints are received they are investigated within twenty-four hours. He also advised the Commission that an investigation could take from six to eight weeks or up to six months. If the Commission; however, requests a status of an investigation, the police department could provide the Commission with a status report. Chief Banks commented that a large amount of complaints are received from individuals who have been arrested.

He also advised the Commission that there is a significant backlog in cases; however, the police department is in compliance with the guidelines of the law for reviewing cases. The law allows one year to review cases. Cases are typically completed within six months; however, it could take longer depending on the complexity.

Chief Banks announced that after his departure, retired Los Angeles Police Department deputy chief Julius Davis will serve as the Interim Chief of Police.

PRESENTATION

Lieutenant Mike McBride gave a presentation on the process of receiving and handling complaints. Lieutenant McBride advised the Commission that all complaints are taken seriously and are investigated. Complaints are received in any form; written or verbally.

Lieutenant McBride informed the Commission that once a complaint is filed, a supervisor takes the complaint form and prepares a memo to the chief of police. The supervisor has twenty-four hours to submit the complaint to the chief of police. The chief of police reviews the complaint and determines who will investigate the complaint. Extremely serious complaints are sent to the Internal Affairs Division for investigation.

Once the chief of police makes the determination who will investigate the complaint-a captain or supervisor-the complainant is notified and additional information is obtained concerning the complaint. The person assigned to investigate the complaint seeks witnesses who have no connection with the complainant or the police department. After witnesses are interviewed, the police officer involved is the last individual to be interviewed. After the investigation is completed, a report with the findings is prepared and submitted to the chief of police.

Lieutenant McBride informed the commission that complaints are classified in four categories: 1)unfounded: incident did not occur; 2)exonerated: incident did occur, however within policy; 3)not sustained: no evidence of the incident; and 4)sustained: incident did occur and officer violated policy.

If actions are sustained, the recommended discipline actions are imposed. The officer has the option to utilize the Skelly Process which allows officers to meet with the chief of police to plead their case prior to the recommended disciplinary action being imposed.

Commissioner Joy Brown-Price arrived to the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

COMMISSION ADVISOR REPORTS

Commission Advisor Joseph T. Rouzan, Jr. responded to a question from Commissioner Nicholson regarding internal selection of a chief of police. Commission Advisor Rouzan advised the Commission that the position is opened for all qualified individuals to apply.

CLOSED SESSION

The Citizen Police Oversight Commission recessed for closed session at 7:35 p.m. Closed Session adjourned at 8:49 p.m. The meeting re-adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

Chairperson Spencer reported that eight complaints were reviewed; five complaints were referred to the police department for further investigation, two complaints were considered non-investigated and one complaint was referred to the chief of police.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REMARKS

Commissioners Thompson, Price, Hall, Bowles, and Chairperson Spencer commented on responding to letters received from the police associations.

Commissioner Nicholson requested that at the next meeting the Commission discuss commissioner's attendance and new leadership.

Vice Chairperson Sears requested that the Citizen Police Oversight Commission By-Laws and Policies and Procedures be finalized. Vice Chairperson Sears suggested that a Special Citizen Police Oversight Commission Meeting be held Wednesday, April 19, 2006 to discuss responding to the letters received from the police associations.

Commission Advisor Joseph T. Rouzan, Jr. suggested that the Commission set aside three to four hours on a Saturday to work on the Citizen Police Oversight Commission By-Laws. He also suggested that the Commission schedule a day and time for their ride-alongs.

Commission Advisor Joseph T. Rouzan, Jr. advised the Commission that the interim chief of police will begin Monday, May 1, 2006. He informed the Commission that the City will be conducting a nationwide search for a chief of police.

Commission Advisor Joseph T. Rouzan, Jr. distributed to the Commission the Administrative Office, Monthly Administrative Newsletter—*Around the 9th Hole*. He also requested that the Commission provide a brief biography of themselves to place on the internet and in the Administrative Office, Monthly Administrative Report.

Commission Advisor Joseph T. Rouzan Jr., advised the Commission that he will invite the police associations to speak at their meeting. He also commented that the Commission will try to keep their meetings within a two hour time frame.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.