



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, January 14, 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

Commissioner Ratcliffe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Vice-Chair Eric Vasquez

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:

December 10, 2024

Chair Russell asked a brief question about the meeting minutes.

Commission Secretary Robles answered Chair Russell's question.

MOTION BY CHAIR RUSSELL, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER RATCLIFFE, CARRIED 4-0 (COMMISSIONER BROOKS ABSTAINED, VICE-CHAIR VASQUEZ ABSENT), to approve the December 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Speaker Randy Bekendam stated he was speaking on behalf of Elinor Crescenzi who had expressed concerns regarding the budget process allocating funds to the Pomona PD Heart Unit.

Public Speaker Vincent Marcel Jones, from the Youth Commission, discussed the Youth Commission's role and duties, invited the public to attend its meetings, and suggested a collaboration between the Police Oversight Committee and the Youth Commission.

DISCUSSION

2. Discussion to Reorder the Police Oversight Commission Agenda and Move Public Comment to Take Place at the End of the Agenda.

Chair Russell gave introductory comments, provided suggestions on how to change the order of presentations and public comments, and requested feedback and suggestions from the commissioners.

Commissioner Ratcliffe expressed support for moving Public Comment to the end of the meeting.

Commissioner Gibani expressed concern that people may not stay for the entire meeting if Public Comment is moved to the end of the meeting and suggested placing Public Comment in the middle or end of the meeting.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER RATCLIFFE, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GIBANI, CARRIED 4-0 (VICE CHAIR VASQUEZ ABSENT) to move Public Comment of non-agendized items to the end of the commission meeting.

Commission Secretary Robles asked the Commission to clarify if Public Comment should be placed after the last Discussion Item or at the end right before Adjournment.

Commissioner Ratcliffe amended his motion to place Public Comment of non-agendized items after the last Discussion item and before Inspector General Communications.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER RATCLIFFE, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BROOKS, CARRIED 4-0 (VICE CHAIR VASQUEZ ABSENT) to place Public Comment of non-agendized items after the last Discussion item, before Inspector General Communications.

Commissioner Ratcliffe expressed support for moving agendized public comment to take place after Commissioner Comment on agendized items.

Chair Russell asked questions about how the order would affect voting.

Commission Legal Adviser Tally advised it would be fine to have commissioner comments, allow public comment, and then if a motion is needed it can be made.

MOTION BY CHAIR RUSSELL, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GIBANI, CARRIED 4-0 (VICE CHAIR VASQUEZ ABSENT) to move public comment of agendized items after commissioner comments on agendized items and if necessary, take a motion after public comment of agendized items.

3. Establishment of an Ad-Hoc Committee to Discuss a Police Oversight Commission Community Awareness Day Event

Commissioner Ratcliffe asked questions about the Youth Commission.

Chair Russell clarified the Ad-Hoc committee, once established, would determine how to best move forward with collaboration efforts between the Youth Commission, Pomona Unified School District and the Pomona Police.

MOTION BY CHAIR RUSSELL, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BROOKS, CARRIED 3-1 (COMMISSIONER RATCLIFFE OPPOSED, VICE CHAIR VASQUEZ ABSENT) to create a Community Awareness Day Ad-Hoc Committee.

Chair Russell suggested continuing the item to the next month so all commissioners could be present for determining who will be assigned to the ad-hoc committee, and described some of the topics she would be interested in seeing discussed at the Community Awareness Day.

Commissioner Brooks asked staff if Chair Russell could appoint herself and then at the next meeting, appoint a second commissioner.

Commission Legal Adviser Tally advised it would be best to consider both of the positions on the ad-hoc committee at the same time, and to continue the same practice of voting to determine which commissioners would be assigned to the ad-hoc committee.

MOTION BY CHAIR RUSSELL, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BROOKS, CARRIED 3-1 (COMMISSIONER RATCLIFFE OPPOSED, VICE CHAIR VASQUEZ ABSENT), to continue the item to the February 11, 2025 Police Oversight Commission Meeting.

4. Justice 8 Investigation; Report from Inspector General

Public Speaker John Mendoza expressed dissatisfaction with the City using resources to have an Inspector General look into the investigation since members of the public were not present to learn of its outcome.

Inspector General Gennaco gave an overview of the report.

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

5. Monthly Report(s) from the Police Department

Commissioner Brooks asked brief questions about the report.

Chief Ellis answered Commissioner Brooks' questions.

Chair Russell asked brief questions about the report.

Chief Ellis answered Chair Russell's questions.

INSPECTOR GENERAL COMMUNICATION

Inspector General Gennaco advised the investigation for the use of force complaint he was assigned was still ongoing.

Chair Russell asked about the Gente Organizada complaint alleging excessive overtime pay.

Chief Ellis advised City Manager Anita D. Scott had met with the complainants to ask if they wanted to move forward with a formal complaint but a formal complaint had not been placed.

Chair Russell asked for a future explanation on how the complaint was addressed in case the public asks the commissioners questions about it.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Commission Secretary Robles requested the Commission to vote during Commissioner Communication to add the consideration of selecting a Chair and Vice Chair as stipulated by the Commission By-Laws to the Agenda of the February meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER BROOKS, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GIBANI, CARRIED 4-0, (VICE-CHAIR VASQUEZ ABSENT) to add the consideration of selecting a Chair and Vice Chair to the February 11, 2025 Police Oversight Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Gibani asked if a presentation on the budget process surrounding the Police Department's HEART Unit could be added to the next meeting's agenda.

Chair Russell requested staff state the agendized items for the February meeting.

Commission Secretary Robles listed out the agendized items.

Chair Russell expressed support for agendizing an explanation of the funds allocated to the Pomona Heart Team.

Commissioner Ratcliffe asked about the Code Compliance presentation.

Commission Secretary Robles advised the Commission had not yet voted to agendize the Code Compliance presentation.

Commission Legal Advisor Tally stated the HEART Unit budget allocation does not fall within the purview of the Commission and requested clarity on what the Commission wanted.

Chair Russell stated she was interested in receiving sufficient information to be able to answer questions from community members about the topic.

Commissioner Gibani expressed support for the Commission to be updated on general police matters that are discussed at City Council meetings.

Chief Ellis advised the Finance Director was looking into the budgeting matter and would report back to the City Council.

Chair Russell asked how would the Commission get information about issues raised at City Council meeting regarding the Police.

Legal Advisor Tally advised information on topics that relate to the Police but are not in the purview of the Commission could be relayed to the Commission through Staff Communications.

Commissioner Ratcliffe stated he would be attending the upcoming District 1 Area Commander meeting and thanked the Police Department for allowing the shift bidding system. Commissioner Ratcliffe requested a vote to agendize a presentation from Code Compliance for the meeting of March.

Chief Ellis commented that Code Compliance is not a division of the Pomona Police Department but he would reach out to their department director to see about their staff availability.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER RATCLIFFE, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BROOKS, CARRIED 4-0, (VICE-CHAIR VASQUEZ ABSENT) to agendize a presentation from Code Compliance for the March 11, 2025 Police Oversight Commission meeting.

Commissioner Ratcliffe also requested an update on the enforcement of the new sidewalk vendor regulations.

Chief Ellis advised it would be good to coincide that update with the Code Compliance presentation as Code Compliance staff, not Police, was the lead on that effort.

Commissioner Brooks apologized for missing the December meeting due to illness.

Chair Russell spoke about participating in the Downtown Pomona Owner's Association Christmas Parade. Chair Russell expressed gratitude to staff for their work while the fires in Los Angeles were ongoing and discussed the importance of Cities being up to date on their emergency responses.

Commissioner Ratcliffe expressed gratitude to Pomona Police for hosting Basketball with children at the parks. Commissioner Ratcliffe expressed condolences for the lives lost in the Fires in Los Angeles.

Chair Russell thanked Pomona PD for allowing commissioners to speak at the last area commander meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Russell adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m. on January 14, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

DIANA ROBLES
Deputy City Clerk/Commission
Secretary to the Police Oversight
Commission

EUNICE RUSSELL
Chair of the Police Oversight
Commission