

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, June 11, 2024

6:30 P.M.

Council Chambers

---

**6:30 P.M. Council Chambers**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Brooks led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Eunice Russell  
Vice-Chair Eric Vasquez  
Commissioner Brian Brooks  
Commissioner Hanan Gibani (arrived at 6:35 p.m.)  
Commissioner Tremale Ratcliffe (arrived at 6:37 p.m.)

**STAFF PRESENT**

Michael Ellis, Police Chief  
Diana Robles, Deputy City Clerk/Commission Secretary  
Karla Shipman, Assistant City Clerk/Commission Secretary  
Rosalia Butler, City Clerk  
Cristina Talley, Talley and Talley Law Firm, Commission Legal Advisor/Staff Liaison (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)

## **CONSENT**

### 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

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

March 12, 2024 Second Revised  
May 14, 2024

Regarding the May 14 meeting minutes, Chair Russell stated her comments during Consent about the February meeting minutes should be that she asked for Ms. Talley to clarify where in the law it says the commission would not have a role in the selection of the inspector general. She asked that we make note of this request and that this information be clarified so this is not an issue for future commissions.

**MOTION BY COMMISSISONER BROOKS, SECOND BY VICE CHAIR VASQUEZ, CARRIED 3-0 (COMMISSIONER GIBANI AND COMMISSIONER RATCLIFFE ABSENT AT THE TIME OF THE VOTE), to approve the March 12, 2024 Second Revised Meeting Minutes and the May 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

## **DISCUSSION**

### 2. Commissioner Training Part Two

Required by Ordinance No. 4333, Section 2-656, Led by Inspector General Michael Gennaco and the OIR Group.

Inspector General Gennaco and Steve Connolly, from the OIR Group, gave the training, which covered police misconduct consequences, internal investigations, and police officer discipline process.

Commissioners asked a few questions about some of the topics presented. Michael Gennaco answered their questions.

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

### 3. Complaint Form Template Discussion Continued

The commissioners asked Inspector General Gennaco questions about his updates. He advised why certain edits or additions were made to the complaint form.

Chief Ellis advised that it is department policy to accept complaints in any format that they are received. These complaints are entered into a software system and notifications go to the Chief's office and IA. The system timestamps and tracks the complaints.

Mr. Gennaco advised that Ms. Talley and Chief Ellis have already agreed to the updated form.

When asked about how long it would take for the police department to forward this complaint form to the commission, the Chief advised he intends to get this information to the commission as soon as possible. However, if the complaint would result in a criminal investigation there would be a delay in notification to the commission.

**MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR VASQUEZ, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER RATCLIFFE, CARRIED 5-0, to approve the inspector general revised officer involved use of force complaint template.**

4. Changing One Ad-Hoc Committee Appointment: Commissioner Brooks to replace Vice Chair Vasquez in One Ad-Hoc Committee

**MOTION BY CHAIR RUSSELL, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER RATCLIFFE, CARRIED 5-0, for Commissioner Brooks to replace Vice Chair Vasquez on the Public Forum/Public Outreach Ad-Hoc committee.**

5. Monthly report(s) from the Police Department

Chief Ellis advised the discrepancy in numbers previously provided regarding youth diversion cases has been resolved and the report shows the accurate information.

Commissioner Ratcliffe asked about any youth arrests during the LA County Fair and if those youths entered diversion. Chief Ellis advised he would check with staff and return with an update.

Vice Chair Vasquez asked about the pacing of investigations of complaints. Chief Ellis advised the goal is to complete investigations as soon as possible and he will discuss internally with his staff about whether they can set reasonable timeframes to complete investigations. Vice Chair Vasquez requested that the Chief report back to the commission at the next meeting.

Chair Russell asked about investigations that have passed the one year limit statute and the Chief responded this is rare.

Chair Russell asked about what "efficiency" means as far as investigations and Chief Ellis advised that this is a specific term that can be located in the police department policy manual and complaints can be categorized under "efficiency".

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

## 6. Discussion of Police Oversight Commission Objectives, Goals, and Strategy for Commission Work

It is recommended that the Commission continue discussion on their work plan including changes or additions to the monthly report from the police department.

Chair Russell reviewed the commission duties. She expressed concern that the commission could not look into past events. She expressed that the commission needs to be able to address distrust issues in the community that may have resulted from an incident and act as a liaison between the police department and the community. She expressed the need for the commission to be able to bridge the communication gap.

Chief Ellis said his goal as the chief is to be as transparent as he can within the law. He is open to new ideas that would ease the comfort the community has with the police department.

Vice Chair Vasquez expressed that the commission is working on that already by looking at processes and reviewing polices to make recommendations.

Chair Russell expressed that the commission needs action steps.

Chief Ellis offered that he is available to meet with the ad hoc committees.

Chair Russell expressed that the commission is on the right track.

Commissioner Ratcliffe expressed the need for an audience at the meetings and asked the other commissioners to encourage those with complaints to come to the meetings and speak.

Commissioner Gibani asked to discuss the email that four of the commissioners received. Ms. Talley advised this was not agendized and should be brought up during commissioner communication.

Ms. Talley also advised that this item should only be about developing ideas to take to meet goals but to discuss the actual steps in any plan needs to be agendized.

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

### **STAFF COMMUNICATION**

City Clerk Rosalia Butler thanked the commissioners for completing their AB 1234 training.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION**

Vice Chair Vasquez commented on an incident that happened near Mi Cafecito and requested a presentation on objective reasonableness and how Pomona Police Department applies that concept. Chief Ellis advised he would need to meet with his staff to determine the best way to present this topic to the commission.

Chair Russell spoke on the commission’s request to add a discussion of the email received from Gente Organizada on the next agenda.

**MOTION BY CHAIR RUSSELL, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BROOKS, CARRIED 5-0, to add a discussion item for next month’s agenda regarding the email received from Gente Organizada.**

Commissioner Brooks requested a copy of the email as he had not received it.

The commission expressed their request to have reports from the ad hoc committees on the next agenda.

**MOTION BY CHAIR RUSSELL, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GIBANI, CARRIED 5-0, to add report out from Ad-Hoc Committees on next month’s agenda.**

Commissioner Brooks and Commissioner Ratcliffe stated that they would both be attending this month’s Area Commander Meeting.

Commission Secretary Shipman went over the list of items for July’s agenda. The commissioners expressed the desire to remove the recurring workplan item to give time to focus on the ad hoc committee work product.

**MOTION BY CHAIR RUSSELL, SECOND BY VICE CHAIR VASQUEZ, CARRIED 5-0, to remove recurring workplan item from next month’s agenda.**

Clarification was provided from Vice Chair Vasquez regarding his request to the Chief for the pacing of investigations. The commission was advised that the Chief could speak on this next month during staff communications.

The topic of objective reasonableness was mentioned again and Ms. Talley clarified with the commission that the Chief needed to discuss this with his staff so it might not be ready for discussion at next month’s meeting.

Commissioner Ratcliffe requested that status of the youth diversion program participants be added to the monthly report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Russell adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m. on June 11, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
KARLA SHIPMAN  
Assistant City Clerk/Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
EUNICE RUSSELL  
Chair of the Police Oversight

Secretary to the Police Oversight  
Commission

Commission