



INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA  
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**CITIZEN POLICE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION  
MEETING  
February 21, 2007  
Community Room, First Floor, City Hall  
Minutes**

**Members Present:**

**Chairperson Wayne Spencer  
Vice Chairperson Adrienne Sears  
Commissioner David P. Stewart  
Commissioner Joy Brown-Price  
Commissioner Curlee Ross  
Commissioner Judy A. Bowles  
Commissioner Donald Nicholson  
Commissioner Ozell Butler  
Commissioner Gerald Thompson  
Commissioner Rita Hall**

**Members Absent:**

**Commissioner Nannette Marchand**

**Staff Present**

**Mr. Jeff Muir, Acting City Administrator  
Mr. Cal Saunders, Acting City Attorney  
Ms. Faith Mitchell, Senior Assistant City Attorney  
Ms. Katie Howe, Administrative Analyst  
Ms. Kathy Ares, Recording Secretary**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chairperson Sears called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. A quorum was present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INVOCATION**

Commissioner Hall gave the invocation.

Commissioner Nicholson made the motion that results of the January 10<sup>th</sup> election for Chair and Vice Chair stand.

The motion was seconded by *Commissioner Judy Bowles* ~~Vice Chairperson Sears~~.

Chairperson Spencer arrived at 6:37 p.m.

Commission Member Brown-Price opened the topic for discussion to recommend that the rules and regulations of the commission be edited to include provisions preventing the chairperson and vice chairperson to have been appointed to the commission by the same appointer. She believes this will decrease possible appearances of impropriety.

Commissioner Hall commented that the provision would have to have been in place before the commission voted. She also questions holding another election, when a valid election had already been held, and asked why there was a discrepancy with the election.

Assistant City Administrator Jeff Muir commented that the commission was sent a letter, signed by Ms. Ares, that included information and recommendations that were a result of discussions from the Administrative Office and the City Attorney.

Chairperson Spencer commented that a commission that is not in compliance with the Brown Act is not a valid commission.

Commissioner Nicholson read an excerpt from the State Attorney General addressing open elections.

Acting City Attorney, Cal Saunders replied to the excerpt, pointing out that the excerpt expresses that an open election is one in which the public can tell which commissioner voted for whom, whether it is because the election is verbal, or if commissioner name-labeled ballots are used.

Commissioner Nicholson requested that the commissioners' name plates be changed to reflect the election results.

Commissioner Nicholson withdrew his motion—that results of the January 10<sup>th</sup> election for Chair and Vice Chair stand.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Francis Taylor asked whether the commissioners have to add their names to the ballot.

Acting City Attorney Saunders read Government Code Section 54950 which states how the ballot can be structured in order for the election to be an “open election.” One method is that the Commission use ballots with commissioner names on them. While it is not necessary to disclose for whom each commissioner voted at the meeting, the public has the right to file a public information request to find out how each member voted. Another option would be an oral vote, during which each Commissioner would verbally state who they are voting for.

Mr. Saunders pointed out that the members of the public in attendance may make an oral request at the meeting regarding the vote. The information would then be given to them at the meeting a written request would not be necessary.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Election Procedures and Election of Officers

The Commission discussed the method that would be used for the election i.e. ballots, verbal election, or raising of hands.

Commissioner Hall suggested that the commission use paper ballots containing the commissioner's (the voter's) name, and that they be made available to the public.

Vice Chairperson Sears requested that staff revise ballots to include commissioner's name.

Commission Member Hall made a motion that all future written ballots have commissioners' names on them.

Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion.

The Motion Carried

Acting City Attorney Saunders addressed the length of term question raised at the previous Commission Meeting, specifically, does a Commissioner continue to serve if their appointer is no longer a member of the City Council. The election code states that the person serves either the entire term of the person who appointed them or until a successor is elected to office and names new Commissioners.

Staff distributed ballots for the offices of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

The Commissioners voted for Chairperson as follows:

**Vice Chairperson Sears:** Vice Chairperson Sears; Commissioners Stewart, Butler, Hall, Ross, Bowles, and Nicholson (7 votes)

**Commissioner Thompson:** Chairperson Spencer; Commissioners Thompson, and Brown-Price (3 votes)

The Commissioners voted for Vice Chairperson as follows:

**Commissioner Stewart:** Chairperson Spencer; Vice Chairperson Sears; Commissioners Stewart, Butler, Hall, Ross, and Thompson (7 votes)

**Commissioner Nicholson:** Commissioners Nicholson, Bowles, and Brown-Price (3 votes)

Staff announced the results:

Adrienne Sears was appointed Chairperson of the Commission.

David P. Stewart was appointed Vice Chairperson of the Commission.

### **COMMISSION ADVISOR REPORTS**

Assistant City Administrator Muir encouraged the Commission to prepare its Administrative Manual.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Commissioner Ross requested that on page 3, paragraph 3 that the word "*affect*" be corrected to "*effect*."

Commissioner Brown-Price requested that on page 5, under Commission Member Remarks, paragraph 2 that the paragraph be revised to convey her correct comments.

Commissioner Nicholson pointed out in the minutes that the City Attorney stated that he would not give legal advice to the Commission.

It was moved by Commissioner Brown-Price and seconded by Commissioner Ross that the minutes of the meeting of January 10, 2007 be approved with corrections. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Chairperson Sears, Vice Chairperson Stewart, Commissioners Brown-Price, Ross, Spencer, Bowles, Butler, Thompson, and Hall.

Noes: Commissioner Nicholson.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### 2. Suggestions for Administrative Manual

Vice Chairperson Stewart made a motion to create an ad hoc committee to formulate the Administrative Manual. Commissioner Hall seconded.

The motion carried.

The following commissioners volunteered to serve on the ad hoc committee: Chairperson Sears, Vice Chairperson Stewart, Commissioners Ross, Bowles, and Nicholson.

#### 3. Adoption of Administrative Manual

There was no action taken.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

4. Protocol for CPOC Media Inquiry Responses

Discussions took place on how commissioners would respond to the media in regards to police cases, and whose role it was to respond. It was decided that Commission Members would inform the public that they are not able to comment. It is the role of the Public Information Officer (when comments are appropriate) to make such reports to the public.

Mr. Muir commented that police cases that are reviewed by the commission are protected by the peace officers bill of rights and that commissioners should not make statements.

5. Town Hall Meeting

Chairperson Sears commented that the Inglewood Police Department Town Hall Meeting was well organized and well attended, and she is looking forward to the first CPOC Town Hall Meeting once policies and procedures are in place.

**CLOSED SESSION**

There were no closed session items.

**CLOSED SESSION REPORT OUT**

There was no closed session report out.

**COMMISSION MEMBER REMARKS**

Commissioner Thompson congratulated Chairperson Sears for being elected as the new chairperson. He commended the commission on their integrity.

Commissioner Hall commented that she is optimistic that the commission will move forward together with a united front.

Commissioner Ross commented that he expects a lot from the elected officers.

Commissioner Bowles commented that she looks forward to working with the new elected officers, and she expressed the importance of following proper procedure and operating in compliance with the Brown Act.

Commissioner Nicholson thanked Acting City Administrator Muir for his professionalism and insight to urge the commission to prepare their administrative manual.

Commissioner Spencer congratulated Chairperson Sears and Vice Chairperson Stewart on their new positions. He also commented on police issues and the possibility of a future analysis/study of the Police Department.

Vice Chairperson Stewart thanked the commission for electing him Vice Chairperson. He commented that the commission should continue to focus on their mission.

Chairperson Sears commented that the commission is a diverse group but it shares a common interest, which is seeking what is best for the constituents of Inglewood. She also commented on moving forward together in unity and integrity. And lastly, after the administrative manual is prepared, she suggests the commission look into obtaining independent counsel and an executive director.

**STAFF REMARKS**

There were no staff remarks.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

(Corrections and additions are italicized; deletions are strikeouts)