



Regular Meeting Minutes

POLICE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

*Chair Eunice Russell
Vice-Chair Eric Vasquez
Commissioner Brian Brooks
Commissioner Hanan Gibani
Commissioner Tremale Ratcliffe*

VISION STATEMENT

*Pomona will be recognized as a vibrant, safe, beautiful
community that is a fun and exciting destination and the home of
arts and artists, students and scholars, business and industry.*

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

6:30 P.M.

Council Chambers

6:30 P.M. Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Russell called the Police Oversight Commission Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chair Vasquez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Eunice Russell
Vice-Chair Eric Vasquez
Commissioner Brian Brooks
Commissioner Tremale Ratcliffe

Absent: Commissioner Hanan Gibani

STAFF PRESENT

Michael Ellis, Chief of Police
Rosalia Butler, City Clerk/Commission Secretary
Karla Shipman, Assistant City Clerk
Diana Robles, Deputy City Clerk
Cristina Talley, Talley and Talley Law Firm, Commission Legal Advisor/Staff Liaison

CONSENT

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

It is recommended that the commission members approve the following Police Oversight Commission Meeting minutes:

January 14, 2025

MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR VASQUEZ, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BROOKS, CARRIED 4-0 (COMMISSIONER GIBANI ABSENT), to approve the January 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

DISCUSSION

2. Selection of Commission Chair and Vice-Chair

Vice-Chair Vasquez nominated Chair Russell to continue in her role.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER BROOKS, SECOND BY VICE-CHAIR VASQUEZ, CARRIED 4-0 (COMMISSIONER GIBANI ABSENT) to approve Chair Russell to continue as Commission Chair.

Chair Russell nominated Vice-Chair Vasquez to continue in his role.

Vice-Chair Vasquez declined the nomination due to other commitments and his prior absences because of these commitments. He nominated Commissioner Brooks for Vice-Chair.

MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR VASQUEZ, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER RATCLIFFE, CARRIED 4-0 (COMMISSIONER GIBANI ABSENT) to approve Commissioner Brooks as the new Vice-Chair.

3. Establishment of an Ad-Hoc Committee to Discuss a Police Oversight Commission Community Awareness Day Event-continued from January 14, 2025 Police Oversight Commission Meeting

Chair Russell gave comments about her vision for this event that the ad-hoc committee will be working on in collaboration with Pomona Police Department, Pomona Unified School District, and the Youth Commission.

Vice-Chair Vasquez asked questions to clarify the how the event will take place.

Chair Russell expressed that she would like to be on the ad-hoc committee. Vice-Chair Vasquez volunteered to be a part of the ad-hoc committee.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER BROOKS, SECOND BY VICE CHAIR VASQUEZ, CARRIED 3-1 (COMMISSIONER RATCLIFFE OPPOSED, COMMISSIONER GIBANI ABSENT) to appoint Chair Russell and Vice Chair Vasquez to the Community Awareness Day Ad-Hoc Committee.

4. Monthly Report(s) from the Police Department

Vice-Chair Vasquez asked questions about the youth diversion statistics based on recent interactions he has had in the community. He raised concerns about the follow up for the youth that are being diverted. He wants to ensure the monthly report is reflecting true numbers in the diversion process. He posed questions to the Chief to think about in order to improve the diversion process and make sure all youth are caught in the net of support services.

Chief Ellis went over the current diversion process and identified the agencies involved and their roles.

Commissioner Ratcliffe requested prostitution statistics be added to the monthly report.

Vice-Chair Vasquez inquired as to what kind of data points would be involved with that request.

Chief Ellis advised the crimes involved with this that could be tracked are solicitation, lewd acts in public, juvenile rescues, and pimping/pandering.

Chief Ellis advised that the DA's office offers diversion to females for the first offense and statistics on that could be obtained but most likely not on a monthly basis.

Chair Russell asked about minors arrested and Chief Ellis responded that per state law minors are not arrested as they are considered victims and taken into protective custody and referred to DCFS.

Chair Russell asked about minors that are repeat offenders and Chief Ellis responded that PD usually does not see the minors on the street again.

Vice-Chair Vasquez asked for arrest data, data on whether it is a first offense, and a monthly report on PD's efforts in the community to address trafficking concerns.

Chair Russell clarified that the arrest data would be in the 4 categories previously mentioned by the Chief.

Commissioner Ratcliffe requested statistics on illegal dispensaries, fentanyl, and drug usage.

Chair Russell expressed concern about expired products from illegal cannabis dispensaries

showing up at the legal dispensaries and vice versa.

Chief Ellis confirmed that the commission would like to know when illegal dispensaries are closed and arrest records related to those illegal dispensaries. The Chief advised that the concerns raised by Chair Russell fall under regulations that PD does not participate in, that it is more of a Code Enforcement issue.

Chair Russell asked questions about the terms used regarding allegations of conduct.

Chief Ellis advised this comes from their policy manual and it is the department's intent to give more details on the monthly report when possible.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeremy Christian discussed concerns with police response to crimes surrounding his apartment complex. He spoke about lack of empathy from members of the police department when he tries to report issues.

Chief Ellis advised Chair Russell that one of his command staff would speak with Mr. Christian after the meeting.

John Mendoza commented on the need for the community to be educated on the limitations police officers have because of state laws that tie the hands of the police from enforcement. Many members of the public do not understand and think the police just aren't doing anything. He also spoke about the police being understaffed and this affects response time.

INSPECTOR GENERAL COMMUNICATION

Stephen Connolly from the Inspector General's office advised the investigation for the use of force complaint he was assigned was still ongoing.

Vice-Chair Vasquez requested that the Inspector General's office follow a recent officer involved shooting.

Chief Ellis advised the LA County Sheriff's office is currently conducting the internal investigation.

Mr. Connolly advised that the Inspector General's office can follow the investigation and update the commission when they have anything to share.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Chief Ellis responded to an inquiry by Chair Russell regarding video footage of the recent shooting. The Chief advised that PD is preparing the video for public release within the 45 days as required by state law.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Vice-Chair Vasquez thanked those who gave public comment and offered to connect with this public speaker to speak on partnerships with community based organizations to deal with gang related issues. He referenced the second public speaker’s comment regarding educating the public and agreed that this important and that this commission is committed to doing that. Additionally, Vice-Chair Vasquez spoke about three youths in the community that lost their lives recently and asked the community not miss opportunities you have to be involved and make an impact in a youth’s life.

Commissioner Brooks commented on the duties of the commission and on the general conduct of the police department.

Commissioner Ratcliffe commented on his hopes for the future of the commission and asked Commissioner Brooks to clarify his comments.

Commissioner Brooks clarified his comments about this commission.

Chair Russell commented on the duties, purpose, and goals of the commission.

Vice-Chair Vasquez expressed thanks to the youths in attendance at the meeting.

Chair Russell congratulated the police department for a successful District 1 Area Commander meeting.

Commissioner Ratcliffe asked about the Code Compliance presentation and Chief Ellis confirmed this was arranged.

Chair Russell asked for a review of next month’s agenda items and Secretary Shipman advised what items were scheduled.

Commissioner Ratcliffe invited the public to next month’s meeting, specifically to hear the Code Enforcement presentation as it could be very helpful information for the public.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Russell adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m. on February 11, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

KARLA SHIPMAN
Assistant City Clerk/Commission
Secretary to the Police Oversight
Commission

EUNICE RUSSELL
Chair of the Police Oversight
Commission