

INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA

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Special Citizen Police Oversight Commission (CPOC) Meeting March 18, 2010 City Council Chambers, Ninth Floor, City Hall Minutes

Members Present:

Chairperson Adrianne Sears
Commissioner David P. Stewart
Commissioner Joy Brown Price
Commissioner Kofi N. Nartey
Commissioner Wayne Spencer
Commissioner Donald Nicholson
Commissioner Gilbert Mathieu
Commissioner Rita Hall

Members Absent:

Vice Chairperson Alan Kaplan (excused) Commissioner Judy Bowles (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 6:37 p.m. A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Nicholson.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Commissioner Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Mathieu and seconded by Commissioner Stewart that the minutes of the January 13, 2010 meeting be approved. The motion carried.

COMMISSION ADVISOR REPORTS

Mr. Falkow advised the Commissioners that Timothy Wanamaker, City Administrator, submitted his resignation effective at the close of business today. Mr. Sheldon Curry will serve as the Acting City Administrator.

Mr. Falkow also advised the Commissioners that the city council meeting will resume on Monday, March 22, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. The March 16, 2010, Council Meeting was canceled due to a bomb threat. The building was evacuated and searched, and nothing was found.

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Mr. Falkow informed the Commissioners that the State of the City Address was held today, March 18, 2010, and the presenter was Councilman Ralph Franklin. Mr. Falkow stated that in Councilman Franklin's speech he pointed out that the current budget structural deficit is projected to be \$13.4 million.

Commissioner Brown-Price arrived at 6:43 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion to recommend removal of Commission member(s).

Chairperson Sears stated that Commissioner Spencer requested that the agenda item "Motion to recommend removal of Commission member(s)" be placed on the agenda. Chairperson Sears gave the floor to Commissioner Spencer.

Commissioner Spencer stated that he is of the opinion that the Citizen Police Oversight Commission's standards have dropped in regard to excessive absences and feels that the matter should be addressed.

Chairperson Sears opened the item for discussion.

Commissioner Brown-Price asked what the Citizen Police Oversight Commission Administrative Manual states about absences.

Commissioner Spencer stated that the Administrative Manual states that three (3) unexcused absences are grounds to recommend removal of a commissioner. He also stated that the Citizen Police Oversight Commission may recommend removal of a commissioner; however, ultimately the City Council has to vote to remove a commissioner.

Mr. Falkow stated that in the Administrative Manual three (3) unexcused absences are grounds for removal, however, it does not give the definition of an unexcused absence. He also stated that the Citizen Police Oversight Commission has the ability to request removal of a commissioner because of lack of participation and that the Citizen Police Oversight Commission may make a request to the City Administrator via the Commission Advisor requesting that the appointing member of the City Council consider replacing the Commission Member.

Mr. Falkow read the following excerpts from the Citizen Police Oversight Commission Administrative Manual:

Terms of Office

- 3. Any member of the Commission may be removed for cause by the appointing authority with the concurrence of City Council. Upon a majority vote, the Commission may recommend removal of a member to the City Administrator, who will discuss the matter with the appointing authority, for the following causes:
 - (A) Unexcused absence from three consecutive meetings without official permission expressed in the minutes.
 - (B) Incompetence, malfeasance, misfeasance, nonfeasance, neglect of duty, or conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude.

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Mr. Falkow advised the Citizen Police Oversight Commission that staff created an attendance chart from January 2009-January 2010, which includes fifteen (15) meetings one of which was canceled due to a lack of a quorum.

Mr. Falkow shared with the Citizen Police Oversight Commission the following attendance record:

Commissioners	Absence
Chairperson Sears	1
Vice Chairperson Kaplan	0
Commissioner Stewart	6
Commissioner Brown-Price	2
Commissioner Nartey	0
Commissioner Spencer	5
Commissioner Bowles	1
Commissioner Nicholson	9
Commissioner Mathieu	2
Commissioner Hall	3

Commissioner Mathieu moved that as of today the Citizen Police Oversight Commission Administrative Manual in regards to excessive absences be enforced.

Commissioner Mathieu withdrew his motion.

Chairperson Sears advised the Citizen Police Oversight Commission that on the agenda there is a motion to recommend removal of Commission member(s). Chairperson Sears asked if there is a second to the motion.

Commissioner Mathieu seconded the motion.

Commissioner Nicholson stated that he would try to attend more meetings.

Commissioner Stewart stated that he calls the office when he is unable to attend meetings, and there is always a logical reason when he is not in attendance. He further stated that he will remain committed to the Citizen Police Oversight Commission.

It was moved by Commissioner Mathieu and seconded by Commissioner Nicholson that the motion to recommend removal of Commission members(s) be tabled.

The motion failed.

It was moved by Commissioner Spencer and seconded by Commissioner Nartey to withdraw the motion to recommend removal of Commission member(s). The motion carried.

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CLOSED SESSION

The Citizen Police Oversight Commission recessed for closed session at 7:39 p.m., and reconvened at 8:49 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT OUT

Mr. Falkow reported that Closed Session was held, cases were reviewed, and directions were given to staff.

STAFF REMARKS

Mr. Falkow stated that he is happy that everyone remains spirituous in their roles as Commissioners.

Mr. Falkow encouraged the Commissioners to attend city council meetings as they address the City's budget deficit. He advised the Citizen Police Oversight Commission of the upcoming Mayoral election.

COMMISSION MEMBERS REMARKS

Commissioner Nicholson committed to attend more Citizen Police Oversight Commission meetings.

Commissioner Mathieu encouraged the commissioners to attend City Council meetings as a resident not as a commissioner and to continue to stay focused.

Commissioner Hall thanked staff for their commitment to the Commission and encouraged the commissioners to stay focused.

Commissioner Spencer commented that he was happy with the responses that were received in regards to the action item on the agenda.

Commissioner Nartey commented that he appreciates and enjoys being a part of a group that has meaningful discussions and moves forward in a positive direction. Commissioner Nartey thanked staff for their extensive knowledge.

Chairperson Sears thanked Mr. Falkow for going above and beyond his role as Commission Advisor. Chairperson Sears stated that she and Mr. Falkow gave a presentation on the Citizen Police Oversight Commission at the Citizen Police Academy on March 17, 2010.

Chairperson Sears further stated that she is happy that Commissioner Nicholson will dedicate more of his time to the Citizen Police Oversight Commission and hoped to see Commissioner Stewart more often at the Citizen Police Oversight Commission meetings as well.

Chairperson requested that an item be place on the agenda to discuss a definition to define an unexcused absent in the Citizen Police Oversight Commission Administrative Manual.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.