

INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA

Website: www.cityofinglewood.org

Special Citizen Police Oversight Commission Meeting July 23, 2009 City Council Chambers, Ninth Floor, City Hall Minutes

Members Present:

Chairperson Adrianne Sears
Commissioner David P. Stewart
Vice Chairperson Joy Brown-Price
Commissioner Kofi N. Nartey
Commissioner Judy Bowles
Commissioner Donald Nicholson
Commissioner Alan Kaplan
Commissioner Rita Hall

Members Absent:

Commissioner Cleveland Brown (excused)
Commissioner Wayne Spencer (excused)
Commissioner Gilbert Mathieu (excused)

Staff Present:

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sears at 6:54 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 Hall.

Commissioner Stewart arrived at 6:55 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

COMMISSION ADVISOR REPORTS

Mr. Falkow announced that National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2009 and that City Council will not have a meeting on August 4, 2009. He stated that the Commission's participation is expected to the extent that they have the ability to do so. Mr. Falkow advised the Commission that they may contact him or Community Affairs if there were any questions.

Mr. Falkow advised the Commission that new safety procedures will be effective July 27, 2009. All visitors to city hall will be required to sign-in at the information booth by presenting a photo identification card in exchange for a visitor badge. Visitors will have to disclose the floor they wish to visit. All elevators will be locked and badge access with the exception to the first floor.

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Guests visiting multiple floors will be directed back to the first floor where an escort will take guests to subsequent floors.

All entrances except for the front east entrance will be locked and badge access only. Access to the Finance and City Clerk offices will not require sign-in at the information booth. All commission meetings with the exception of the Planning Commission will be held in the Community Room effective July 27, 2009.

Vice Chairperson Brown-Price asked if there is a cost associated with the changes.

Mr. Falkow replied yes. He stated that there is a police officer currently assigned to the information booth during operating hours.

Vice Chairperson Brown Price asked the reason why the Planning Commission will continue to hold its meeting in the City Council Chambers.

Mr. Falkow stated that the Planning Commission wishes to record its meeting.

Commissioner Bowles asked who implemented the changes.

Mr. Falkow stated that two weeks ago the City Clerk placed an item on the City Council agenda to discuss security measures within city hall. As a result security procedures were implemented including police officers being stationed at the information booth.

Mr. Falkow informed the Commission that staff is in the process of preparing a report to the City Council for July 28th City Council meeting which would outline recommendations as to how to more effectively implement certain types of security procedures because the current implementation may be difficult to adhere to.

Vice Chairperson Brown-Price asked if there has ever been a crime committed in city hall.

Mr. Falkow stated that there was one incident that anyone could ever recall which occurred at the library where a person pulled out a gun and pointed to an employee who he was stalking. Mr. Falkow also stated that there have been verbal threats.

Chairperson Sears directed staff to make a formal written request to the City Administrator requesting a copy of the Office of Independent Review's report that was presented to the City Council be released to the Citizen Police Oversight Commission. Chairperson Sears stated that she would like to know if the report will be released publicly.

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ACTION ITEM

Process for Commission feedback on dispositions

Mr. Falkow stated that he had a brief conversation with the Chief of Police regarding the Commission receiving the police department's actual investigation reports. Mr. Falkow advised the Commission that the Chief stated that she would discuss the matter with the command staff and believed that it would not be an issue; however, her concern was the timelines. Mr. Falkow informed the Commission that the Chief looks forward to receiving the Commission's request and will review at that time.

CLOSED SESSION

The Citizen Police Oversight Commission recessed for closed session at 7:09 p.m. and reconvened at 7:49 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT OUT

Mr. Falkow stated that closed session was held and no action was taken.

Process for Commission feedback on dispositions

Chairperson Sears reopened the discussion for "Process for Commission feedback on dispositions"

Chairperson Sears stated that the Commission have had previous discussions regarding streamlining the process for dispositions by hiring an Executive Director. She stated that the Executive Director should have a background in civil rights and law enforcement. The scope of duties would include reviewing police cases, providing recommendations to the commission, policy recommendations and answering commission questions.

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Brown-Price and seconded by Commissioner Nartey to hire an Executive Director for the purpose to service the Commission. The motion was carried by a majority with one oppose from Commissioner Nicholson.

Commissioner Hall suggested that the Commission consider hiring a retired judge to serve as the Commission's Executive Director.

Vice Chairperson Brown-Price suggested that the Commission request a job description for Executive Director from NACOLE or the City of Long Beach Police Complaint Commission.

Chairperson Sears stated that she and Mr. Falkow will work together to get a job description and the cost associated with the position of Executive Director.

Chairperson Sears suggested that an ad hoc committee be created to search for candidates for the position of Executive Director and that a list of candidates be submitted to the Commission for review.

Mr. Falkow advised the Commission that the city is heavily involved in the 2009/2010 budget, and it is not guaranteed that the current allocations will be placed in next year's budget.

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Commissioner Nicholson requested a copy of Long Beach Police Complaint Commission's Ordinance.

Chairperson Sears suggested that the Commission attend the City of Long Beach Police Complaint Commission meeting.

STAFF REMARKS

There were no staff remarks.

COMMISSION MEMBERS REMARKS

Commissioner Nartey stated that he was pleased that the Commission was making progress in a positive direction. He also stated that once the Commission's foundation is built the Commission will be able to excel forward faster.

Commissioners Hall wished everyone a good night.

Commissioner Bowles wished everyone a good night.

Commissioner Nicholson stated that he had attended the Motorcycle and Low Riders festival at Hollywood Park. He stated that there were no incidents and that he had spoken with some of the participants and that they were pleased with the Inglewood police officers.

Commissioner Kaplan stated that the Commission is making great strive. He also stated that the Commission is not going to get the respect of the public until they receive the respect of the Chief and the City Council. He further stated that he is pleased with the measures that the Commission is taking. Mr. Kaplan advised the Commission that he will be attending the Call for Action meeting at Darby back on Tuesday, July 28, 2009.

Vice Chairperson Brown-Price wished everyone a good night.

Commissioner Stewart advised the Commission that the Relay for Life is scheduled for July 25th at Vincent Park. He also advised the Commission that there will be a Health Clinic at the Forum in August and encourage the Commission to share the information with Inglewood residents.

Chairperson Sears stated that she is happy that the Commission's requests are now in writing. She also stated that she is happy that the Commission voted to hire an Executive Director. She further stated that she looks forward to receiving a copy of the Office of Independent Review's report from City Council.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.