

INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA

Website: www.cityofinglewood.org



Citizen Police Oversight Commission (CPOC) Special Meeting December 9, 2009 City Council Chambers, Ninth Floor, City Hall Minutes

Members Present:

Chairperson Adrianne Sears
Vice Chairperson Joy Brown-Price
Commissioner Kofi N. Nartey
Commissioner Judy Bowles
Commissioner Alan Kaplan
Commissioner Rita Hall

Members Absent:

Commissioner David P. Stewart (excused)
Commissioner Wayne Spencer (excused)
Commissioner Donald Nicholson (unexcused)
Commissioner Gilbert Mathieu (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 7:13 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 Hall and seconded by Commissioner Nartey that the minutes of the October 14, 2009, meeting be approved. The motion carried.

COMMISSION ADVISOR REPORTS

Mr. Falkow welcomed the staff from the Office of the Inspector General for LAPD to the meeting.

Mr. Falkow announced that Councilman Morales appointed Mr. Sergio Hernandez to serve on the Blue Ribbon Committee. He also announced that Councilman Franklin appointed Mr. Frank Knoll to the Blue Ribbon Committee. Mr. Falkow will contact Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Knoll regarding their duties once their contact information is provided.

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Mr. Falkow advised the CPOC that he was informed by the City Administrator that the Mayor's appointment to the Blue Ribbon Committee is expected to take place at the next City Council meeting. He also stated that possibly the other two members will make their appointments at the next City Council Meeting.

Mr. Falkow stated that after the City Council members make their appointments he anticipates the first blue ribbon committee meeting to take place in mid-January.

Mr. Falkow announced that Leo Chu and the staff and Employees of Hollywood Park Casino will be hosting a Special Community Appreciation Luncheon on Thursday, December 10, 2009, at 12 noon. The luncheon will be held at the Hollywood Park Casino and all are welcomed.

Mr. Falkow advised the Commission that CPOC elections are scheduled for January 13, 2010. Commissioners interested in running for the office of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are to notify staff no later than Monday, January 4, 2010.

PRESENTATION

• Presentation by the Office of the Inspector General for LAPD

Chairperson Sears introduced Nicole Bershon, Assistant Inspector General, and Andre Birotte, Jr., Inspector General of the Office of the Inspector General for LAPD (OIG) and read their respective biographies. Chairperson Sears welcomed Ms. Bershon and Mr. Birotte to the CPOC meeting.

Mr. Birotte stated that the OIG was a key recommendation of the Christopher Commission that stemmed from the riots in Los Angeles. The Office was created after a City Charter amendment. The OIG's primary focus was to investigate complaints of misconduct. The responsibilities of the OIG have expanded significantly. The OIG conducts audits of various LAPD operations and reviews significant use of force cases including officer involved shootings, and in custody deaths. Mr. Birotte further stated that much of the OIG's authority is vested in the City Charter.

Mr. Birotte stated that staff consists of lawyers, auditors, and former law enforcers. He further stated that staff attends LAPD training, supervisory school, mini use of force training, and ride and fly alongs. He expressed the importance of Boards and Commissions investing the time to learn what their respective agency does and how they are trained so that they are able to offer suggestions on ways of improvement. He further stated attending training classes that police officers attend helps to increase positive relationships between the agency and the people who are being overseen.

Chairperson Sears asked Mr. Birotte whether it was the consent decree that pressured the police department and city to cooperate with the oversight process.

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Mr. Birotte stated that the consent decree helped to strengthen the Commission and the OIG. He further stated that rules were already in place prior to the consent decree but were not being adhered to.

Chairperson Sears asked Mr. Birotte to explain to the Commission how the OIG works with the Commission as well as the Police Department.

Mr. Birotte stated that under the City Charter the police department is a structured organization. The Police Commission is made up of five civilians that are appointed by the members. The Chief of Police, Executive Director, and the Inspector General report to the Board of Police Commission. The Inspector General serves as a staff member for the Commission. The OIG reviews transcripts, scientific evidence, and creates a report for the Board of Police Commission to review. The report includes the facts in the case, the chief's recommendation, and the OIG's recommendation. However, the Board of Police Commission ultimately makes the recommendation.

Vice Chairperson Brown-Price asked how was the OIG created.

Mr. Birotte stated that the former Secretary of State convened a Commission to evaluate the Los Angeles riots incident, and one of the recommendations was to create the OIG within the police department to oversee the discipline system of the police department via amendment to the City Charter. The voters voted the amendment into law and the OIG was created in 1996.

Commisioner Kaplan asked whether racial profiling is in the OIG purview.

Mr. Birotte stated yes.

Chairperson Sears asked what the CPOC should be doing to research best practices.

Mr. Birotte stated that the Commission should find out what they want to do and then what they can do realistically. He stated that whatever the Commission decides, the CPOC should start small and then gradually expand. He also stated that the CPOC establish working rules.

Vice Chairperson Brown-Price inquired about the OIG's auditor model.

Mr. Birotte stated that the OIG creates a matrix of questions that is the standard by which the reports will be evaluated. He further stated that the matrix of questions is important on a number of levels because it standardizes the level of review so that when staff is grading the report everyone is together. He further stated that the OIG conducts audits to see how the OIG is performing.

Ms. Bershon stated that a pure audit model tends to review the completed investigations and comment on the investigation on the back end. She also stated that the OIG has the responsibility to conduct complaint investigations against the Chief of Police or any employee of the OIG. She further stated that the majority of the OIG work is to review completed investigations.

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Mr. Falkow thanked Mr. Birotte and Ms. Bershon on behalf of the City of Inglewood Administration Office for their time. He asked Mr. Birotte how to take into account the constraints that are placed upon the CPOC by the entity itself in regards to the City Charter.

Mr. Birotte stated that the CPOC should review the City Charter to find out if there are any liberal interpretations in the City Charter that would allow the CPOC to expand its roles and responsibilities. If no, consider conversations with the Mayor and police department regarding a possible charter amendment.

CLOSED SESSION

The Citizen Police Oversight Commission recessed for closed session at 8:29 p.m. and reconvened at 9:29 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT OUT

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

STAFF REMARKS

Mr. Falkow wished everyone a happy, healthy, and safe holiday and that he looks forward to seeing the members in 2010. Mr. Falkow again thanked the guests of the Office of the Inspector General for their attendance.

COMMISSION MEMBERS REMARKS

Commissioner Nartey thanked the guests of the Office of the Inspector General for their attendance and looks forward to a happy, healthy, and informative relationship.

Commissioner Hall thanked the guests of the Office of the Inspector General for imparting their knowledge to the CPOC. She also stated that she is excited about next year and is optimistic. She also thanked staff for their support.

Commissioner Bowles thanked the guests of the Office of the Inspector General and wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Commissioner Kaplan thanked the guests of the Office of the Inspector General for their attendance and thanked staff and the CPOC for their support.

Vice Chairperson Brown-Price thanked Chairperson Sears for her outstanding efforts. She also thanked the guests of the Office of the Inspector General for their attendance and staff for their support.

Chairperson Sears stated that she appreciates the Office of the Inspector General for their willingness to share with the CPOC. She thanked the CPOC for their diligence. She also thanked staff for their efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.