

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.*

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Tuesday, December 10, 2024

6:30 P.M.

Council Chambers

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**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**

Commissioner Ratcliffe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Eunice Russell  
Commissioner Hanan Gibani  
Commissioner Tremale Ratcliffe

Absent: Vice-Chair Eric Vasquez  
Commissioner Brian Brooks

**STAFF PRESENT**

Ryan Rodriguez, Police Captain  
Karla Shipman, Assistant City Clerk  
Diana Robles, Deputy City Clerk  
Rosalia Butler, City Clerk/Commission Secretary  
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:

October 8, 2024

November 12, 2024

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER RATCLIFFE, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GIBANI, CARRIED 3-0 (COMMISSIONER BROOKS AND VICE-CHAIR VASQUEZ ABSENT), to approve the October 8, 2024 and November 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Randy Bekendam discussed how he was not able to bring any of the unhoused individuals he had mentioned at the previous commission meeting to give testimony as to their treatment by Pomona Police Department. He hopes to coordinate this for the next commission meeting.

## **DISCUSSION**

### 2. Presentation of Ordinance No. 4346-Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Ordinance by Pomona Police Department.

Sergeant Moya was prepared to give the presentation. However, Chair Russell indicated that all commissioners had seen the same presentation at a different event and since no members of the public were present at this time, the Chair requested not to see the presentation but rather ask the sergeant questions.

Commissioners asked various questions about the ordinance.

**THIS ITEM WAS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY, NO MOTION WAS MADE.**

### 3. Consideration and Discussion of Establishing a Police Oversight Commission Community Awareness Day Event

Chair Russell discussed that she brought this idea forward to fulfill the commission's obligation to act as a liaison and spoke about her vision of the event. She indicated that she has discussed this event proposal with Chief Ellis and with Dr. Perlman from Pomona Unified School District and both were on board with collaborating on this event to bring the police and the community together, possibly throughout the year with one in each district at one of the high schools.

Commissioner Gibani expressed support for the idea of this event. She spoke about the commission's purpose to bridge the gap between community and police and how that hasn't been successful yet in both of her terms as police oversight commissioner.

Commissioner Ratcliffe requested that a commission member come give a presentation about the commission's role at January's PUSD Head Start Policy Committee Meeting as an awareness event. Chair Russell advised this was not the time on the agenda for this specific request and to bring this up during Commissioner Communication. Ms. Talley advised about following the Brown Act when considering who would present at this meeting.

Commissioner Ratcliffe expressed support for the idea of the community awareness event.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GIBANI, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER RATCLIFFE, CARRIED 3-0 (COMMISSIONER BROOKS AND VICE-CHAIR VASQUEZ ABSENT), to add an item to January's commission agenda to establish an ad-hoc committee to discuss the community awareness event day.**

4. Monthly Report(s) from the Police Department

Chair Russell requested that on the Complaint Report there be more detail regarding the "conduct" allegation. Captain Rodriguez said that staff would look into that.

**THIS ITEM WAS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY, NO MOTION WAS MADE.**

### **INSPECTOR GENERAL COMMUNICATION**

Stephen Connolly from the Inspector General's office reported that the Justice 8 Investigation is complete and will be discussed at the January commission meeting. He also reported on a use of force complaint that is actively being investigated in the police department and the inspector general's office hopes to have an update by next commission meeting.

The Commission directed staff to forward on the complaint email from Gente Organizada to the Inspector General and requested the Inspector General review and report back to the Commission.

### **STAFF COMMUNICATION**

Captain Rodriguez invited the Commission to attend the Santa Cop event to be held on December 21 in City Hall.

City Clerk Butler wished all Happy Holidays.

## **COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION**

Commissioner Gibani asked about members of the public who want to make a public comment but they have missed that time of the meeting.

Commissioner Ratcliffe requested a commission member come to the January PUSD Head Start Policy Committee Meeting and give a presentation on the commission's role and duties. Chair Russell volunteered to attend and give the presentation.

Chair Russell gave kudos to the police department for the last area commander's meeting. She wished all a happy holiday.

Commissioner Ratcliffe requested a presentation from the code enforcement department in relation with Pomona PD with clarity on what code enforcement can and can't do related to issues.

Secretary Shipman went over the list of items for the January agenda.

Staff advised the commission that a presentation from code enforcement would need to be arranged with that department. Staff will bring the topic back to a future meeting.

A member of the public asked to be heard since they turned in a speaker card.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER RATCLIFFE, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GIBANI, CARRIED 2-1, (CHAIR RUSSELL OPPOSED, COMMISSIONER BROOKS AND VICE-CHAIR VASQUEZ ABSENT) to reopen Public Comment.**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GIBANI, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER RATCLIFFE, CARRIED 3-0, (COMMISSIONER BROOKS AND VICE-CHAIR VASQUEZ ABSENT) to add an item to January's Commission agenda to discuss reordering the agenda to move the public comment section to the end of the agenda.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Elinor Cresenzi discussed her concerns with Pomona Police's conduct when interacting with unhoused individuals including the use of 51/50 procedure being inappropriately issued. She would like this issue to be brought to the commission's attention. She also expressed concern about the way that the HEART team speaks to community members.

Eunice Vivas discussed her concerns with delayed police response time to a 9-1-1 call for an intruder in her home. She called 9-1-1 several times and the police arrived after she and her neighbors had detained the intruder on her lawn. She requested clarification of staffing levels on patrol and the ratio of officers to residents.

Chair Russell inquired if she had filed a complaint and advised Lt. Brown could speak with her regarding this incident.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Russell adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m. on December 10, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

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

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EUNICE RUSSELL  
Chair of the Police Oversight  
Commission