

INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA

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Citizen Police Oversight Commission Meeting January 14, 2009 City Council Chambers, Ninth Floor, City Hall Minutes

Members Present:

Chairperson Adrianne Sears Commissioner David P. Stewart Commissioner Cleveland Brown Commissioner Joy Brown-Price Commissioner Wayne Spencer Commissioner Judy A. Bowles Commissioner Gilbert Mathieu

Members Absent:

Vice Chairperson Donald Nicholson (excused) Commissioner Herman Boykin (unexcused) Commissioner Rita Hall (excused)

Staff Present:

Mr. Michael Falkow, Acting Assistant City Administrator Ms. Kathy Ares, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sears at 6:46 p.m. A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Bowles.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Commissioner Spencer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Reynald Davis commented on the lack of public attendance at the Citizen Police Oversight Commission meeting. He also commented that he will encourage others to attend the meetings.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chairperson Sears requested an edit to the November 19, 2008 minutes: Page 4, Paragraph 5, 2nd sentence, should read "She commented that the community outreach committee was specifically created to provide information to the community and to receive community input and feedback."

It was moved by Commissioner Mathieu and seconded by Commissioner Stewart that the minutes of the November 19, 2008 be approved as revised and the December 10, 2008 minutes be approved.

The motion was carried.

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DISCUSSION

Citizen Police Oversight Commission Badges/Identification Cards

Commissioner Spencer commented that he is of the opinion that identification cards are needed for the commission. He stated that the identification card could be similar to the City of Inglewood employees' identification cards without access to city hall. He also stated that the identification card depicts professionalism and that you are a representative of the city.

Commissioner Mathieu commented that he had not received business cards, and he concurred that identification cards are needed.

Mr. Falkow asked if the Commission desired an identification card similar to city employees or a laminated business card.

Commissioner Spencer requested a picture identification card.

Chairperson Sears advised Commissioner Mathieu that he should have received his business cards and that business cards would be provided.

Commissioner Bowles asked if the city or the commission would be responsible for funding the identification cards.

Mr. Falkow stated that if the identification cards are produced internally, the cost would be minimal, but if the identifications cards are produced externally there would be an associated cost.

Commissioner Mathieu suggested that the identification cards be produced internally.

Chairperson Sears commented on an incident that occurred last year that involved her being at a crime scene. She also commented that an identification badge is a step in the right direction.

Mr. Falkow commented that he would discuss with Chief Seabrooks if the watch commander could be given a listing with the name of commissioners and pertinent information so that if a commissioner is at a crime scene the officer could immediately contact the watch commander to verify their identity.

Mr. Falkow stated that he would find out what type of identification cards the commission could be issued and would provide sample identification cards for the commission to review if approved by Administration.

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ACTION ITEMS

Amendments to the Citizen Police Oversight Commission Administrative Manual

Commissioner Brown-Price requested that the term limits for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson be eliminated.

Commissioner Mathieu asked if the administrative manual was proposed by the Commission or directed by the City Council.

Chairperson Sears stated that the body of the administrative manual document was taken in template form from Long Beach Police Commission and that an ad hoc committee was created to make modifications and present the final document to the Commission for approval.

Commissioner Brown-Price requested that an ad hoc committee be created to review the administrative manual annually.

Mr. Falkow advised the Commission that any modifications to the administrative manual will be in effect immediately.

Commissioner Spencer commented that he is against modifying portions of the administrative manual.

Commissioner Stewart commented that since the Commission is awaiting the report of the assessment of the police department, and if there is no urgency in changing the administrative manual, the commission should delay making modifications to the administrative manual. Commissioner Stewart also commented that an ad hoc committee should be established to review the entire administrative manual.

Commissioner Brown-Price commented that since the administrative manual states that the election be held tonight, she wishes to make the necessary modification now so that the elections may move forward.

Commissioner Brown-Price made a motion to amend the administrative manual by having page 3 #5 be modified to read as follow: "All officers shall be elected by the members for a term of one year with no term limits."

Commissioner Spencer seconded the motion.

The vote was as follow:

Ayes: Chairperson Sears; Commissioners Brown, Brown-Price and Spencer

Noes: Commissioners Stewart, Bowles and Mathieu Absent: Commissioner Nicholson, Boykin and Hall

The motion carried.

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Commissioner Brown-Price moved that the chairperson appoint up to five commissioners to the ad hoc committee to review the administrative manual for any additional modifications or recommendations.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown.

The motion carried.

Presentations and Elections of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Election ballots were distributed with the following candidate names preprinted:

Chairperson

Wayne Spencer David Stewart

Vice Chairperson

Joy Brown Price David Stewart

Staff opened the nominations for the office of Chairperson.

Commissioner Spencer withdrew his candidacy for the office of Chairperson.

Commissioner Brown nominated Chairperson Adrianne Sears for Chairperson. Chairperson Sears accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Mathieu nominated Wayne Spencer for Chairperson. Commissioner Spencer accepted the nomination.

Staff closed the floor for nominations for the office of Chairperson.

Chairperson Sears and commissioners Spencer and Stewart gave brief presentations of their background and experiences.

Staff opened the nominations for the office of Vice Chairperson.

Commissioner Spencer nominated Commissioner Gilbert Mathieu for Vice Chairperson. Commissioner Mathieu accepted the nomination.

Staff closed the floor for nominations for the office of Vice Chairperson.

Commissioners Brown-Price and Mathieu gave a brief presentation of their background and experiences.

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The Commissioners voted for Chairperson as follows:

Chairperson Sears: Chairperson Sears; Commissioners Brown-Price, Brown,

and Bowles (4 votes)

Commissioner Spencer: Commissioner Spencer and Commissioner Mathieu

(2 votes)

Commissioner Stewart: Commissioner Stewart (1 vote)

The Commissioners voted for Vice Chairperson as follows:

Commissioner Brown-Price: Chairperson Sears; Commissioner Brown-Price and

Commissioner Brown (3 votes)

Commissioner Mathieu: Commissioner Mathieu and Commissioner Spencer

(2 votes)

Commissioner Stewart: Commissioner Stewart and Commissioner Bowles (2 votes)

Staff announced the following result of the election: Chairperson: Chairperson Adrianne Sears Vice Chairperson: Commissioner Joy Brown-Price

COMMISSION ADVISOR REPORTS

Mr. Falkow advised the Commission that a table has been purchased for the commission to attend the City of Inglewood's 3rd Annual Police and Fire Appreciation luncheon. The event is scheduled for Thursday, January 22nd from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Proud Bird restaurant. Mr. Falkow requested that the commission rsvp with Ms. Ares by January 15, 2009.

Mr. Falkow also advised the commission that Commissioner Boykin was cleared by the City Administrator and the Police Chief to participate in closed sessions. Mr. Falkow requested clarification on unexcused absence on page 2, Section 3(A) of the administrative manual.

Chairperson Sears commented that she will contact Commissioner Boykin regarding her interest in serving on the Commission. Chairperson Sears also commented that commissioners are to notify the chairperson or the recording secretary if they will be absent. If chairperson or recording secretary are not notified, the absent will be reflected in the minutes as an unexcused absent.

It was recommended that the minutes reflect an unexcused absent for Commissioner Boykin.

Chairperson Sears directed staff to request from the city administrator the Office of the Independent Review's entire report, and that the report be submitted to the Commission once completed.

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Chairperson Sears recommended that the commission invite Mr. Gennaco of the Office of the Independent Review to review findings and recommendations in closed or opened session contingent on if the report is made available to the public.

Chairperson Sears commented that once the report is released, the commission would provide a response.

CLOSED SESSION

The Citizen Police Oversight Commission recessed for closed session at 8:23 p.m. and reconvened at 9:05 p.m.

Commissioner Stewart left the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT OUT

Mr. Falkow reported that no closed session items were discussed.

STAFF REMARKS

There were no staff remarks.

COMMISSION MEMBERS REMARKS

Chairperson Sears requested that staff place on the next agenda appointments to ad hoc committee to review administrative manual. She also requested that staff do a search for trainers in the local area to provide training for the commission.

Commissioner Brown wished everyone a good night.

Commissioner Spencer congratulated the chairperson and vice chairperson on their appointments. Commissioner Spencer requested additional training and that trainers do not have to be local.

Commissioner Bowles congratulated the chairperson and vice chairperson on their appointments.

Commissioner Mathieu congratulated the chairperson and vice chairperson on their appointments and extended his support. Commissioner Mathieu commented on developing an outreach program for the community.

Vice Chairperson Brown-Price thanked the commissioners for their support and congratulated Chairperson Sears. She commented that she looks forward to working with the Chairperson and the Commission in making this year an efficient and progressive year.

Chairperson Sears thanked the commissioners for their support. Chairperson Sears requested that staff place on the next agenda "community outreach committee" as a discussion item.

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Chairperson Sears commented that Mr. Floyd Harris of the Inglewood Police Department contacted her regarding the commission participating in the citizen academy program. Chairperson Sears commented that she has been in discussions with Ms. Watson, Chief of Staff, how to provide outreach to the community and one suggestion was that the commission be involved with the citizen academy program.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.