



INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA
Website: www.cityofinglewood.org



**Citizen Police Oversight Commission (CPOC)
Meeting
July 11, 2012
City Council Chambers, Ninth Floor, City Hall
Minutes**

Members Present:

Chairperson Alex Padilla
Vice Chairperson Alicia Smith
Commissioner Woody Hollier
Commissioner Paul Smith
Commissioner Danny Kirkpatrick
Commissioner Wayne Spencer
Commissioner Linda Soto

Members Absent:

Commissioner Adrienne Sears (excused)
Commissioner Maria Smietan (excused)
Commissioner Rita Hall (excused)

Staff Present:

Mr. Michael D. Falkow, Assistant City Manager
Mrs. Kathy Givens, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Padilla at 6:45 p.m. A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Soto.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Commissioner Spencer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Smith and seconded by Commissioner Spencer that the minutes of the June 13, 2012 meeting be approved. The motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Status of Hiring a Case Reviewer

Mr. Falkow advised the CPOC that the CPOC's budget was \$40,000, and that it was available up until 2008/2009 FY budget. The budget was reduced due to the economic downturn. Currently the budget is \$10,000.

Mr. Falkow stated that he spoke to the city manager about the opportunity to hire a potential case reviewer. The city manager declined to provide approval. He further stated that at this time there is no funding allotment capability for a case reviewer. Mr. Falkow recommended that the CPOC discuss other options.

Mr. Falkow advised the CPOC that one option is that staff can provide an electronic file. The commissioners can go to closed session in the information technology training room. The other option would be is to provide a laptop and office to allow the commissioners to come in and review the cases.

Mr. Falkow stated that he spoke with the city attorney about the option of creating a CD with a password and providing the CD to the commissioners. The city attorney declined to provide permission from a legal standpoint citing that it is a requirement that the files in any form not leave the police department with the exception of allowing them through chain of custody to come to city hall for the purpose of the commission's closed session.

Chairperson Padilla thanked Mr. Falkow for reporting back to the CPOC. Chairperson Padilla stated that the only option that he sees would be to come to city hall and review cases.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick asked if the case files were audio taped.

Mr. Falkow stated that they are handwritten or photo copy documents.

Vice Chairperson Smith asked how many cases will the CPOC go back.

Chairperson Padilla stated that based on the information, he recommends that the CPOC not go back six months. He recommended that the CPOC go back to July 1st.

Mr. Falkow stated that another option that was discussed was creating a subcommittee that could rotate on a monthly basis. The subcommittee would present cases to the CPOC.

Chairperson Padilla asked the CPOC if the CPOC are okay with three commissioners reviewing the first month of cases that are assigned to the CPOC.

Commissioner Spencer stated that there are new commissioners and that they will be missing out on the experience.

Chairperson Padilla stated that the same three will not remain the same.

Chairperson Padilla stated that the CPOC will spend the next meeting setting aside one and a half hours of in-house training.

Mr. Falkow stated that one option would be is to have one case file. The CPOC could go to the training room and go through the case simultaneously. Another option would be that a computer can be set-up in the executive conference room in closed session.

Chairperson Padilla recommended that the CPOC take one case, review it as a commission, and make recommendations.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick asked when reading a complaint report and the CPOC comes to the conclusion within the first few pages does the CPOC need all the rest of the pages.

Chairperson Padilla stated that the CPOC will still need to read them. The CPOC has an obligation to read everybody's statements. Chairperson Padilla further stated that the CPOC is looking at the intention of the investigation.

Commissioner Soto asked after the commissioners review the cases is there a list of approved recommendations.

Mr. Falkow stated after the CPOC evaluates the files, the CPOC has to have a good feel for what the general orders specify, at the same time the CPOC needs to know if there has been past discipline.

Chairperson Padilla asked if the department's policies and procedures manual are on the computer.

Mr. Falkow stated it is not for general access, but he can make it available to the CPOC.

Chairperson Padilla requested a copy of the involved officers' history of discipline from internal affairs.

Chairperson Padilla asked as a commissioner, has our past practice been to recommend the discipline or to recommend if it is out or in policy and why.

Mr. Falkow stated that it has never gone that far. He further stated that as a body the CPOC can chose which way to go.

Chairperson Padilla stated that the CPOC would read complaints, look at what the policies and procedures say, the CPOC would come to an agreement and a vote, if it was in or out of policy, and what the CPOC found. The discipline would be up to the Chief. The CPOC would review the discipline that was given.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick asked if the CPOC can schedule a meeting with the mayor and council members.

Mr. Falkow stated that anything you do with your appointing member is allowed. He also stated that you can talk to other elected members. To get more that two council members together would require it to be done in an open session during a council meeting or a council workshop. He further stated that the commissioners can request a workshop with the council.

Mr. Falkow stated that the benefit of a workshop would be that the CPOC would be able to interact with the council without the same requirements as a city council meeting. If the council does not want to do that in public two elected members can meet with the CPOC at a CPOC meeting.

Chairperson Padilla recommended that the commissioners meet with their council member regarding the council members' thoughts about the role of the CPOC.

Mr. Falkow stated that when the commissioners meet with their council members to ask them how they feel about a council workshop.

Chairperson Padilla requested that the status of hiring a case reviewer be placed on next month's agenda. He also requested that the CPOC review one case at next month's meeting.

Vice Chairperson Smith requested a template for the CPOC.

The CPOC recessed for 5 minutes
The CPOC reconvened

National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) Conference in San Diego, California, October 14-18, 2012.

Mr. Falkow reported that Mr. Fields approved \$5,000 of the budget to be used for members of the CPOC who attend the NACOLE conference. Mr. Falkow advised the CPOC to maintain original receipts and that funds would not be advanced. He stated that reimbursement payments would be processed as soon as possible.

Mr. Falkow advised the CPOC that for the first two weeks in October he will be at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

Mr. Falkow highly recommended that the commissioners attending the NACOLE conference give a presentation to the CPOC at the CPOC meeting.

COMMISSION ADVISOR REPORTS

Mr. Falkow reported that the next quarterly budget report should be available early or mid August. Mr. Falkow stated that the mid-year budget was available May 12, 2012, on the website.

Mr. Falkow advised the CPOC that action was taken at last night's city council meeting to refinance the civic center bond from 1999. The council voted in favor.

Mr. Falkow stated that negotiations will begin with the six bargaining groups. He further stated that the waste hauler contract was approved. The City will receive a one time \$5 million up front contract fee.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT OUT

There was no closed session.

STAFF REMARKS

There were no staff remarks.

COMMISSION MEMBERS REMARKS

Commissioner Soto stated that she was interested in learning more about the NACOLE Conference. She welcomed Commissioner Kirkpatrick to the CPOC.

Commissioner Hollier thanked the CPOC members who were originally on the CPOC. He stated that he appreciates them for remaining on the CPOC.

Commissioner Smith thanked staff. He stated that he looks forward to getting started with the case files.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick stated that he is here for the duration as long as he understands what he is doing and there are guidelines. He further stated that anything he can do to help to let him know. He thanked the commissioners for welcoming him.

Commissioner Spencer stated that he was one of the founding commission members and chairperson. He commented on the challenges the former CPOC encountered.

Vice Chairperson Smith welcomed Commissioner Kirkpatrick. She stated that it is up to the commissioners as individuals to take the CPOC to a higher level. She further stated that the commissioners have to go back to their appointing members, get directions, and bring feedback to the CPOC. The CPOC can then move forward. She further stated that the commissioners will succeed as a commission, and that she looks forward to great things happening.

Chairperson Padilla stated that all of the commissioners bring a different level of experience, perspective, and background. He further stated that the community is looking at the CPOC, so when things occur, the CPOC has to ensure that they are done the way it should be done. He thanked staff for keeping the CPOC focused. He also thanked the commissioners for volunteering.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.