

City of Pomona

505 S. Garey Ave
Pomona, CA 91766

Regular Meeting Minutes

POLICE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION



*Chair Eunice Russell
Vice-Chair Brian Brooks
Commissioner Hanan Gibani
Commissioner Tremale Ratcliffe
VACANT - commissioner*

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, June 10, 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 Brooks led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Eunice Russell
Vice-Chair Brian Brooks
Commissioner Hanan Gibani
Commissioner Tremale Ratcliffe

Absent: None

STAFF PRESENT

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

April 8, 2025-Revised
May 13, 2025

MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR BROOKS, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GIBANI, CARRIED 4-0, to approve the meeting minutes of the April 8, 2025 (Revised) and May 13, 2025

DISCUSSION

2. Pomona Police Department-Quality of Life Unit and Neighborhood Watch Presentations

Sergeant Rios spoke about the role of the Quality of Life Unit and the process to form a Neighborhood Watch group. He advised that the Quality of Life team does not do enforcement and residents should call the police if there is illegal activity.

Commissioners asked questions about illegal activity by the homeless, the number of shelter beds and what happens when there are no beds available, the process for homeless to retrieve items picked up by the Quality of Life team, and how neighboring cities share the shelter bed availability.

This item was for discussion only so no official action was taken.

3. Discussion Regarding Review of the Pomona Police Personnel Complaints

Legal Advisor Talley advised this matter was requested by the commission to discuss how to make complainants more aware of the commission and its role.

Inspector General Michael Gennaco spoke on the continuing discussion the commission has had about what is the most effective way within legal constraints to advise complainants about their ability to address the commission and the commission gaining access to complaints that are filed. He addressed the previous suggestion of a box to check on the complaint form that gave permission for the complaint to be viewed and tracked by the commission and Mr. Gennaco said there are legal privacy concerns with this option.

Chair Russell and other commissioners discussed the importance of letting complainants know they have the option and opportunity to have the commission be a part of the process. Chair Russell said a checked box was more like a disclaimer that information on the form within the law might be made public.

The commission discussed creating an informative commission brochure that could be available with the complaint form.

Chair Russell asked if the current outreach ad hoc committee could work on this brochure and Legal Advisor Talley recommended the commission agendaize the creation of a new ad hoc committee or agendaize the creation the brochure and the whole commission could work on it.

Speaker Yesenia Miranda Meza expressed frustration with the commission still talking about checking a box and her belief that staff are delaying making the complaint process better.

This item was for discussion only so no official action was taken.

4. Monthly Report(s) from the Police Department

Commissioners asked various questions about the data in the reports.

This item was for discussion only so no official action was taken.

5. Presentation of the Pomona Police Department's Interaction with Outside Agencies

Captain Rodriguez gave a presentation with an overview on the police department's role related to immigration. Pomona Police Department are focused on public safety and they do not assist immigration enforcement and officers do not ask about immigration status. Captain Rodriguez advised that by law they cannot hinder any other investigations and they would only become involved in emergency situations.

Commissioners asked questions about sharing the presentation, the situation in downtown LA, and the legal issues with Pomona PD sharing information they receive prior to immigration surveillance or raids.

Speaker Michael Hall thanked Pomona PD for not aiding federal agents in I.C.E raids but asked that they do better protecting the community. He requested that Pomona PD be more proactive in verifying the legitimacy of the federal agents conducting operations in Pomona.

Speaker Yesenia Miranda Meza spoke about her concern with unidentified vehicles that could be I.C.E. She said it is imperative that Pomona PD don't just stand back and requested they collaborate with community organizations to better notify what agency is in the community.

This item was for discussion only so no official action was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Zelmer discussed concerns with unsafe conditions at the Serenity Villas property and expressed her belief that a neighborhood watch group as suggested to the residents would not help as their complex is all senior citizens. She expressed her frustration that she believes the residents don't have rights the way the homeless and the property managers do.

Gwendolyn Blume discussed the advocate group formed at Serenity Villas to address safety. She raised concerns about the management's unwillingness to hire security guards and that there is no follow up from agencies that place individuals at the property for transitional housing and this leads to many of their issues.

INSPECTOR GENERAL COMMUNICATION

Inspector General Gennaco had nothing to report.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Commission Secretary Robles advised that the city clerk's office received direction from the City Council sub-committee reviewing applications for the commission vacancy to reopen the recruitment for sixty days to allow for a larger pool of applicants to select from.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Chair Russell spoke about the comments from Serenity Villas residents. She advised them to engage their councilmember to assist them. Chair Russell also spoke about how Neighborhood Watch aids residents with keeping each other informed and empowering your community. It's not meant to put you in harm's way.

Chair Russell also addressed the public comment regarding the box check and said the commission has been getting the complaint information so they have been doing something.

Chair Russell brought up the brochure and staff informed that any samples to post with the agenda would have to be submitted by July 2.

MOTION BY CHAIR RUSSELL, SECOND BY VICE-CHAIR BROOKS, CARRIED 4-0, to agendize a discussion on the development and approval of a commission brochure.

Commissioner Gibani spoke on the need for a tenant harassment policy so that landlords would be held accountable for keeping their tenants safe.

Vice-Chair Brooks spoke about the option for a no trespassing registration for private properties. This gives the police department the authority to assist on private property.

Commissioner Ratcliffe requested that the inspector general look into one of the closed internal affairs investigations.

Chair Russell reported on the work plan for the Community Awareness Day.

Commissioner Ratcliffe asked if the police department could keep a log on other agencies that are conducting business in the City.

Chair Russell commented that other agencies do have to inform our police department when they are coming in to the City and that she doesn't believe it's feasible with the limited budget and resources to keep everyone informed. City Council members are informed of operations as soon as possible and the community can reach out to their council members to find information.

Staff asked for clarification regarding Commissioner Ratcliffe's request to look into the closed unfounded investigation. By consensus, the commission gave direction to the inspector general to look into the specific investigation and report back on the details to the commission.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Russell adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m. on June 10, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

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

EUNICE RUSSELL
Chair of the Police Oversight
Commission